

**Minutes of the
North Carolina State Board of Education
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
February 29, 2012**

The North Carolina State Board of Education met after the Board Committees concluded their morning work and the following members were present:

William Harrison, Chairman
Melissa Bartlett
Christine Greene
Shirley Harris

Kevin Howell
John Tate
Patricia Willoughby

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent
Earlie Coe, Local Board Member Advisor
Don Martin, Superintendent Advisor

Rob Jackson, Principal of the Year Advisor
Jennifer Facciolini, Teacher of the Year Advisor
Tyronna Hooker, Teacher of the Year Advisor

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION

Chairman William Harrison called the Wednesday session of the March State Board of Education meeting to order and declared the Board in official session. He noted that Board had just completed its morning Committee meetings ahead of schedule and that he was adjusting the schedule for the Closed Session as a result, in the interest of time later in the day.

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chairman Harrison reminded Board members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest under Chapter 138A. He asked if members of the Board knew of any conflict of interest or any appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before them during this meeting. There were no conflicts of interest communicated at this time. The Chairman then requested that if, during the course of the meeting, members became aware of an actual or apparent conflict of interest that they bring the matter to the attention of the Chairman. It would then be their duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

Dr. Atkinson noted the attendance of Dr. Michael Murray (Superintendent, Jackson County Schools) at the Board meeting. Dr. Harrison welcomed Dr. Murray to the Board meeting.

Closed Session

Chairman Harrison asked for a motion to convene in closed session.

Upon motion made by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Mr. John Tate the Board voted unanimously to convene in closed session to consult with their attorneys on attorney-client privilege matters and to consider the handling of the cases of Hoke County v. State Board of Education; Clair Scarborough-Hakin v. National Board Certification Appeals Panel, 11EDC07328.

With no other business on the agenda, Chairman Harrison requested a motion to recess until 2:30 PM.

Upon motion made by Ms. Patricia Willoughby and seconded by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, the Board voted unanimously to recess the State Board of Education open session meeting until 2:30 PM.

At the conclusion of the Board Committees' afternoon sessions, Chairman Harrison reconvened the State Board of Education open session meeting and the following members were present:

William Harrison, Chairman
Melissa Bartlett
Christine Greene
Shirley Harris

Kevin Howell
Reginald Kenan
John Tate
Patricia Willoughby

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent
Earlie Coe, Local Board Member Advisor
Don Martin, Superintendent Advisor

Rob Jackson, Principal of the Year Advisor
Jennifer Facciolini, Teacher of the Year Advisor
Tyronna Hooker, Teacher of the Year Advisor

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chairman Harrison read the ethics statement to the State Board members. There were no conflicts of interest communicated at this time.

INFORMATION AGENDA**TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SYSTEMS
BUSINESS/FINANCE AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT
(Mr. Kevin Howell, Chair; Mr. Tom Speed, Vice Chair)*****INFORMATION*****TCS 4 –LEA/Charter Technology Initiative Readiness****Policy Implications:** N/A**Presenter(s):** Mr. Neill Kimrey (Director, Instructional Technology), Mr. Dave Furiness (Manager of Client Network Engineering, MCNC) and Mr. Phil Emer (Director, Technology Planning and Policy, Friday Institute for Educational Innovation)**Description:**

Beginning in February 2011 and concluding in October 2011, the Race to the Top (RttT) North Carolina Education Cloud leadership team visited 115 LEAs and ten charter schools. Prior to these visits, technology contacts in these LEAs and charter schools completed a 300+ question survey pertaining to LEA/charter school instructional and information technology usage. The State Board of Education (SBE) will be briefed on the subjective analysis of the interviews and surveys.

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education should continue its support of 21st century leadership practices as LEA and charter schools plan, implement, and evaluate federal, state and local technology initiatives.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCS Committee Chair Howell recognized Mr. Kimrey to present, for information only, LEA/Charter Technology Initiative Readiness.
- Using a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Kimrey provided a comprehensive status report on the eLearning Commission's ten recommendations concerning digital education resources and the Department's current work underway toward implementing these recommendations. He explained that, by and large, these recommendations are covered in the State School Technology Plan, approved in May 2011. In addition, the recommendations provide additional detail on the goals of Strategic Priority 3: Statewide access to digital teaching and learning resources, including digital textbooks.
- In addition, Mr. Kimrey reviewed the five recommended strategies for the NC Education Cloud Plan which were approved by the State Board in October 2011 and are covered in the State School Technology Plan. At this time, he introduced Mr. Dave Furiness (Manager of Client Network Engineering, MCNC) and Mr. Phil Emer (Director, Technology Planning and Policy, Friday Institute for Educational Innovation). Continuing with the report, Mr. Kimrey explained that interviews and surveys were conducted with 115 LEAs and 10 charter schools, February through October 2011. The goals were to inform the planning process, inform NC educational community of the work, and garner community buy-in. Mr. Furiness reported that the findings are summarized in three broad categories: capacity, sustainability, and leadership. He provided some key findings in each of the categories.

- In terms of Instructional Functionality, Mr. Kimrey provided examples of Interface K-12 specific usability, the culture of online assessments, and data, i.e., warehousing, operational data store, and the use of NC WISE).
- After speaking briefly about Information Technology Functionality in terms of student access to end-user devices and technical support, sustainable infrastructure, enterprise applications, and performance management, Chair Howell asked Mr. Kimrey to address ways that the State Board can accelerate the process. In addition to professional development, Mr. Kimrey noted that policy revisions need to occur to incorporate more technology in the schools. In addition, the State Board's endorsement is very important and speaks volumes to the administrators statewide. In response to Board member Greene's concern about confidentiality, Mr. Kimrey explained that they talk a lot about digital citizenship with students; however, the conversation doesn't occur very often with the adults. While there are laws that administrators learn, they don't necessarily sync with the digital citizenship standards. Board member Tate encouraged the Board to visit Mooresville City Schools as that LEA continues to garner national attention for its technology initiatives. Chairman Harrison explained that the Board has not traveled over the past few years due to the economic climate. He did note that several Board members and administrators took advantage of an invitation recently to visit Mooresville and encouraged those Board members who have not visited to do so on their own.
- Mr. Kimrey recognized Mr. Furiness to present the Instructional Technology Functionality portion of the presentation. Mr. Furiness spoke briefly about student access to end-user devices and technical support addressing technical obsolescence, the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative, security infrastructure, policy and operational implications, etc. He also spoke about NC Cloud in terms of sustainable infrastructure, and performance management.
- In response to Chairman Harrison's question, Mr. Kimrey stated that, due to leadership, North Carolina is well ahead of many states in terms of technology with the Cloud, IIS, etc. Chairman Harrison reiterated Board member Tate's request to consider the role of the State Board to enhance the program from a policy perspective to ensure that students across the state have access. Board member Tate also asked for a status update at a future meeting of the school districts. A brief discussion ensued with Mr. Kimrey agreeing that the Department of Public Instruction and State Board should highlight the shining stars across the state and facilitate that sharing, knowledge and growth. Principal of the Year Advisor Jackson agreed that finding pockets of excellence within our own state as well as the importance of shared learning will be helpful at the school and district levels.
- There was no further discussion.

This item was presented for information only.

With no other business on the agenda, Chairman Harrison requested a motion to adjourn.

Upon motion made by Mr. Kevin Howell and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the State Board of Education meeting until Thursday, March 1, at 9:00 a.m.

**North Carolina State Board of Education
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
March 1, 2012**

The North Carolina State Board of Education met and the following members were present:

William Harrison, Chairman
Wayne McDevitt, Vice Chair
Janet Cowell, State Treasurer
Melissa Bartlett
Christine Greene
Shirley Harris

Kevin Howell
Reginald Kenan
Tom Speed
John Tate
Patricia Willoughby
Jean Woolard

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent
Earlie Coe, Local Board Member Advisor
Don Martin, Superintendent Advisor

Rob Jackson, Principal of the Year Advisor
Jennifer Facciolini, Teacher of the Year Advisor
Tyronna Hooker, Teacher of the Year Advisor

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION

Chairman William Harrison called the Thursday session of the March State Board of Education meeting to order and declared the Board in official session. He welcomed onsite visitors, online listeners, and Twitter followers to the meeting, and reminded the audience that the Board held its committee meetings on Wednesday and today will vote on action items and receive reports on other topics.

Chairman Harrison welcomed Mr. McDevitt to the meeting noting that a prior commitment had prevented him from attending the SBE meeting on Wednesday.

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chairman Harrison reminded Board members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest under Chapter 138A. He asked if members of the Board knew of any conflict of interest or any appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before them during this meeting. There were no conflicts of interest communicated at this time. The Chairman then requested that if, during the course of the meeting, members became aware of an actual or apparent conflict of interest that they bring the matter to the attention of the Chairman. It would then be their duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

Board Member Patricia Willoughby was recognized to lead the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Harrison asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1-2, 2012, State Board meeting.

Discussion/Comments:

- There was no discussion.

Mr. John Tate made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1-2, 2012, meeting. Seconded by Ms. Christine Greene, the Board voted to approve the minutes as presented. Board member Melissa Bartlett reported that she had not received a copy of the draft minutes; therefore, she abstained from the vote.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – NATIONAL TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS

- Dana Elementary School, Henderson County (Superintendent David Jones and Principal Kelly Schofield)
- Stories Creek Elementary School, Person County (Superintendent Larry Cartner and Principal Veronica Clay)

Chairman Harrison noted that today's special recognition portion of the agenda is focused on two National Title I Distinguished Schools. He explained that states can recognize two schools annually as part of the National Title I Distinguished Schools program, sponsored by the National Title I Association. The program recognizes exemplary Title I schools that hold students to high standards and demonstrate exemplary school effectiveness.

Chairman Harrison recognized Principal Kelly Schofield and Assistant Principal Susan Riddle from Dana Elementary School to share their successes. Dana Elementary was recognized as winner in the Exceptional Student Achievement category. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Principal Schofield spoke about their Leaders and Learners school culture, common mission and vision. She noted that Dana Elementary was a school on the watch list in 2007 because the school did not make AYP in the subgroups. She spoke briefly about the process of changing the school's core values and obtaining buy in from all of the stakeholders in the school and community to turn the school around. Ms. Schofield noted that the school is data driven. She also spoke about the school-wide leadership framework based on the Seven Habits for Happy Kids, the importance of collaboration and problem solving, their living School Improvement Plan and visible leadership. Initiatives include a master schedule; built in intervention, maintenance, and enrichment; and co-teaching. Other specific examples of school initiatives include Jr. Great Books; Comprehension Toolkit by Stephanie Harvey; Fountas & Pinnell Phonics; Writing Across Subject Areas; Math Investigations; Inquiry-Based Science (FOSS); and Student Engagement.

Stories Creek Elementary School was recognized as the winner in the Closing the Achievement Gap category. Chairman Harrison recognized Person County Schools' Superintendent Larry Cartner, Principal Veronica Clay and third grade teacher and Teacher of the Year Mary Jane Bowman to share their successes. Noting that Stories Creek was also on the watch list for School Improvement in 2007, Ms. Clay spoke about their Culture of Commitment: Student Achievement – No excuses. She explained that success at Stories Creek is based on consistency. Technology is also a vital tool for teaching and learning

at Stories Creek, consistent participation including family nights for literacy, math and science. PTSO and grant partners provide resources for students helping and mentoring younger students. She spoke about the importance of strong Professional Learning Communities with teacher involvement in PLC sessions twice weekly and monthly half day planning. Ms. Clay also talked about the use of research-based practices including the 3-2-1 and Collaborative Pairs/Numbered Heads; vocabulary development strategies; and concept maps. In addition she spoke about the 3R's: Regrouping, Reteaching, and Reassessing. In terms of data analysis, Ms. Clay spoke about assessment results reviewed for skill mastery and the use of multiple tools used to gather data. Using several PowerPoint graphs, Ms. Clay shared student performance growth for reading and math over a five-year period (2006-07 to 2010-11).

Following the presentations, the school representatives were invited forward to receive congratulatory plaques from the State Board of Education recognizing their individual school accomplishments. The presentations were photographed.

KEY INITIATIVES REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

➤ Career and College Ready, Set, Go/Race to the Top (RttT) Update – Mr. Adam Levinson (Director, Race to the Top Program)

Mr. Levinson provided the March 2012 Career and College Ready, Set, Go/Race to the Top (RttT) Update. He noted that Superintendent Atkinson had provided a detailed monthly report of all of the work across the initiatives in her Superintendent's Report, located in the black notebooks. In his update, Mr. Levinson highlighted several significant accomplishments including the release of the Instructional Improvement System (IIS) RFP, which is currently posted. The IIS vision, as represented in the RFP, contains a strong plan for technology tools that will bring together all kinds of resources to support schools and classrooms (i.e., for planning, using data to inform instruction, providing resources for teachers and leaders, etc.) Mr. Levinson also highlighted that the 2012 Summer Institutes have been scheduled. He talked about the cycle of professional development provided by the regional professional development teams that began with the 2011 Summer Institutes, and continues year-round. In addition, Mr. Levinson spoke about the series of regional meetings which are occurring across the state to rollout the NC READY Framework. He thanked staff for their efforts to prepare the information and communicate the agenda in a clear and effective way.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

State Superintendent Atkinson prefaced her report by recognizing Dr. Jack Hoke who was present in the audience. Dr. Atkinson explained that Dr. Hoke recently retired from Alexander County Schools as its superintendent and began a new career as the Executive Director of the North Carolina Superintendent's Association.

NC's READY Initiative

On February 28, NC DPI kicked off the NC READY initiative at the first of eight regional outreach meetings in Greensboro. Approximately 850 educators attended the Region 5 meeting. The three-hour agenda will include the following presentations:

- Remodeling North Carolina schools
- A framework of support
- Learning and accountability
- Educator effectiveness and support for growth
- Technology: supporting teaching and learning
- District and school transformation: support for change

Participants received a comprehensive toolkit to aid them in implementing the initiative at the school level. Dr. Atkinson directed Board members to a folder containing the information distributed at each of the 2012 Regional Outreach meetings for principals and teachers located at their places. For more information go to www.ncpublicschools.org/ready.

Spectrum of Democracy Awards

The North Carolina Center on Voter Education held the 2012 Spectrum of Democracy Awards in Raleigh on February 23. Mr. Ricky McDevitt received the Outstanding Citizen Award. Mr. McDevitt is a longtime civics and government teacher at Madison High School in Madison County, where he has been that county's teacher of the year. He received this honor because of his "energetic teaching style and highly engaging classes have brought American history to life and made politics relevant to thousands of North Carolina students."

Annually, at the Spectrum of Democracy Awards, the NC Center for Voter Education honors citizens, public servants, and journalists who are making vital contributions to our democracy.

2012 National STEM Video Challenge Kick-off, Franklin County Schools

On February 9, Franklin County Schools kicked off its participation in the 2012 National STEM Video Challenge.

Individual high school students can enter the following contests:

- Written game design
- Games made with Gamestar Mechanic
- Games made with Gamemaker
- Games made with Kodu
- Games made with Scratch
- Games made with any tool
- Educational games made with any tool

Team entries include making a game about any topic using any game creation tool. Limit of four students per team.

Inspired by the Educate to Innovate Campaign, President Obama's initiative to promote a renewed focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education, the National STEM Video Game Challenge is a multi-year competition and its goal is to motivate interest in STEM learning among America's youth by tapping into students' natural passion for playing and making video games.

The 2012 National STEM Video Game Challenge is launched in partnership with Digital Promise, a new initiative created by the President and Congress, supported through the Department of Education. The initiative is designed to unlock the promise of breakthrough technologies to transform teaching and learning. The challenge is open to middle school, high school, college, and educators. Submissions close March 12. For more information, go to www.stemchallenge.org.

Recent Activities of the State Superintendent**☐ Delivered remarks/keynote address at**

- Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee: Topic - Residential Schools
- NC Central University Post-secondary Rule of Law Conference
- NC Learning Technology Initiative East Leadership Capacity Building Summit
- Finance Officers' Graduation Ceremony
- Love the Bus, Caleb's Creek Elementary, Forsyth County
- NATEF Association Foundation Accreditation Conference
- Microsoft Meeting, Charlotte
- Governor's School Press Conference
- Alexander County Board of Education, Superintendent Jack Hoke's retirement
- NW RESA Principals' Meeting
- NC Community College Completion by Design Advisory Board, Guilford Tech Community College
- Building Capacity for State Science Education

☐ Attended

- Hill Center, Durham
- Rogers-Herr Middle School, Durham County
- Lansdowne Elementary, Mecklenburg County
- Franklinton High School, Franklin County
- Caleb's Creek Elementary, Forsyth County

RttT Monthly Highlights of Activities Completed**RttT Management:**

- Continued developing and processing with USED amendments to State Detailed Scope of Work (DSW) and budget to submit to USED; continued preparing omnibus DSW update/budget update/amendment to reflect more detailed plans including spending plans for year 2 and beyond; will submit in two batches by 2/28
- Continued approval of Local Education Agency (LEA)/Charter School DSWs submitted on 8/3; continued posting LEA/Charter School approved, fully completed DSWs to the website (141 of 142 approved and posted as of 2/21)
- Continued planning for building a cadre of teacher and principal ambassadors in each school to help communicate the reasons and mechanisms for the changes under way in curriculum, accountability and educator evaluation; participants will include at least one teacher per school, each school principal, and a superintendent from each district
 - Finalized preparations for the regional meetings for statewide rollout of the new accountability program (meeting dates and locations finalized for February/March 2012; dates are 2/28, 3/7,8,9,12,15,22,23)
 - Completed promotional materials for use at the statewide regional meetings and toolkits to distribute at the meetings (toolkits include practical information about the new Common Core and Essential Standards, and the new accountability program)
 - Invited principals statewide and asked them to select one teacher representative to attend the regional meetings; also invited superintendents and public information officers

- Continued creating parent resource podcasts about new standards, new student assessments, and new accountability model to distribute online and via social media in the fall of 2011 along with an online guide for parents to be posted by 6/30
- Continued distributing RtT Weekly Update to 1,400 LEA and charter school officials involved with Race to the Top

Standards & Assessments:

Standards

- Continued development of Social Studies Elective Unpacking document to be posted 6/12
- Revised and posted of Graphic Organizers for LEA and charter use
- Continued development of terminologies specific to each content area and post for external review; plan to post to the website by 6/12
- Continued development of Assessment Examples to be completed by 6/12; delayed due to more time for comprehensive approach
- Continued discussion of Learning Maps in conjunction with SBAC, Dynamic Learning Maps, and Shared Learning Collaborative (SLC) to determine the most effective use for educator training and support
- Continued adding content specific curricular tools (High School Sequencing documents)
- Continued work on reviewing and embedding video vignettes within NC FALCON to be completed 8/12
- Continued to deploy Common Core and Essential Standards' trainings throughout the state, 2/16 (Social Studies, Science, K-12 Programs: Arts, English Language Development, World Languages, Healthful Living)
- Continued to provide ongoing content-specific "live chats" to provide support to the district team on understanding the new standards (2/7, Health/PE; 2/8, Arts Education; 2/9, Math; 2/9, World Languages; 2/23 English as a Second Language; 2/28, Science)
- Continued to collaborate on the development, revision, and implementation of online modules and 2012 Summer Institutes

Assessments

- Continued with regional meetings on online assessments and the best practices guide

Data Systems to Improve Instruction:

- Continued engaging stakeholders through presentations, focus groups, and advisory groups including presenting to the Governor's Teacher Advisory Committee, conducting a session presentation at the NC WISE conference, holding the second of two North Carolina Association of Educators webinars with teachers, and meeting with the IIS User Groups
- Invited LEAs to participate in an IIS Resource Consortium pilot to develop processes for sharing locally developed or owned resources statewide. LEAs will have the opportunity to be on the governing committee or just contribute resources
- Updated vision documents and finalized them for posting on the web and use with READY campaign that will present information about new standards, assessment, and accountability to principals and school representatives in March
- Developed draft tagging schema and review process for IIS resources

- Developed draft Scope Of Work for IIS resources curation
- Coordinated with other RttT states to continue to explore ways to share materials. Expert advice from a lawyer and USED staff has been provided to the group to consider copyrights and user agreements' implications
- Answered ITS and legal questions related to the IIS RFP. ITS conducting final review before posting the RFP. RFP should be posted publically by mid-March
- Worked with Shared Learning Infrastructure (SLI) staff to complete draft designs to define how the SLI will interface with the IIS and updated the overall implementation plan to include SLI architectural decisions
- Began working on the SLI Charter
- Worked with the Cloud team on creation of the Data Integration Request for Proposal (RFP)
- Hired four Function System Analysts to join the project team. Two of the four started on 2/20. The other two will report on 3/2. Staff will be assisting with data mapping for IIS/SLI
- Continued developing data guide by vetting table of contents with user groups, reviewing surveys from stakeholders, and coordinating with data literacy module development as part of work in D5 of RttT

Great Teachers & Principals:

- Continued revisions to working paper to guide conversations with Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) partners regarding how to improve educator pipeline for high-need content and specialty areas (delayed posting working paper to gain additional feedback)
- Continued work on new evaluation instruments; presented standards for instructional technologists and media specialists to the SBE for approval. (All new instruments will be ready for implementation during the 2013–14 school year. During the remainder of the 2011–12 school year, the new instruments will be designed and be piloted in a small number of LEAs. Field testing will occur in 2012-13)
- Updated validity framework for Measures of Student Learning and psychometric plan (will be presented to NC Technical Advisors - our state's TAC - on 3/7)
- Continued Northeast Regional Leadership Academy (RLA) Cohort 1 school year administrative internships (through 6/30)
- Continued training for Northeast RLA Cohort 2 participants (through 6/30)
- Continued Piedmont-Triad RLA Cohort 1 participant administrative internships (through 6/30)
- Continued Sandhills RLA Cohort 1 participant administrative internships (through 6/30)
- Began recruiting Piedmont-Triad RLA Cohort 2, Northeast RLA Cohort 3, Sandhills RLA Cohort 2 participants
- Continued ongoing Teach For America (TFA) support for corps members as they enter classrooms (support to occur throughout corps member's two-year commitment; through 6/30/13)
- Continued recruiting and planning for the Teach For America 2012 corps; TFA staff have begun reviewing applications
- Began recruitment for the first cohort of the NC Teacher Corps (NCTC); launched NC Teacher Corps website at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/recruitment/ncteachercorps/>
- Continued New Teacher Induction Program in four regions with first cohort

- Began analysis of LEA recruitment and retention data and interviews with teachers, principals, and central office staff members in targeted LEAs by strategic staffing vendor
- Presented recommendations on definitions of effectiveness categories for educators, adoption of a statewide growth model, and rating categories for the sixth and eighth standards to the SBE; the SBE adopted the use of EVAAS as the statewide growth model for determining sixth and eighth standard ratings
- Held six of eight regional teacher focus groups on educator effectiveness and the new accountability model
- Held kick-off meetings and began arranging logistics for spring administration of student surveys in pilot LEAs (for example, sampling and mailing labels)
- Continued planning for spring fidelity support meetings across the state with local RttT Leadership Teams in collaboration with Regional Education Service Alliances (RESA) partners to ensure consistent and deliberate PD action planning (scheduled on 3/14, 22; 4/18, 23, 25, 27, 30; 5/17)
- Awaiting approval to hire seven Professional Development (PD) Contractor consultants from first round of interviews (7/21 positions)
- Filled online module developer position (tentative start 4/1); final online module developer position posted (closes 2/27)
- Continued interview process for web content manager position
- Completed the leadership strand of NC Learning Technology Initiative (NCLTI) training, in partnership with the Friday Institute (2/14-15 and 2/20-21). NCLTI provided selected staff (RttT staff) with opportunities to engage in professional development around the NCLTI framework to gain a better understanding of the core elements necessary for launching and sustaining successful technology-enabled learning environments
- Continued work in design teams to outline, develop and design module content and delivery method for Phase II modules [*titles are evolving as the work unfolds*-Data Literacy, Disciplinary Literacy, Digital Literacy, NC Principal Standards, NCEES, 21st Century Skills, Understanding Student Behavior, Student Ownership-NC FALCON, NC Professional Teaching Standards (facilitator-led)] – to be completed by 6/12
- Initiated contract with vendor to develop student simulation online module for Student Ownership-NC FALCON module; work to begin 2/23
- Continued Phase III Training for administrators (principal and assistant principal) on embedding the NC ITES (Information and Technology Essential Standards) and the Common Core and Essential Standards across the state to ensure consistency with implementation for all LEAs and charter schools; trainings conducted by NCDPI's Regional Instructional Technology Facilitators supported by the PD Leads (ongoing through 5/12)
- Continued weekly meetings with PDI leadership team for planning of 2012 Summer Institutes
- Began communicating expectations of the state to local PD leadership teams regarding the 2012 Summer Institutes (i.e., updated website, to develop link to registration, to develop webinar schedule, etc.)
- Continued work with the development of RFP for the IIS in collaboration with the Learning Systems team
- Distinguished Leaders in Practice (DLP) participants prepared for Component 6-Leading Change to Drive Continuous Improvement this month. DLP participants will be receiving a 360 survey

- packet that will be administered and analyzed at the last face-to-face session in March to guide the next cycle of their future professional growth plans
- DLP participants attended face-to-face sessions on Component 5-Creating a Strong Student and External; Stakeholder Focus, followed by their six weeks of online work
- Continued planning for the next round of DLP for principals which will begin in 4/12. Dates have been established and locations in four different geographic areas are being secured. A call for applications began in January

NC Virtual Public Schools:

- Selected final two replacement districts by 2/15; The three partner districts are New Hanover, Person and Greene
- Created survey to find out specific PD needs of LEAs and Face-to-Face Teachers for the STEM blended courses
- Interviewed and identified selection for Exceptional Children's Coordinator position (New hire expected to report in March); continued working to hire remaining module developers and virtual teacher positions (working to fill remaining two positions). Working to hire Technology Infrastructure Expert position (plan to have in place by April)
- Began working on revised implementation strategy plan from mid-February to mid-March
- Began revising promotion and marketing strategy for the RttT Blended STEM process for community, parents, students and staffs based on the addition of the two new replacement LEAs
- Continued development, design and modification of virtual STEM core math and science courses that provide access and targeted instruction to at-risk student populations for the purposes of credit attainment toward graduation (Plan to release final course materials for Earth/Environmental Science, Integrated Math I, and Forensics by fall 2012); Currently, two courses are midway through their first two Grand Challenges design. The third course will start development in late February
- Delayed receiving devices from IFB award due to the new State Contract through ITS and the release of the new version of the IPAD (plan to have IFB filled by March)

Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools:

- Completed Comprehensive Needs Assessments at:
 - Y.E. Smith Elementary, Holt Elementary, Eastway Elementary, Eno Valley Elementary, Lakewood Elementary, Fayetteville Street Elementary, Parkwood Elementary, Chewning Middle, Lowe's Grove Middle, Lakeview School, Southern High School, Hillside High School, and Bethesda Elementary in Durham Public Schools
 - Draper Elementary in Rockingham County
- Continued work on hiring for RttT positions:
 - Two Instructional Coaches hired for Anson County Schools and Durham Public Schools
 - One School Transformation Coach hired for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools
 - Continuing interviews weekly for Instructional Coaches and School Transformation Coaches
- Held monthly District Transformation Coaches meeting, School Transformation Coaches meeting, and Instructional Coaches meeting
- Identified interim support for selected schools/districts until hiring process is complete for permanent positions

- Continued PD and coaching for currently served schools/districts
- Continued assignment process for deployment of PD and coaching staff in newly served schools – includes ongoing work with Human Resources (HR) to align positions on the organizational chart
- Held four regional Professional Development for School Leaders’ sessions focused on quality classroom instruction
- Continued planning for March Professional Development for School Leaders Session #5 for all Principals in TALAS focused on implementation of USED models

NC Education Cloud:

- Completed aggregation of Site survey data into Comma Separated Value (CSV) files; performing ongoing specific analysis of data for projects as requested; Summary findings are complete with integrated support data
- Continued significant involvement with IIS planning, RFP details and participation in SLI planning; Attending regular IIS Leadership meetings
- Continued engagement with Cloud LEA working groups to ensure alignment with LEA needs (includes the Consortium/Cooperative Purchasing LEA Advisory Working Group, Data Collection and Analysis Working Group, Identity and Access Management Working Group, Shared Services Advisory Committee and Instructional Content Services Working Group)
- Continued significant development of detailed implementation plans for all projects identified in approved Cloud Work Plan
- Completed Regional Support Team Update meeting (2/16) to assure continued accurate communications to all LEAs
- Completed quarterly RESA meeting with superintendents and technology directors focused on communications around upcoming services
- Prepared for iSeries vendor engagement – all RFP technical and functional Best and Final Offer (BAFO) issues are resolved and the contract now sits with legal
- Initiated Identity Access Management (IAM) procurement process and RFP development
- Initiated Learning Object Repository (LOR) platform procurement with NCCCS

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM):

- Collaborated with Community Colleges, UNC System, NC Science Mathematics and Technology Education Center and NC Department of Public Instruction, and received a signed Letter of Intent from all for their participation, governance and long-term support for the NC Learning Network (NC STEM)
- Reviewed and shared Community Engagement Guide with External Review Partners & DPI STEM Education and Leadership Director (NC STEM)
- Finalized design/layout of Community Engagement Guide and Revisions in final draft form for Module 1: Community Engagement; Module 2: Community Visioning; Module 3: Innovation Design; and Module 4: Business Planning and Implementation (NC STEM)
- Delivered STEM web portal wireframes, visual comps/design (NC STEM)
- STEM portal feedback group met to review portal design (NC STEM)

- Held third monthly webinar on 2/23, focusing on educators from North Carolina and Tennessee sharing details of their innovative STEM model programs embracing STEM education; Elementary, middle and high school programs represented their unique approach to STEM education; More than 90 participated comprised of public, charter and private school educators, university system administrators, and business and industry (NC STEM)
- Presented to the North Carolina General Assembly, Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and Joining Our Business & Schools (JOBS) Commissions), Global Schools Network and multi-state partners to receive additional support of the NC STEM Learning Network as a function of the NC STEM Strategic Plan (NC STEM)
- Provided 13 days of coaching at three Anchor Schools: Early College EAST in Craven, City of Medicine in Durham and NCSU STEM Early High School in Wake (NSP)
- Organized and hosted staff development Peer School Reviews at the Wayne School of Engineering Learning Lab Initiative for one Anchor school and three Affinity Network schools (NSP)
- Provided professional development for six teachers for four days at Early College EAST (Anchor School) in Craven; Three teachers attended the Wayne School of Engineering Learning Lab Initiative session for two days and three teachers attended the Common Practices Symposia session for two days (NSP)
- Provided 20 days of coaching at 12 Affinity schools. Schools participating were: Avery County High School, Bertie High School, East Columbus High School, South Columbus High School, West Columbus High School, Davie High School, East Duplin High School, James Kenan High School, North Duplin Jr/ Sr High School, Wallace-Rose Hill High School, Southern Durham High School, and the Middle College at UNC-G (NSP)
- Provided professional development for 33 teachers for 12 Affinity schools. Participating schools were: Avery County High School, Bertie High School, East Columbus High School, South Columbus High School, West Columbus High School, Davie High School, East Duplin High School, James Kenan High School, North Duplin Jr/Sr High School, Wallace-Rose Hill High School, Southern Durham High School, and the Middle College at UNC-G. Sessions included: Secondary Lens on Learning, Wayne School of Engineering Learning Lab Initiative, Critical Friends Group, Learning Lab Initiative at Caldwell, and CPS (NSP)
- Continued planning with NSP on the upcoming STEM Conference 4/16-18 (NSP)

Evaluation:

Cross-Cutting Evaluation Elements

- Began administration of the 2012 survey with teachers and principals
- Continued classroom observations across initiative evaluations
- Continued (Carolina Institute for Public Policy -CIPP data administrator) working with NCDPI on data needed for fall/spring analyses and began working with evaluation team leads to determine data needs for 2012

Teacher and Leader Effectiveness

- Continued classroom observations
- Worked on technical supplement to the recently-released briefing on value-added models (see below)

Distribution of Teachers and Leaders

Baseline Teacher Quality Analysis

- Began dissemination and discussion process for sharing the findings of the Teacher Quality Baseline Report with stakeholders

Regional Leadership Academies

- Observed residency sessions, intern site visits and facilitative leadership training sessions
- Made presentation to the RLA Quality Assurance Committee
- Collected the RLA bi-annual participant survey – response rate c. 80%; began data analyses

Teach For America (TFA)/NC Teacher Corps (NCTC)

- Continued transcriptions of all focus group data
- Continued analyses of focus group data
- Completed initial analyses of TFA administrative data

Induction Program for Novice Teachers

- Met with UNC-G project manager to discuss timeline for planned intervention activities
- Began pulling contact information for CLASS observation teacher sample in spring 2012
- Collaborated with NC State SUCCEED team to finalize and submit IRB for PBT-SI survey

Strategic Staffing/Incentives

- Made initial contact with finance officers in our three targeted sample LEAs regarding discussion of their local strategic staffing plans as detailed in their Scopes of Work
- Made initial contact with finance officers in all other LEAs with full local strategic staffing plans for supplemental descriptive component of evaluation
- Made initial contact with third-party vendor tasked with helping DST LEAs construct strategic staffing plans

NCVPS

- Completed reworking of Scope of Work to reflect the new NCVPS implementation calendar and anticipated participant LEAs
- Finalized commitments from remaining content-area specialists to review course content in spring 2012
- Prepared remaining Institutional Review Board (IRB) modifications for all work with students, even though such work may not take place until fall 2012

Professional Development

Statewide PD

- Continued observations of purposeful sample of RESA sessions
- Reviewed PD Observation protocol and adopted suggested forced-option revisions to ease data-cleaning burden

Online PD Evaluation

- Continued observing purposeful sample of online modules and webinars
- Began data analyses for upcoming informal formative report

Purposeful Sample Longitudinal Study

- Began scheduling site visits for spring
- Began scheduling baseline visits for seven schools that replaced schools which dropped out of the study

DLP Evaluation

- Developed new instruments (focus group protocol, participant survey)
- Continued onsite data collection
- Developed data analysis plan for upcoming informal formative DLP report

*District and School Transformation (DST) Including STEM Schools****DST***

- Completed all interviews of NCDPI DST and local Central Office staff for LEA 1
- Completed Superintendent and Asst. Superintendent interviews for LEA 2
- Met with PD evaluation team lead to plan for evaluation of DST PD
- Met with NCDPI DST leads to gain deeper understanding of DST PD and help shape the evaluation plan

STEM

- Revised site visit protocols
- Drafted teacher and student survey protocols
- Collected online interactions data
- Observed a partnership facilitation meeting

Local Spending

- Piloted local finance officer study and subsequently made revisions to survey of local finance officers
- Continued work on baseline local RttT spending analysis report
 - Analyzed fiscal data
 - Recoded revenues by source to track federal funding over time
 - Recoded LEA DSWs to validate work completed by NCDPI staff
- Continued selection of finance personnel for site visits

BOARD MEETING AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Harrison moved to the Consent Agenda which is reserved for items that generally create little or no debate such as routine appointments, items that come for information purposes only, routine reports, and final approval of reports that the Board has already discussed. Board members have always seen these materials prior to the Board meetings, and may ask that items be removed from the Consent agenda to be discussed on an individual basis. Consent items will be adopted as a whole.

Chairman Harrison noted only one item for consideration and asked if any Board members wanted to remove this item from the Consent Agenda. Hearing no requests, Chairman Harrison asked for a motion to approve LFI 3 – Charter By-Law and Application Amendments.

Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Mr. Kevin Howell, the Board voted unanimously to approve LFI 3 – Charter By-Law and Application Amendments as presented. (See Attachment LFI 3)

LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

(Ms. Melissa Bartlett, Chair; Ms. Jean Woolard, Vice Chair)

CONSENT

LFI 3 – Charter By-Law and Application Amendments

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-239.29D(d); Charter Amendment

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Business Services) and Mr. Joel Medley (Director, Office of Charter Schools)

Description:

Per G.S. § 115C-238.29D(d), material changes to the charter application must have approval of the State Board of Education. Five charter schools have proposed modification to their bylaws and/or charter applications. Currently, the proposed modifications are considered material revisions. Therefore, these changes must be approved by the State Board of Education.

Brevard Academy: A Challenge Foundation Academy has rewritten their bylaws to provide clarity and further define roles and responsibilities of the board, duties of members and officers, as well as procedures for meetings and filling vacancies. The bylaws also included additional language on the process for revising their bylaws, indemnification of those serving the Corporation, and processing financial requests (contracts, checks, loans, deposits, or gifts). These changes also resulted in the renumeration of their bylaws.

Casa Esperanza Montessori Charter School has simply added language to: (1) prevent paid employees or contractors from serving on the board of directors and (2) delegate some authority to the Head of School subject to approval by their board of directors.

Pine Lake Preparatory has updated their charter application in that they increased the specified class size, changed reference to Standard Course of Study to Common Core, added foreign language for each year in Upper School, added an additional year in math, modified language from curriculum specific programs (i.e. Saxon) to allow flexibility to find those compatible to the school's Core Knowledge focus, changed the specific number of Exceptional Children's teachers because that depends on the number of students served, and removed the specified days and times for service learning because it is interspersed throughout the K-12 curriculum.

River Mill Academy, within their bylaws, updated the organizational chart, added qualifications for directors, clarified the removal process for officers and directors, explained in more detail the process for filling vacancies, and changed its parliamentary procedures. In updating their application, they have removed class size language, changed testing language to follow DPI's requirements, modified salary structure to be on the state salary schedule, struck references to CHCCS, adopted the use of PLCs, and rewrote the curriculum section by dropping Saxon Math and Core Knowledge in favor of the Common Core.

Sandhills Theatre Arts Renaissance School has revised their bylaws by adding a vision statement that matches the statutory purposes of charter schools, including a conflict of interest statement, increasing the details of noticing their meetings according to NC Open Meetings law, moving the process for filling vacancies from the executive to nominating committee, changing titles (president to chair and executive director to principal), and enumerating qualifications for directors.

These proposed revisions have been examined by the Office of Charter Schools and legal counsel. All modifications are within the bounds of state law and State Board of Education policies.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the SBE approve these bylaw revisions for the above-named charter schools.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION AGENDA

GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE STUDENTS

(Ms. Patricia Willoughby, Chair; Melissa Bartlett, Vice Chair)

ACTION

GCS 1 – Arts Education Courses Eligible for Honors Weight

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # GCS-L-004

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin (Director, Division of K-12 Curriculum and Instruction)

Description:

The NC Arts Education Essential Standards reflect four levels of proficiency for high school courses for credit. The Beginning and Intermediate levels build the foundation for student success in continuing

coursework at the Proficient and Advanced levels. Students who take coursework at the Proficient or Advanced levels enter those studies having completed a minimum of 270-300 hours of instruction within that arts discipline (dance, music, theatre or visual arts), and are applying their skills and understandings in increasingly sophisticated, complex, and challenging ways. Coursework at the Proficient and Advanced levels in the arts aligns with the SBE policy on academic rigor. It is therefore requested that the policy reflect this alignment and indicate that coursework reflective of the Proficient and Advanced levels receive the honors weight of 1 point.

Recommendations:

It is requested that the State Board approve the proposed revisions to policy GCS-L-004 effective 2012-13 and beyond.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Chair Patricia Willoughby noted a thorough discussion of this item in February as well as during the Committee meeting on Wednesday following additional input from stakeholders. She noted consensus from the GCS Committee to approve the policy revisions as presented.
- There was no further discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, and seconded by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to SBE Policy # GCS-L-004, effective 2012-13 and beyond, as presented. (See Attachment GCS 1)

ACTION ON FIRST READING – LATE ITEM

GCS 4 – College and Career Promise

Policy Implications: Session Law 2011-145

Presenter(s): Dr. Rebecca Garland (Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Mr. Rob Hines (Director, LEA Projects and Innovative Programs, Academic Services and Instructional Support)

Description:

College and Career Promise legislation described in Session Law 2011-145 consolidates and replaces existing high school transition programs to provide clear pathways for dual enrollment in high school and community college. The NC community colleges may offer the following College and Career Promise pathways: 1) College Transfer leading to a college transfer certificate; 2) Career and Technical Education leading to a certificate, diploma, or degree; and 3) Cooperative Innovative High Schools approved under Part 9, Article 16, Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.

In October 2011, the State Board of Education, in collaboration with the NC State Board of Community Colleges, adopted eligibility requirements for students to participate in the College Transfer Pathway. Based on input from the Community College Presidents' Association, the Chief Student Development Administrators of the Community College System, and public school administrators, changes to the eligibility requirements are being considered. These changes were discussed at the February meeting of

the NC State Board of Community Colleges, and it is anticipated that the Board will approve those changes at its next meeting.

Under the initial College and Career Promise eligibility requirements a student must demonstrate a weighted GPA of 3.0 and a college readiness score in reading and mathematics on the same college readiness assessment in order to participate in the College Transfer Pathway. The proposed eligibility requirements would allow a student more flexibility in demonstrating college readiness. (See attachment.)

As directed in statute, staff from the NC Community College System office and the NC Department of Public Instruction have collaborated to develop eligibility criteria and rules of procedure for the program that began in January 2012. The State Board of Education will be updated on the implementation of Career and College Promise and be asked to adopt revised eligibility criteria for the College Transfer Pathway.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education adopt the revised eligibility criteria for College and Career Promise that would go into effect immediately after final approval by the NC State Board of Community Colleges.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Chair Patricia Willoughby noted that GCS 4 was a late item. Chair Willoughby spoke briefly about the collaboration between the NC State Board of Community Colleges and DPI in order to modify the criteria for admission, and have more students eligible to participate in Career and College Promise. She explained that the eligibility criteria will go into effect immediately following final approval by the State Board of Community Colleges which is anticipated to occur at its March meeting.
- Board member Tate shared extensive dialogue with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools concerning this issue. The intent behind the changes is to provide more flexibility to engage students who may not fare well on the ACT or other college-readiness assessments. This change addresses the impact of poor test scores by eliminating that requirement while raising the minimum weighted grade point average (GPA) and requiring minimum math and English course completions for these students and providing the opportunity for access. The preference noted by Mr. Tate is that they would prefer an unweighted GPA rather than weighted to further broaden opportunities for students to access the community college system. Mr. Tate recognizes the dilemma that, according to feedback from the community college system, there are some students who have gained access to the community college who are simply not ready for the coursework. He noted that he has been assured that in terms of Career and Technical Education courses, principals have the decision for flexibility. As a point of clarification, Chairman Harrison explained that the concerns about not being ready for community college coursework was Pre-Career College Promise, and that the Department has worked collaboratively with the community college system on developing the guidelines. He spoke briefly about the year-long discussion concerning weighted and unweighted courses, and the issue of providing flexibility and greater accessibility. The policy will be a living policy which may be adjusted to ensure the desired intent is realized. Superintendent Advisor Don Martin also responded to Mr. Tate's comments, sharing from an editorial in the *Washington Post* by Margaret Altman (Director of Admissions, Wake Forest

University) regarding changes to their admissions standards, noting that she reiterated that the most important predictor to college success is grade point average (GPA).

- In addition, Board member Tate noted that CMS also expressed concern for those students not taking honors courses.
- There was no further discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, and seconded by Ms. Shirley Harris, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the revised eligibility criteria for College and Career Promise, effective immediately after final approval by the NC State Board of Community Colleges. (See Attachment GCS 4)

DISCUSSION

GCS 2 – State Graduation Requirements Revision of GCS-N-004

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # GCS-N-004

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin (Director, Division of K-12 Curriculum and Instruction)

Description:

SBE Policy # GCS-N-004 was reviewed and revisions have been suggested to clarify the sequence of high school courses and course names of the mathematics substitution courses.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board review the proposed revisions to policy GCS-N-004.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Chair Willoughby noted a robust discussion of this item during the GCS Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- There was no further discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the March 2012 meeting and will return for action at the April meeting. (See Attachment GCS 2)

DISCUSSION

GCS 3 – North Carolina’s Proposed New Accountability Model (2013) – Update on Reporting Timeline

Policy Implications: SBE’s “*Framework for Change*”

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Dr. Tammy L. Howard (Director, Accountability Services)

Education Building, Raleigh	Thursday, March 1, 2012	Board Room, 9:00 a.m.
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Description:

The Department of Public Instruction established the Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort (ACRE) to develop and implement a response to the *Framework for Change* adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE). In the *Framework for Change* (June 5, 2008), the SBE directed the Department to examine the K-8 accountability model with a 21st century focus and to develop a new high school accountability model (p. 5, items 6 and 7). The accountability model measures were approved at the January 2012 SBE meeting. A timeline for the implementation of the model will be presented at the March 2012 SBE meeting.

Recommendations:

State Board of Education members are asked to review and comment on the proposals.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Chair Willoughby noted a thorough update of the timeline and discussion of this item during the GCS Committee meeting on Wednesday. Board members were encouraged to ask questions or share concerns with Drs. Garland and Howard prior to the April Board meeting.
- There was no further discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the March 2012 meeting and will return for action at the April meeting. (See Attachment GCS 3)

**21ST CENTURY PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT
(Ms. Shirley Harris, Chair; Mr. John Tate, Vice Chair)**

ACTION

TCP 1 – Educator Effectiveness Policies

Policy Implications: Race to the Top; Great Teachers and Leaders, Section D

Presenter(s): Dr. Rebecca Garland (Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Dr. Lynne Johnson (Director, Educator Recruitment and Development Division)

Description:

In July 2011, the SBE added new standards to the Teacher and Principal Evaluation Processes. The sixth standard for teachers and eighth standards for principals focus on the amount of academic growth that a teacher makes with his students and the amount of student growth taking place school wide under an administrator’s leadership. Through additional action of TCP-C-006, the SBE will be adding three rating options for the new standards: fails to meet expected growth, meets expected growth, or exceeds expected growth. The Department will present three options for an interim weighting scheme for the sixth standard. Based on extensive stakeholder input, the Department of Educator Effectiveness Work Group recommended the inclusion of both school wide and individual growth measures in a teacher’s

sixth standard rating. The sixth and eighth standards are in effect for the 2011-12 school year.

In its Race to the Top plan, North Carolina defined “effective” and “highly effective” educators. Additional revisions to TCP-C-006 add these definitions into policy, and outline the definition of a third group of educators who are “in need of improvement.” These definitions will be in effect for the 2011-12 school year.

Recommendations:

The SBE will review the policy recommendations from staff and the Educator Effectiveness Work Group and approve revisions to TCP-C-006. The SBE will select one of three options for determining the sixth standard rating for teachers for 2011-12.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Chair Harris explained that the TCP Committee has received several updates and reports over many months, including a thorough discussion of this item during the TCP Committee meeting on Wednesday. She noted that, as recommended, this policy revision is for one year only. She explained that the discussion on Wednesday focused on which of the options the Board would endorse. The consensus of the Board is contained in the motion, according to Chair Harris.
- Board member Bartlett reiterated that, for this year only, teachers for whom we do not have measures defined yet for student achievement will get 100 percent of this rating for their schoolwide performance, and that this year will not form the baseline year for the three years that will determine the standard set. Dr. Garland asked that the minutes reflect that for teachers who are in non-tested subject areas, their Sixth Standard will be populated with schoolwide data and this will not be their benchmark year. She further noted that for teachers who do have actionable data, the Department does not know when their effectiveness rating benchmark will be as this issue is being negotiated with the U.S. Department of Education.
- Board member Tate shared that he was pleased that, while this was a team effort, acknowledging contributions from the LEAs, at the end of the day, it is the individual teacher in the classroom who provides the cumulative impact of student performance.
- Chair Harris noted that while the Committee discussions have been very robust, she encouraged Board members and stakeholders to review the materials carefully for this item as it is a complex process with many details in the policy.
- There was no further discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Ms. Christine Greene, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to TCP-C-006, and Option 3 (the 70/30 model) for determining the sixth standard rating for this year only. (See Attachment TCP 1)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCP 2 – Final Decision in Contested Case Claire Scarborough-Hakin v. National Board Certification Appeals Panel 11 EDC 07328

Policy Implications: General Statute § 150B-36

Presenter(s): Ms. Katie Cornetto (Staff Attorney, State Board of Education)

Description:

Claire Scarborough-Hakin filed a petition with the Office of Administrative Hearings contesting the decision to deny her a waiver of repayment of the NBPTS fee to the State. The Administrative Law Judge upheld the agency's action.

Recommendations:

The State Board shall issue a final Agency decision in the contested case.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Chair Harris noted that this item was discussed during closed session on Wednesday.
- There was no further discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Mr. Kevin Howell, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Administrative Law Judge's recommended decision in the case of Ms. Claire Scarborough-Hakin v. National Board Certification Appeals Panel 11 EDC 07328 as the final Agency decision. (See Attachment TCP 2)

DISCUSSION

TCP 3 – Proposed Standards for the Evaluation of Instructional Technology Facilitators

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCP-A-001

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Mr. Neill Kimrey (Director, Instructional Technology Division)

Description:

In June 2007, the State Board of Education approved new professional standards for the evaluation of teachers. New standards for the evaluation of Instructional Technology Facilitators, aligned with the new teacher standards, have been developed and are presented for discussion this month. When approved by the Board, these standards have been developed and are presented for discussion this month. When approved by the Board, these standards will be the basis of new evaluation instruments for Instructional Technology Facilitators to be developed by McREL.

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is asked to review the standards for the evaluation of Instructional Technology Facilitators.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Chair Harris noted a thorough discussion of this item during the TCP Committee meeting on Wednesday following the presentation by Mr. Kimrey. She encouraged Board members and stakeholders to contact staff with questions or provide feedback prior to the April Board meeting.

Education Building, Raleigh	Thursday, March 1, 2012	Board Room, 9:00 a.m.
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- There was no further discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the March 2012 meeting and will return for action at the April meeting. (See Attachment TCS 3)

DISCUSSION

TCP 4 –Proposed Standards for the Evaluation of School Library Media Coordinators

Policy Implications: SBE Policy #TCP-A-001

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Mr. Neill Kimrey (Director, Instructional Technology Division)

Description:

In June 2007, the State Board of Education approved new professional standards for the evaluation of teachers. New standards for the evaluation of School Library Media Coordinators, aligned with the new teacher standards, have been developed and are presented for discussion this month. When approved by the Board, these standards will be the basis of new evaluation instruments for School Library Media Coordinators to be developed by McREL. The existing School Library Media Coordinator standards were approved by the State Board of Education in July 2003.

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is asked to review the standards for the evaluation of school library media coordinators.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Chair Harris noted a thorough discussion of this item during the TCP Committee meeting on Wednesday following Mr. Kimrey’s presentation. She encouraged Board members and stakeholders to contact staff with questions or concerns prior to the April Board meeting.
- There was no further discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the February 2012 meeting and will return for action at the March meeting. (See Attachment TCP 4)

**TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SYSTEMS
BUSINESS/FINANCE AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT
(Mr. Kevin Howell, Chair; Mr. Tom Speed, Vice Chair)**

ACTION

TCS 1 –2012-13 Supplemental Budget Request

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-12(1a)

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Business Services) and Mrs. Sarah Harris (Director, Financial Services Division)

Description:

Due to the current economic environment, the Office of State Budget and Management has advised State agencies that supplemental budget requests for 2012-13 will be limited to statutorily mandated enrollment increases or entitlement programs, continued phase-in or new programs initiated in a previous fiscal year, IT projects funded entirely through receipts, and mission critical funding needs. The supplemental budget requests are due to OSBM following the Board's action at the March 2012 meeting. At this meeting, the Board will approve those requests to be sent to the Governor.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the supplemental budget requests allowable under OSBM's instructions.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCS Committee Chair Howell called attention to the draft letter dated March 1, 2012, directed to Governor Perdue regarding the Board's supplemental budget needs (printed on yellow paper). He noted several corrections from the TCS Committee discussion on Wednesday as it reflects professional development. He directed Board members to #15 – Professional Development and Support of Public School Teachers located on the last page of the letter. Chair Howell explained that this item restores \$3 million recurring cut to the NC Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT), which would bring the total budget to \$6 million. In addition, reinstate full \$3.5 million funding for the Teaching Fellows Fund.
- Chair Howell shared that Chairman Harrison suggested on Wednesday, that the recommendation cap the list of expansion items to 2.0 percent.
- In addition, Chair Howell spoke briefly about the Special Provision Request which is the item related to maximizing the impact of a large student population transferring from a local education agency (LEA) to a charter. He explained that this item does not need to be included in the Expansion Budget request to OSBM because the Department of Public Instruction will present multiple options along with the impact of those options at the April State Board meeting.
- Board member Tate expressed appreciation for inclusion of professional development; however, he did not see mentoring mentioned. He noted concerns for new teachers and the level of support they receive or don't receive in their first couple of years of teaching. In response to Mr. Tate's expressed concerns, Chairman Harrison mentioned that NCCAT provides some mentoring and is working with several LEAs. In addition, some of the Race to the Top funds are devoted to mentoring. The \$12.6 million for professional development will go to LEAs where the LEAs will have the flexibility to use some of the funds toward mentoring if they so choose.
- Board member Bartlett asked for clarification about item #11 – Funding for Cooperative Innovative High Schools specifically as it relates to tuition reimbursement for the three private universities. Her concern was for setting a precedent. Mr. Price explained that the legislation does not restrict the program to public campuses. He did note some concern about the level of tuition charges; however, there is nothing in the legislation that restricts the amount of money that can be put in a budget request. Citing the differences in tuition charges, for example NC A & T's rate vs. William Peace University's rate per course, Mr. Price suggested future discussions for the Board on the possibility of capping tuition requests to the highest level of the public university system.

Education Building, Raleigh	Thursday, March 1, 2012	Board Room, 9:00 a.m.
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- Chairman Harrison encouraged Board members to provide feedback to Mr. Price about the draft cover letter to Governor Perdue.
- There was no discussion.

Upon motion by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve the supplemental budget requests allowable under OSBM's instructions as presented. (See Attachment TCS 1)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCS 2 –Approval of Grant

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCS-O-001

Presenter(s): Mrs. Charlotte Hughes (Director, Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division) and Mrs. Donna Brown (Section Chief, Federal Program Monitoring)

Description:

The grant listed below is being submitted for approval. Please see attachment for description of grant.

- Attachment 1 – 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the grant.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCS Committee Chair Kevin Howell explained that a federal audit determined that some of the CCLC grants made last year did not meet the requirement of a minimum grant amount of \$50,000. Those recipients were given the opportunity to resubmit budgets with additional activities that would bring their grant total to \$50,000. While most did resubmit, a few did not because they will not be continuing their program.
- There was no discussion.

Upon motion by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Ms. Christine Greene, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 21st Century Community Learning Center grants as presented. (See Attachment TCS 2)

DISCUSSION

TCS 3 - Policy Regarding Charter Amendments for Existing Public Charter Schools

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-12(1a)

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Business Services) and Mr. Joel Medley (Director, Office of Charter Schools)

Description:

With the recent lifting of the state’s charter school cap, more public charter schools will be allowed to open and operate within North Carolina. The approved charter application is incorporated into the charter agreement; and per G.S. § 115C-238.29D(d), material changes to the charter application must have approval of the State Board of Education. With an increasing number of public charter schools, the SBE will also experience a rise in requests for charter school amendments.

The proposed SBE policy is presented to delegate limited authority to the Department to allow certain charter amendments while also delineating the charter modifications that must attain SBE approval. This delegation does require the Department to notify the Board of any approved amendments made on its behalf. The policy concludes by stating that any changes not specifically enumerated in the policy must go before the Board for review.

Recommendations:

N/A

Discussion/Comments:

- TCS Committee Chair Howell noted a thorough discussion of this item during the TCS Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- There was no discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the February 2012 meeting and will return for action at the March meeting. (See Attachment TCS 3)

UPDATE ON CONTRACTS

(See Attachment in book)

TCS Committee Chair Kevin Howell encouraged Board members to review the contracts listed for information in the Board book.

LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE
(Ms. Melissa Bartlett, Chair; Ms. Jean Woolard, Vice Chair)

ACTION

LFI 1 – Fast-Track Charter Recommendations from the Public Charter School Advisory Council
Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-238-29; SBE Policy # TCS-B-006

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Business Services), Mr. John Betterton (Chair, NC Public Charter School Advisory Council) and Mr. Joel Medley (Director, Office of Charter Schools)

Description:

Twenty-seven applicants submitted fast track charter applications ahead of the November 10, 2011, twelve noon deadline. Of those, two applicants were incomplete and did not move forward to be considered by the Public Charter School Advisory Council.

The Council divided into three subcommittees to review each applicant and any LEA impact statements. This review occurred on December 13, 2011, and the subcommittees completed a rubric for each applicant. The following day, December 14, 2011, the full Council poured through the rubrics, listened to the subcommittee reports, and invited 11 applicants back for an interview.

The day prior to the Council's interviews, one applicant withdrew from consideration because they wanted a full planning year rather than the truncated one afforded to fast-track applicants. On January 10 & 11, 2012, the full Council interviewed 10 applicants and recommended the following nine applicants to receive a fast-track charter from the State Board of Education:

- Bear Grass Charter School
- Cornerstone Charter Academy
- Corvian Community School
- North East Carolina Preparatory
- Research Triangle High School
- The Howard and Lillian Lee Scholars Charter Academy
- The College Preparatory and Leadership Academy of High Point
- Triangle Math and Science Academy
- Water's Edge Village School

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the SBE accept the fast track application recommendations as presented from the Public Charter School Advisory Council.

Discussion/Comments:

- LFI Committee Chair Bartlett noted a thorough discussion of this item during the LFI Committee meeting on Wednesday. Twenty-seven applicants submitted fast-track charter applications. Of those, two applicants were incomplete and did not move forward for consideration. On Wednesday, the LFI Committee continued the discussion related to the nine applicants recommended for approval. She explained that these schools will receive four months of planning time, instead of the mandatory 12 months that schools in the regular application process must take. Upon approval by the State Board, these schools are slated to open in August 2012.
- Chair Bartlett asked the pleasure of the Board as it relates to making the motion either as a whole or as individual motions. Chairman Harrison suggested submitting the entire slate for approval, and providing the opportunity for Board members to discuss any of the charters individually.
- Following the motion read by Board member Bartlett, State Treasurer Cowell asked that the votes be handled separately in order to inquire if the inadequacies have been resolved. She noted that several applicants have made it through the process without problems and, therefore, could be voted on in a block. Chairman Harrison asked for a second to the motion for point of discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, to approve the nine charter applications recommended by the Public Charter School Advisory Council. Those charter schools as follows: Bear Grass Charter School; Cornerstone Charter Academy; Corvian Community School; North East Carolina Preparatory; Research Triangle High School; the Howard and Lillian Lee Scholars Charter Academy; The College Preparatory and Leadership Academy of High Point; Triangle Math and Science Academy; and Water's Edge Village School. The motion was seconded by Ms. Christine Greene.

- Chairman Harris asked if any Board members had a particular school they would like to pull for discussion. In response, Board member John Tate noted Bear Grass Charter School and Triangle Math and Science Academy. State Treasurer Cowell noted that she was comfortable in approving North East Carolina Preparatory, The College Preparatory and Leadership Academy of High Point, and Water's Edge Village Academy because all three charters had no inadequacies. Subsequently, she made the substitute amendment below.

State Treasurer Janet Cowell made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. John Tate, to approve the fast-track applications for North East Carolina Preparatory, The College Preparatory and Leadership Academy of High Point, and Water's Edge Village Academy as a block with additional discussion on the remaining charter applicants. The motion carried. (See Attachment LFI 1)

Upon motion by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve the fast-track applications of North East Carolina Preparatory, The College Preparatory and Leadership Academy of High Point, and Water's Edge Village Academy as recommended by the Public Charter School Advisory Council. (See Attachment LFI 1)

- Upon motion and second to approve Bear Grass Charter School, State Treasurer Cowell asked Mr. Medley to talk about the transportation, facilities and equipment inadequacies. Noting that while these issues were addressed during the LFI Committee meeting on Wednesday, LFI Committee Chair Bartlett asked Mr. Medley to address the Treasurer's concerns for clarification.
- Mr. Medley spoke briefly about the process in general, explaining that the rubric printed in the material was the first phase of the process by a small subcommittee. Discussion occurred when the subcommittee reported its findings to the full council. Each applicant received a copy of the rubric and was invited in for an interview to address any inadequacies/or concerns of the Council. Based upon those interviews, the Council forwarded its recommendations believing that the applicants had corrected the marked deficiencies.
- Noting that the Board material did not provide details for what made the inadequacies satisfactory, Treasurer Cowell asked for additional information. Mr. Medley explained that the minutes of the Advisory Council are the best capture of the information provided during the interviews that helped the Council determine that the applicants had resolved the inadequacies.
- In terms of Bear Grass Charter School, Treasurer Cowell asked if the issues had been resolved in terms of transportation, facilities and equipment. Mr. Medley explained that based upon the interviews and discussion, the Council believes that they have been satisfied, thus have forwarded the applications for approval. A brief discussion occurred in response to Board member Greene's expressed concerns about questioning the Council's rationale for its

recommendations. Chairman Harrison explained that clarifying information was necessary since the Treasurer was not present during the Committee's discussion on Wednesday.

- Vice Chair McDevitt asked if the conditions of the charter are articulated in the charter application. He noted that based on the fast-track process, several deadlines are looming and asked Mr. Medley to address the process for a charter that does not meet the conditions, including deadlines. Mr. Medley explained that the charter would need to request a waiver from the State Board to have an additional planning year. Waivers have been granted in the past; however, the State Board does not have to grant the request.
- Board member Tate suggested that it would be good to have supporting data or some sort of reflection that shows that a deficiency has been resolved to the satisfaction of the Advisory Council.

Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Ms. Christine Greene, the Board voted to approve the fast-track application for Bear Grass Charter School as recommended by the Public Charter School Advisory Council. Board member Tate voted in opposition. Board member Willoughby recused herself from the vote. (See Attachment LFI 1)

- Upon motion and second to approve Cornerstone Charter Academy, State Treasurer Cowell noted an inadequacy on facilities. She asked Mr. Medley to explain the process for determining when an issue is inadequate, average, or excellent. Also, noting that there is no requirement to provide transportation, she asked about the process for determining an acceptable vs. unacceptable transportation plan. In terms of facilities, Mr. Medley explained that a charter applicant does not have to have a facility named in its application; it can state that it has identified a facility or can describe the needs of that facility. Based on conversations with the Cornerstone Charter Academy representatives, the Council believes that the applicant has the ability to secure the facility it is looking at through the process. As it relates to transportation, Mr. Medley reiterated that the applicant does not have to provide transportation, but must have a plan to address the issue. In response to State Treasurer Cowell's request, Mr. Medley described what a transportation plan may look like, including car pool, third-party vendor contracts, buses, taxi fares, and bus fares where a transportation line is available. He concluded by stating that transportation cannot be a barrier to any student who gets in the lottery. In response to Board member Tate, Mr. Medley spoke briefly about the monitoring process including site visits.
- A brief discussion occurred regarding the deadline for opening the charter school. Mr. Medley explained that if a charter has not received a "Certificate of Occupancy" by July, funds will not be released to the charter and in August, the charter would have to return to the State Board for a waiver to delay opening for a year. Following this discussion, Chairman Harrison asked legal to help frame a motion by the end of the Board meeting to address this process.
- Addressing the issue of facilities for Cornerstone Charter, Mr. Medley referenced the minutes of the Council meeting where the applicant had identified a potential church for its facility as well as the possibility of another potential site

Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by State Treasurer Janet Cowell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the fast-track application for Cornerstone Charter Academy as recommended by the Public Charter School Advisory Council. (See Attachment LFI 1)

- Upon motion and second to approve Corvian Community School, State Treasurer Cowell noted an inadequate rating for insurance/no required bonding/error of omission. Mr. Medley explained that the specific amount of insurance the applicant will be required to have is specified in the charter agreement signed by the board of directors and the SBE which resolves this issue.

Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by State Treasurer Janet Cowell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the fast-track application for Corvian Community School as recommended by the Public Charter School Advisory Council. (See Attachment LFI 1)

- Upon motion and second to approve Research Triangle High School, State Treasurer Cowell expressed concern about the financial impact on local government noting the need for better financial summary data. Chairman Harrison noted that one of the things the Advisory Council has been charged with doing is to help the State Board clearly define the point at which the impact statement would cause us not to consider an application. In this same discussion, State Treasurer Cowell also expressed concern about The Howard and Lillian Lee Scholars Charter Academy because the State Board had just approved a school in this district to open in 2013 making a tremendous capital outlay. According to Treasurer Cowell, approving another school could leave the district with stranded capital cost. In addition, she expressed concern in terms of bond rating interface for the state; again noting the need for better financial summary data on the financial impact.
- Treasurer Cowell pledged her public finance staff to work directly with the communities to ensure success. Chairman Harrison directed Mr. Medley to contact Treasurer Cowell to have representation from her staff at the Advisory Council meeting to talk about the impact statement. Chairman Harrison noted that the issues of diversity have been resolved to his satisfaction. A brief discussion occurred in response to Board member Woolard's comments about the impact on small vs. large school districts. Board member Tate shared that he was prepared to vote in opposition of this charter school; however, he might be more impactful in sharing his concern about diversity by leaning on the State Treasurer to ensure the issue has been resolved.
- Superintendent Advisor Don Martin shared the idea of quantifying, in the rubric, the local impact statement for both the program and financial features specifically the mechanism for funding to equalize the playing field for public and charter schools. Oversight/accountability is the big umbrella, according to Board member Harris.

Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Mr. Tom Speed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the fast-track application for Research Triangle High School as recommended by the Public Charter School Advisory Council. (See Attachment LFI 1)

- Upon motion and second to approve The Howard and Lillian Lee Scholars Charter Academy, Chairman Harrison noted that the concern was expressed in the previous discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve the fast-track application for The Howard and Lillian Lee Scholars Charter Academy as recommended by the Public Charter School Advisory Council. (See Attachment LFI 1)

- Upon motion and second to approve The Triangle Math and Science Academy, State Treasurer Cowell noted that Governance was marked as inadequate on the rubric. She stated that the applicant has made some changes to its Board to reflect some local input. Mr. Medley explained that Governance was the main concern addressed if the charter was going to replicate a school currently in Guilford County, noting that there has to be local representation in theory, and the school has made those changes.

Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve the fast-track application for The Triangle Math and Science Academy as recommended by the Public Charter School Advisory Council. (See Attachment LFI 1)

- In summary, LFI Committee Chair Harris noted that next steps include coming up with a more granular summary data process that captures local impact funding, financial issues, and diversity.

ACTION ON FIRST READING

LFI 2 – School-Based Calendar Waivers for Educational Purposes

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-84.2

Presenter(s): Mr. Rob Hines (Director, LEA Projects, Academic Services and Instructional Support)

Description:

School-based calendar waiver requests are submitted for State Board action per G.S. § 115C-84.2. The State Board may waive the specified opening and closing dates for educational purposes that include 1) a specific school to accommodate a special program offered generally to the student body of that school; 2) a school that primarily services a special population of students; or 3) a defined program within a school. Three districts (Gaston County Schools, Hertford County Schools, and Pender County Schools) submitted these requests for consideration by the State Board of Education in March 2012.

Recommendations:

The State Board is requested to approve the following waiver request recommendations by the Department of Public Instruction.

Discussion/Comments:

- LFI Committee Chair Bartlett noted a thorough discussion of this item during the LFI Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- There was no further discussion.

Education Building, Raleigh	Thursday, March 1, 2012	Board Room, 9:00 a.m.
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Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Mr. Kevin Howell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the waiver request recommendations as presented. (See Attachment LFI 2)

ACTION ON FIRST READING – LATE ITEM

LFI 4 – Program Approval Requests Under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-238.50 Part 9

Presenter(s): Mr. Rob Hines (Director, LEA Projects, Academic Services and Instructional Support)

Description:

Section 2, Article 16 of Chapter 115C-238, Part 9, Cooperative Innovative High School Programs, authorizes boards of trustees of community colleges and local boards of education, boards of governors of the UNC System, and the independent colleges to jointly establish cooperative innovative programs in high schools and community colleges that will expand students’ opportunities for education success through high quality instructional programming.

Recent legislative changes to the enabling statute require a two-step approval process. First, the State Board of Education provides a programmatic review and approval of proposed programs. Upon completion of that step, the General Assembly must approve all associated funding requests for each application approved by the SBE for General Assembly funding consideration. The General Assembly may approve funding requests in whole or in part, or may choose not to provide funding. Should the General Assembly choose not to provide funding, the requesting district may open the SBE-approved program with local funds, if desired.

Two school districts (Guilford County Schools and Wake County Schools) are requesting approval for three schools.

One additional district, Hickory City Schools, submitted an application. Following the initial review, NCDPI and Hickory City Schools staff members are working to clarify some portions of the application and, if necessary, will bring the application forward in April. No funding is associated with the Hickory City Schools request.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the SBE approve the program and exemption requests under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act as presented.

Discussion/Comments:

- LFI Committee Chair Bartlett noted a thorough discussion of this item during the LFI Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- There was no discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the program and exemption requests under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act as presented. (See Attachment LFI 4)

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Legislative Update

Ms. Ann McColl (Legislative Director)

Ms. McColl reported that along with Dr. Diane Frost (Superintendent, Asheville City Schools) she had just come from the House Select Committee on Early Childhood Education Improvement meeting. The NC-PreK proposed report was the primary agenda item. Ms. McColl recognized Dr. Frost to give her observations of the issue. While Dr. Frost was coming forward, State Superintendent Atkinson shared that Dr. Frost was one of the four National Superintendents of the Year finalist.

Dr. Frost commended Ms. McColl for getting the news out last week to LEAs as the districts were unaware that the report was out and the Committee was ready to take action. She noted that the most concerning element of the report was that it was going to move in the direction of restricting all Pre-kindergarten programs to be only in private child care centers; thus, removing public schools from providing that service. Noting that in Asheville, her district serves students up to 130 percent of the poverty rate guidelines, 22 percent of the children in Randolph County are living in poverty, according to the latest census reported on the front page of *U.S.A. Today* featuring Randolph County. She explained that it is crucial for public schools to provide that service as it is their first and best intervention in increasing graduation rates and closing achievement gaps. She spoke about a decade of investments in a five-star high quality demonstration site pre-kindergarten program, working collaboratively with both public schools and private centers. Eighty-three percent of four-year olds in Randolph County are in four- and five-star centers.

The two areas of greatest interest were eligibility criteria and the use of public schools for delivering NC-PreK. The revised report eliminates the draft legislation. The committee passed the report after considerable discussion and adoption of an amendment. Ms. McColl shared that the amendment now reads: North Carolina Pre-K classrooms be located in a diverse array of settings, including for-profit, not-for-profit, faith-based, Head Start, or public school classrooms. Site location shall be based on local capacity, quality and assurance of parental choice, accessibility, and use of federal dollars.

Ms. McColl also reported that the other change was eligibility criteria. The adopted report removes the language of a specific eligibility standard of 0 to 100% of the federal poverty guideline and instead provides for the General Assembly to establish criteria to target children with the greatest needs. While the federal guideline language is removed, it states the importance of being consistent in eligibility standards with other pre-kindergarten programs and specifically identifies Head Start, which uses this 0-100% standard in almost all instances. She read aloud the following amendment: The Committee also finds that consistency of use of eligibility criteria with other prekindergarten programs, such as Head Start, will lessen confusion and increase participation of

children with the greatest needs in the NC Pre-K program. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly establish eligibility criteria for the NC Pre-K program to target children with the greatest needs.

Ms. McColl felt it was important that the State Board give its perspective on poverty. She shared that during the Committee debates, Representative Cleveland stated that no one in North Carolina is living in extreme poverty. Ms. McColl noted that, in response to questions from the press, she encouraged them to review the research on poverty and to drive around the state for clear examples. A brief discussion occurred regarding the role of public schools and the State Board to inform discussion on poverty – the nature and extent of poverty in North Carolina and its impact on our young children. A discussion occurred about adopting a resolution of the State Board’s commitment to a model of public education that provides for Pre-kindergarten in the public schools as part of an aligned Pre-K-3 continuum. Ms. McColl suggested that the Board not adopt a resolution in direct response to this report, but to consider a resolution to clarify the Board’s goal in Pre-K and the role of public schools as a matter of policy. Board member Tate encouraged the resolution to speak to the value of access for all students, and reiterate access to the public arena.

Following the conversation, Chairman Harrison read the resolution below, directing Ms. McColl to draft the “Now, Therefore Be it Resolved” portion of the resolution following adoption.

**THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PRE-K RESOLUTION
MARCH 1, 2012**

WHEREAS, a substantial body of research demonstrates that high-quality pre-kindergarten programs have a long-term positive impact on learning and the development of at-risk children;

WHEREAS, at-risk children have an equal opportunity to a sound, basic education guaranteed by the North Carolina Constitution;

WHEREAS, poverty is a key indicator of being at-risk and poverty is growing in North Carolina;

WHEREAS, research validates the importance of an aligned pre-K to grade 3 learning continuum for the success of all children;

WHEREAS, the current system of state-funded pre-kindergarten is largely built upon the resources and infrastructure of public schools in North Carolina, resulting in the effective and efficient implementation of pre-kindergarten programs;

WHEREAS, the public school system in North Carolina has a long history of providing high-quality, educational pre-kindergarten programs for children in this state;

WHEREAS, North Carolina has had a successful partnership between private providers and public schools in providing pre-kindergarten programs which has led to greater capacity and quality of programs;

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education is the governing body of the free public schools for the State of North Carolina;

Discussion/Comments:

- Board member Willoughby said how can we not serve these very young children and make all the difference in their futures. Board member Tate commended Chairman Harrison and Ms. McColl for their commitment to this issue.
- There was no further discussion.

Upon motion by Mr. John Tate, and seconded by Vice Chair Wayne McDevitt, Board members voted unanimously to approve the Pre-K Resolution as read by Chairman William Harrison, directing Legislative Director Ann McColl to craft the "Now, Therefore Be It Resolved" portion of the resolution.

Approval of Calendar Waivers

After providing comments about Section 7.29 of Session Law 2011-145 which increased the number of instructional days to 185, Chairman Harrison explained that in June 2011, the State Board delegated to the Department the authority to waive up to five days if those days would be used to offer staff development for the Common Core. In December 2011, the Department presented waiver requests for the FY 2012-13 school year. The State Board delayed acting on the requests to give the General Assembly an opportunity to discuss the subject (related to the resources required to add days) at its scheduled February meeting; however, this item was not discussed by the General Assembly in February. Chairman Harrison spoke briefly about the impact on LEAs as shared by the group of LEA superintendents and district representatives during the SBE planning session in February.

Subsequently, Chairman Harrison read the following, and asked for a motion:

The State Board of Education delegates to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction the authority to grant a request to use up to five of the required 185 instructional days as teacher workdays for the 2012-13 school year. Any request to use instructional days as additional teacher workdays shall state the number of instructional days that will be used as additional teacher workdays and include a detailed explanation of how the local board of education or charter school will use all the additional teacher workdays to

- train teachers on the essential standards and common core described in the local board of education's or charter school's approved Detailed Scope of Work under the State's Race to the Top (RttT) initiative (Section B3).
- Train teachers and staff on how to utilize digital devices (like the 1 to 1 laptop initiative) to improve instruction
- Other targeted staff development with documented results that such training has enhanced student performance (like Responsiveness to Instruction).

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall report to the State Board of Education the status of all waiver requests received through April 30, 2012, and the action taken on such requests. Requests which do not come within the scope of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction's delegated authority and which are received prior to the close of business on April 30, 2012, shall be presented to the State Board for consideration.

Discussion/Comments:

- Vice Chair McDevitt commented that public schools have been presented by the General Assembly with conflicting issues specifically as it relates to more time on task, frustrations with local budgets, focus on professional development, as well as an archaic calendar statute. He noted that he would support the motion because school districts need the time for professional development to complete

the Common Core training. He wants the Board to reiterate that this is a one-time waiver process. Board member Bartlett echoed Vice Chair McDevitt in her support of better trained teachers, and does not want it misconstrued that fewer days for students is a good thing because it is not.

Upon motion by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, Board members voted unanimously to delegate to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction the decision on waivers of up to five of the required 185 instructional days, and directs the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to report to the State Board of Education the status of all waiver requests received through April 30, 2012, and the action taken on such requests; and requests that do not come within the scope of the State Superintendent's delegated authority and which are received prior to the close of business on April 30, 2012, shall be presented to the State Board for consideration.

Announcements/Reminders, and Comments

Chairman Harrison noted that a few weeks ago, the State Board of Education had the opportunity to meet with teams of local educators from eight regions in our state to hear about their successes, their concerns and their needs. He noted that this was one of the most important and helpful conversations we have had recently. In light of that, and as the State Board finalizes its supplemental budget request for 2012, Chairman Harrison announced that he is inviting all local school superintendents to a special State Board of Education session on Tuesday, April 3, from 1-5 p.m. at the Sheraton Imperial, Research Triangle Park. The purpose of this convocation is to hear from local superintendents about how the 2011 budget has affected schools and districts, student opportunities, staffing and other issues. Chairman Harrison invited Board members to attend.

Chairman Harrison also announced that the Teacher of the Year luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, May 3. In addition he announced the Principal of the Year luncheon scheduled for Thursday, April 5, immediately following the Board meeting. Both the Principal of the Year and Teacher of the Year events will be held at the Umstead Hotel in Cary. Chairman Harrison expressed appreciation to Ms. Ann Goodnight for her assistance in this endeavor.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Atkinson announced the retirement of Ms. Phyllis West (Senior Policy Advisor, State Superintendent's Office), effective February 29. In addition, she announced the impending retirement of Ms. Charlotte Hughes (Director, Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division), effective April 1. She commended both of these individuals for their 30+ years of dedicated service to the Public Schools of North Carolina.

Education Building, Raleigh	Thursday, March 1, 2012	Board Room, 9:00 a.m.
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Superintendent Atkinson also recognized Dr. Michael Murray (Superintendent, Jackson County Schools) who was present in the audience. Board member Harris noted that Dr. Dale Ellis (Superintendent, Montgomery County Schools) was in attendance on Wednesday and for a portion of today's meeting.

Vice Chair McDevitt announced a short meeting with the Global Education Task Force immediately following the Board meeting.

Board member Willoughby spoke briefly about the First Gentlemen's Students@Work program (the middle schools job-shadowing program). She commended Superintendent Atkinson and the Department staff for their partnership in hosting students. She shared a newspaper article and picture about the success of the program. Ms. Willoughby noted that 125 businesses are hosting approximately 25,000 middle school students this week.

Fast-Track Charter Motion

In response to today's earlier conversation about fast-track charter applicants who are not ready to open by the August deadline, Chairman Harrison reminded the Board that he had directed legal to draft a motion for the Board's consideration. He read the following and asked for a motion.

Any charter application approved through the fast-track process, if it fails to be ready to open August 15, 2012, the State Board of Education's approval is null and void, and the applicant will need to reapply in the future. Upon motion by State Treasurer Cowell, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, Board members voted unanimously to approve the motion as presented by Chairman Harrison.

After the vote, Chairman Harrison directed Mr. Medley to share this information with the nine fast-track applicants that were approved earlier in the meeting.

Meeting Highlights

At this time, Chairman Harrison reminded Board members that in January they held a casual conversation about highlighting, at the end of each meeting, some of the items discussed that will have a direct impact on students. At that time, Chairman Harrison decided to implement a new tradition under his leadership of having a brief conversation each month to identify in very specific terms something the Board has accomplished to improve outcomes for children. Board members cited the following: the Innovative School presentations, nine fast-track charter approvals, the Pre-K Resolution, and College and Career Promise.

ADJOURNMENT

Indicating no other business, Chairman Harrison requested a motion to adjourn. Upon motion by State Treasurer Janet Cowell, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the February 29-March 1, 2012, meeting of the State Board of Education.