

**Minutes of the
North Carolina State Board of Education
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
February 28-March 1, 2007**

Education Building, Raleigh	Wednesday, February 28, 2007	Board Room, 11:00 am
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The North Carolina State Board of Education met and the following members were present:

Howard N. Lee, Chairman	Richard Moore
Jane Norwood, Vice Chair	Edgar Murphy
Melissa Bartlett	Tom Speed
Shirley Harris	Kathy Taft
Michelle Howard-Vital	John Tate
Wayne McDevitt	Patricia Willoughby

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, Superintendent	Carr Ipock, Local Board Member Advisor
Danielle Alston, Student Advisor	Wendy Miller, Teacher Advisor
Meghan Doyle, Principal Advisor	Larry Price, Superintendent Advisor

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION

After extending a warm welcome to all present, Chairman Lee called the Wednesday session of the March State Board of Education meeting to order. He explained that the Board was meeting as a committee of the whole and provided details about the new meeting structure to the audience, which now included committee meetings prior to the committee of the whole meeting.

Based on legislation enacted during the 2006 session of the General Assembly, Chairman Lee reminded Board members that it is their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest as they handle the work of the Board. 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. No Board members indicated a conflict of interest 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 chair. It would then be their duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

Mr. Wayne McDevitt reminded fellow Board members that the Statements of Economic Interest are due by March 15.

Two superintendents from western North Carolina were present and recognized by Board member Wayne McDevitt. They were Dr. Sonna Lyda, Transylvania County Schools, and Dr. Barbara Tipton, Yancey County Schools.

ISSUES SESSION

Presentation on Reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)

➤ Mr. Leigh Manasevit

Brustein and Manasevit, Attorneys at Law, Washington, DC

Mr. Manasevit provided an overview of the reauthorization in NCLB, particularly in terms of the progression that is expected in the process as well as what he believes to be the most critical issues. He prefaced his presentation by citing that NCLB is a law that was passed by politicians and others who do not have practical education experience. Therefore, he suggested that it is critical that the State Board be involved in the process to share the practical experience and features of the law that do not work and do not comport with the realities in the schoolhouses, and similarly share the features that do work with Congress. Mr. Manasevit's best projection is that there will not be a reauthorized bill in the next two years citing that this is precisely the schedule and the posture that led up to NCLB. He spoke briefly about the political split of the White House and Congress, which gives the appearance of a gridlock. He noted that likewise, in the two years leading up to the Presidential election, many House and Senate bills introduced shaped the debate and discussion that ultimately led to NCLB. According to Mr. Manasevit, that solid foundation was bipartisan as was NCLB. He added that the next two years are going to set the stage for the reauthorization.

Mr. Manasevit described the Congressional change that occurred in the past election, which also changed the committees. He suggested that the following individuals would be important to approach in terms of the reauthorization issues: Democrat George Miller, Chairman, and Republican Virginia Foxx, member from North Carolina, House Education and Labor Committee; Democrat Edward Kennedy, Chairman, and Republican Richard Burr, member from North Carolina, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Next, Mr. Manasevit provided a comprehensive overview about the following issues for the Board's reflection.

MEASURE OF ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP)

- Increased autonomy for states/locals
- Growth models
- Multiple measures beyond assessments
- "N" (number) size
- Increased focus on HS

CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO MAKE AYP

- Increased autonomy for states/locals
- Differential consequences
- Increased resources
- SES – Choice
- SES eligibility
- Sequence

HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS

- Increased autonomy for state/locals
- Quality in addition to credential
- Equity
- Incentives
- HOUSSE – esp. rural, special education

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

- Increased autonomy for state/locals
- Modified standards of assessment
- Better NCLB-IDEA coordination

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

- Increased autonomy for state/locals
- Coordinate Title I and Title III standards
- Both have achievement standards requirements
- Resources to meet growing population
- Flexibility on testing in English
- Residual inclusion

RESOURCES

- HQT
- All teachers in state
- AYP
- SES-Choice
- Administration

Discussion/Comments:

- Chairman Lee asked about timing in terms of the greatest impact. Mr. Manasevit stated that the best time for intervention is now since reauthorization is in a very active stage with hearings being scheduled and many proposals floating around. It is critical that the Board weigh in now and have a continuing presence because reauthorization will be an evolutionary process, according to Mr. Manasevit.
- The Chairman asked if there was an opportunity for State Boards to participate in some of the committee hearings. Mr. Manasevit stated that he would provide the Board with prior notice of hearings and make requests for time on the Board's behalf.
- There was some discussion about narrowing the Board's issues and forming a high priority list to petition the North Carolina delegation. The Chairman asked that the Twenty-First Century Systems Committee, headed by Mr. John Tate and Mr. Wayne McDevitt, be responsible for developing a priority list to present to the Board for consideration. Superintendent Atkinson noted that it also might be helpful for the committee to talk with some of the state associations that are developing position papers of their own to help gain greater input while determining the priority issues.

At this time, Chairman Lee recognized the presence of Mr. Charles Taylor, East Carolina University, who is in the Educational Doctoral Program.

INFORMATION AGENDA

GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE STUDENTS (Ms. Kathy Taft, Chair; Ms. Tricia Willoughby, Vice-Chair)

INFORMATION

GCS 5 – Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate (presented by DPI staff) and Strategies to Address the High School Graduation Rate Issues (Mr. Vann Langston, Executive Director, Triangle High Five)

Policy Implications: No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

Presenter(s): Dr. Louis M. Fabrizio (Director, Accountability Services Division), Mr. J.B. Buxton (Deputy Superintendent), Mr. Vann Langston (Executive Director, Triangle High Five) and Dr. Wandra C. Polk (Director, Middle and Secondary Education Division)

Description:

As a part of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), each state in 2002 had to describe its process for reporting high school graduation rates. In North Carolina's Accountability Workbook (which the US Department of Education [USED] approved), the process included a description of what North Carolina could report during the first four years of NCLB and then a definition which follows a group of students from ninth grade to the expected graduation date four years later (usually referred to as a 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate) that could be reported after the 2005-06 school year. See <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/nclb/federal/consolidated/071206acworkbook.pdf>, page 34, for the descriptions of the different graduation rates approved in the North Carolina Accountability Workbook.

This is the first time that North Carolina is reporting graduation rates using the 4-year cohort methodology. However, because of how the rates are calculated, the use of the new rates will not be used for NCLB AYP (adequate yearly progress) reporting until the 2006-07 results are reported next summer. LEA and state level results are included. Attachments will be presented at the March meeting.

Recommendations:

No action required.

Discussion/Comments:

- After Mr. Langston's presentation, a brief discussion occurred about ways to provide common planning time and the challenges associated with this issue in the context of the master schedule.
- Mr. Langston stated that he would provide a copy of his PowerPoint presentation to Board members as requested.
- Chairman Lee invited Mr. Langston to serve on the Globally Competitive Students Committee, as a member or a standing consultant, to bring forth some of the ideas developed by Triangle High Five.
- Mr. Edgar Murphy was concerned that the number of students participating in five-year programs, where they can graduate with a two-year associates degree and/or transfer credits, does not create the appearance of negative data as it relates to graduation rates. Dr. Fabrizio explained that those schools/students would be held harmless to the four-year cohort rate. In other words, those schools and districts would not be penalized for those students participating in five-year programs.

- Dr. Fabrizio publicly thanked all of the school districts and DPI staff for the time and energy spent on this monumental task. He reminded Board members that, although it is DPI's goal, the Department does not have the structures in place to capture this information as seamlessly as one would hope at this time.
- Additional conversation ensued about students entering school after ninth grade and the new National Governors Association's compact on graduation rates.
- Superintendent Atkinson reiterated Mr. Langston's comments about professional learning communities, formative assessment systems, and compulsory age requirements, as good initiatives that could help move North Carolina forward in improving the graduation rate. She was hopeful that all local school districts and schools would set graduation goals and benchmarks with the end goal of having 100 percent of their students graduating from our high schools prepared for options and choices. Mr. Tate encouraged the Board to adopt its own graduation rate goal.
- Chairman Lee requested that the Globally Competitive Students Committee research this issue further and formulate policy recommendations, which will have an impact on diminishing the dropout rate and increasing the graduation rate for the Board's consideration within the next 90 days. Mr. McDevitt commented that significant resources follow many of these decisions; therefore, that the fiscal research aspect should be included in this committee's work. In addition, work with legislative leadership should occur with regard to the compulsory age requirement, according to Mr. McDevitt.

This item was presented for information. (See Attachment GCS 5)

LEADERSHIP FOR INNOVATION
(Ms. Melissa Bartlett and Mr. Tom Speed, Co Chairs)

INFORMATION

LFI 3 – NC Virtual Public School – Director's Report

Policy Implications:

Presenter(s): Dr. Elsie C. Leak (Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and School Reform Services) and Dr. John Boling (Interim Director, NC Virtual Public School)

Description:

An update on projects and timeline, including course audits, teacher recruitment, staffing, and asset consolidation will be presented to the State Board of Education.

Recommendations:

No action required.

Discussion/Comments:

- Brief discussions occurred regarding lessons learned through the auditing process and the model selected by NC Virtual that would require a certified teacher for each course containing an appropriate blend of live and non-live activity over the course of each week during the duration of each course.
- At the request of Chairman Lee, Dr. Boling gave a brief report about the Personal Financial Literacy pilot course. According to Dr. Boling, fifty-two students are currently taking that online course and the initial data suggest that the students are engaged and learning. He described the

students as a heterogeneous mix with one eighth-grade student and four students from the state juvenile justice system, in addition to the other high school students taking the course. He did mention that a cap was placed on the course since it was a pilot, but they could have easily enrolled 300 plus students. Personal Financial Literacy is on the list of 98 courses to be offered in the fall and based upon feedback from the pilot, appropriate revisions will be made to strengthen the course if necessary.

- Mr. Tate initiated a conversation about taking a proactive position as it relates to online courses and students who have been long-term suspended. Dr. Rebecca Garland stated that she asked Dr. Atkinson to allow Dr. Boling to present at her next Superintendents' Quarterly meeting to begin conversations with LEAs and to gather feedback about school systems allowing such students to participate in the virtual school.

This item was presented for information. (See Attachment LFI 3)

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SYSTEMS
(Mr. Wayne McDevitt, Chair, and Mr. John Tate, Vice-Chair)

INFORMATION

TCS 2 – Update on Financial and Business Services Research Projects

Policy Implications:

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Associate Superintendent, Financial and Business Services) and Mr. Jackson Miller (Research Assistant, Financial and Business Services)

Description:

Discuss Financial and Business Services research initiatives that will enable the Board to have access to relevant data for policy development. We will outline the specific processes that are currently in progress (partnership with Duke's Terry Sanford Institute for Public Policy, teacher survey on various public education policy proposals, establishment of a research intern program to address (internally) specific research projects, possible other research relationships with Universities).

Recommendations:

No action required.

Discussion/Comments:

- Board members were complimentary about the use of graduate students as research interns for data collection and analysis for the Department to support policy and procedural development. At the same time, the internship program serves as a great opportunity for the students to do applied research.

This item was presented for information. (See Attachment TCS 2)

ACTION AND DISCUSSION AGENDA

Chairman Lee announced that the Board was now meeting as a committee of the whole and called on the priority chairs to present items in their respective areas for *Action, Action on First Reading, Discussion, and Information.*

**ACTION AND DISCUSSION:
GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE STUDENTS CHAIR REPORT
(Ms. Kathy Taft, Chair; Ms. Tricia Willoughby, Vice-Chair)**

ACTION ON FIRST READING

GCS 1 – Changes to the 2005-06 ABCs/AYP Report

Policy Implications: 115-105.20 (Article 8B), 115C-105.35

Presenter(s): Dr. Louis M. Fabrizio (Director, Accountability Services Division)

Description:

The attached changes to the 2005-06 ABCs/AYP Report are presented to the State Board of Education (SBE) for Action on First Reading at the March 2007 meeting.

There will be additional changes to the 2005-06 ABCs/AYP Report if LEAs submit data changes that impact school status.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the changes to the 2005-06 ABCs/AYP Report.

Discussion/Comments:

- There was no discussion.

Action on this item will be taken at the regular business session of the SBE meeting on Thursday, March 1. (See Attachment GCS 1)

DISCUSSION

GCS 2 – Presentation of 2007 Invitation to Submit Textbooks for Evaluation and Adoption in North Carolina

Policy Implications: General Statute #115C-85-86, 93; SBE Policy #: HSP-H-000, HSP-H-001, HSP-H-006, HSP-H-007; APA# 16NCAC 6D.0204, .0205, .0206

Presenter(s): Dr. Elsie C. Leak (Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and School Reform Services), Dr. Susan Purser, (Chair, N.C. Textbook Commission), and Mrs. Charlotte N. Hughes (Special Assistant/Textbook Adoption Administrator, Curriculum and School Reform Services)

Description:

The *Invitation to Submit Textbooks for Evaluation and Adoption in North Carolina* is submitted each year in April to the State Board of Education for approval. The *2007 Invitation* is presented for discussion this month to allow the SBE opportunity for input before the *Invitation* is presented for action in April. The call for textbooks in 2007 is for Business and Technology Education, 6-12, Marketing Education, 9-12, and Social Studies, K-12. The *Invitation* includes rules and regulations based on General Statutes, Administrative Code, and State Board Policy that govern the adoption process. As directed by State Board Policy (HSP-H-007), the *2007 Invitation* has been reviewed by General Counsel to the Board. To

view the revised *Invitation to Submit Textbooks for Evaluation and Adoption in North Carolina*, please go to <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/textbook/publishers/invitation/>.

Recommendations:

The Department requests that the Board approve the 2007 *Invitation to Submit Textbooks for Evaluation and Adoption in North Carolina* for the curriculum as presented.

Discussion/Comments:

- Dr. Leak read the following ethics clause as a reminder for Board members:
“Beginning with the approval of the invitation in April until the approval of the recommended materials by the State Board in October, publishers may not have contact with any State Board members, Textbook Commission members, or staff from the Department of Public Instruction with the intent to exercise undue pressure of any form upon a member of the State Board of Education to adopt its books.”
- A brief discussion occurred regarding alternative methods of delivery for resources other than textbook publishing companies. Dr. Purser explained that the state is not bound by a particular publishers list and the call letter is available for others to participate in the process. Dr. Purser provided a brief summary of the criteria used to evaluate textbook submissions.
- Board members spoke briefly about a possible revision of the Commission’s mission to include more autonomy for decision-making.
- There was also a brief discussion about LEA flexibility in terms of textbook allotments.
- Board members agreed that the Globally Competitive Students Committee should hold further discussions as it relates to bringing the textbook issue into the 21st century.

This item is presented for discussion in March and will be presented at the April meeting for action. (See Attachment GCS 2)

Dr. Jane Norwood moved that the Board move into the State Board of Career-Technical Education to discuss the Carl D. Perkins Career-Technical Education Transition Plan. Dr. Michelle Howard-Vital seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to convene as the State Board of Career-Technical Education.

STATE BOARD OF CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION

DISCUSSION

GCS 3 – Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 Transition Plan

Policy Implications: General Statute # 115C-154

Presenter(s): Dr. Elsie C. Leak (Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and School Reform Services) and Ms. Rebecca Payne (Director, Career and Technical Education)

Description:

The new Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006, Public Law 109-270 (Perkins IV) gave States permission to develop a one-year (2007-2008) Transition Plan to develop with their stakeholders a five-year (2008-2013) State Plan to meet the performance indicators in the Perkins IV legislation. During this year (2007-2008), the State also will modify the data collection process to meet

the indicators. A draft of the Transition Plan that will be submitted in April for approval to the United States Department of Education is available at http://www.ncpublicschools.org/workforce_development/perkinsIV/transition07.pdf.

Recommendations:

The Board is requested to review the draft of the Transition Plan that will be returned for action at the April meeting.

Discussion/Comments:

- There was no discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in March and will be presented at the April meeting for action. (See Attachment GCS 3)

Chairman Howard Lee moved that the Board adjourn the State Board of Career-Technical Education and reconvene as the State Board of Education. Treasurer Richard Moore seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to convene as the State Board of Education.

DISCUSSION

GCS 4 – Middle Grades Education and High School Graduation Requirements

Policy Implications: SBE Policy #HSP-M-001, HSP-N-004

Presenter(s): Dr. Elsie C. Leak (Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and School Reform Services), Dr. Wandra C. Polk (Director, Middle and Secondary Education Division), Ms. Everly Broadway (Section Chief, Secondary Mathematics and Science), and Mr. Edd Dunlap (Section Chief, Middle Grades Mathematics and Science)

Description:

The State Board of Education requested information regarding the practice of students taking high school courses while they are in middle school. This information item presents background information and preliminary statistics that are relevant to this practice.

Recommendations:

State Board members are requested to discuss the information presented to them and provide feedback.

Discussion/Comments:

- Principal Advisor Meghan Doyle stated that she respects and understands the importance of this decision to make sure that the correct students are placed in these positions but also that we ensure equity to the students that are given the opportunities. A brief discussion occurred about how to ensure that every child that has the aptitude is allowed the opportunity and the support to be successful.
- Further, Ms. Doyle stated that she appreciates that the State Board has listened to the feedback from around the state about this issue and its willingness to take positive steps in terms of 21st century skills. Student Advisor Danielle Alston felt that receiving graduation credit would provide motivation for middle school students to take high school courses during their middle school years.
- Dr. Jane Norwood cautioned full understanding within the educational environment about this issue and its impact.
- Board members talked briefly about providing students with more access to college credit classes while in high school; a concept supported by this policy revision.

This item is presented for discussion in March and will be presented at the April meeting for action. (See Attachment GCS 4)

**ACTION AND DISCUSSION:
21ST CENTURY PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT
(Dr. Michelle Howard-Vital and Ms. Shirley Harris, Co-Chairs)**

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCP 2 – Recommendations from the Advisory Board on Requests for Exception from Teacher Licensing Requirements

Policy Implications: SBE Policy #QP-A-021

Presenter(s): Dr. Kathy Sullivan (Director, Human Resource Management Division)

Description:

In April 2006, the Board adopted a policy to allow individuals who have not met licensing requirements due to extenuating circumstances to request an exception from the requirement or an extension of time. The request must include documents from the teacher, the principal, the superintendent, and the chair of the local Board of education. In June, a similar policy was approved to allow colleges and universities to submit requests for exception to Praxis I testing requirements on behalf of students seeking admission to teacher education programs. Requests are evaluated by a panel chaired by a member of the State Board. Panel recommendations will be presented in closed session.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the actions related to each request be approved.

Discussion/Comments:

- This item was discussed in closed session.

Action on this item will be taken at the regular business session of the SBE meeting on Thursday, March 1. (See Attachment TCP 2)

**ACTION AND DISCUSSION:
LEADERSHIP FOR INNOVATION COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT
(Ms. Melissa Bartlett and Mr. Tom Speed, Co Chairs)**

ACTION ON FIRST READING

LFI 2 – Approval of Charter School Technology Plan

Policy Implications: General Statute #115C-102.6C

Presenter(s): Mr. Peter Asmar (Associate Superintendent/CIO, Office of Technology Services) and Ms. Frances Bryant Bradburn (Director, Instructional Technology Division)

Description:

In accordance with Public School Law (115C-102.6C, the technology plan for the following charter school has been approved by both ITS and DPI technology consultants. ITS consultants have evaluated the plan to comply with the statewide architecture guidelines; DPI instructional technology consultants

have evaluated the plan for its instructional components. All 115 LEA technology plans have been approved. Twenty-eight charter schools will be accounted for with the approval of Vance Charter. Final approval by the State Board of Education qualifies this charter school for the School Technology Trust Fund, No Child Left Behind, and federal eRate monies, as well as a variety of private technology grants. The charter school follows:

<u>Charter School</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>District</u>
Vance Charter	Henderson	Vance	Third District

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve these school technology plans.

Discussion/Comments:

- Ms. Bartlett reported that 55 charter schools out of 99 (66%) do not have technology plans. A brief discussion ensued regarding this issue.

Action on this item will be taken at the regular business session of the SBE meeting on Thursday, March 1. (See Attachment LFI 2)

**ACTION AND DISCUSSION:
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SYSTEMS
(Mr. Wayne McDevitt, Chair, and Mr. John Tate, Vice-Chair)**

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCS 1 – Individual Class Size Exception Waivers

Policy Implications: General Statute #115C-301

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price, (Associated Superintendent, Financial and Business Services), Mr. Paul LeSieur, (Director, School Business Division), and Mrs. Alexis Schauss, (Section Chief, Information Analysis and Reporting Section, School Business Division)

Description:

It shall be the responsibility of local Boards of education to assure that the class size and teaching load requirements set forth in G.S. 115C-301 are met. Requests for individual class size waivers are required to be submitted to the State Board of Education after the second school month and the remainder of the school year, if the individual class exceeds the allotment ratio by three students so long as the LEA-wide average class size maximums is not exceeded.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the waivers pertaining to the class size exception waivers submitted by Alexander County Schools, Beaufort County Schools, and Onslow County Schools. The Department will then notify the LEA(s) of the action taken by the State Board of Education.

Discussion/Comments:

- There was no discussion.

Action on this item will be taken at the regular business session of the SBE meeting on Thursday,

March 1. (See Attachment TCS 1)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

Update on Contracts

Discussion/Comments:

- There was no discussion.

CLOSED SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Edgar Murphy moved that the Board go into closed session to discuss legal and personnel matters with its legal advisors. Mr. Wayne McDevitt seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session.

Upon motion by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to recess the SBE meeting until 9:00 am on Thursday, March 1, 2007.

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

Howard N. Lee, Chairman
Jane Norwood, Vice Chair
Melissa Bartlett
Shirley Harris
Michelle Howard-Vital
Wayne McDevitt

Richard Moore
Edgar Murphy
Tom Speed
Kathy Taft
John Tate
Patricia Willoughby

Also, present:

June St. Clair Atkinson, Superintendent
Meghan Doyle, Principal Advisor

Carr Ipock, Local Board Member Advisor

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION

Chairman Lee called the Thursday Board meeting to order and declared the Board in official session. He reminded the audience that Board members held their discussions of the agenda items yesterday and that today's agenda includes voting on the Board's action items.

Chairman Lee recognized Ms. Kathy Taft to lead the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The invocation followed and was presented by Dr. Jane Norwood.

Based on legislation enacted during the last session of the General Assembly, Chairman Lee reminded Board members that it is their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest as they handle the work of the Board. 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. No Board members indicated a conflict of interest 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, they members bring the matter to the attention of the chair. It would then be their duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

MINUTES

Chairman Lee asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2007, Board meeting. After receiving a motion made by Mr. John Tate which was seconded Mr. Wayne McDevitt, Ms. Kathy Taft indicated a revision on pg. 4, HSP3. The first bullet should read "Board member Kathy Taft" instead of "a Board member." The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the January 31, 2007, meeting as corrected.

Special Presentation

- **2006 Milken Family Foundation National Educator**
 - Ms. Kristen Stone, Teacher, Tanglewood Elementary School

Chairman Lee introduced Ms. Stone, a third grade teacher at Tanglewood Elementary School, Public Schools of Robeson County, who was recently named North Carolina's 2006 Milken Family Foundation National Educator award recipient. Ms. Stone is the only North Carolina educator to receive this award this year and is among the nation's 100 most recent recipients of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. The award carries with it an unrestricted financial award of \$25,000 and membership in a network of over 2,200 past recipients from across the nation who serve as both expert resources and collaborators to network members. In addition to the financial award and educational networking opportunities, the Milken Family Foundation provides recipients with a variety of professional resources to help them cultivate and expand innovative programs in their classrooms, schools and districts. They also receive an all-expense-paid trip to Los Angeles in April 2007 for the annual Milken National Education Conference.

On behalf of the State Board of Education, Superintendent June Atkinson presented Ms. Stone with an award recognizing her for this prestigious honor. The Superintendent shared that it was a thrill for her to make the surprise announcement during a school-wide assembly at Tanglewood Elementary and that participating in this event to honor Ms. Stone is one of the highlights of her job as the state's public schools' leader.

Special Presentation

- **Resolution of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs**
 - Ms. Paul Brooks, Chairman

Mr. Brooks presented the following resolution for the Board's consideration:

TITLE: A Resolution Requesting the Restoration of the Office of Indian Education within the Department of Public Instruction

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs is a state agency created by the North Carolina General Assembly under NCGS 143B-404, and

WHEREAS, the general purpose of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs is to advocate for the needs and concerns of North Carolina's American Indian population; to provide aid and protection; to prevent undue hardships; and to assist Indian communities in social and economic development, and

WHEREAS, the history of the State of North Carolina is based upon the contributions of our American Indian Tribes, and our American Indian citizens continue to make significant contributions to our state; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's Indian population totals over 99,551, according to Census 2000, giving North Carolina the largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi River and the eighth largest Indian population in the nation; and

WHEREAS, there are over 19,000 American Indian students enrolled in the public schools of North Carolina with 16,000 of those students being served through seventeen Title VII Indian Education programs which receive millions of dollars from the US Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, American Indian students have the highest drop-out rate of any segment of the North Carolina public school enrollment, and the academic performance of American Indian students continues to lag behind all other groups in North Carolina; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the membership of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs request the restoration of the Office of Indian Education within the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, by this Resolution, request and urge the State Board of Education to request funding for the restoration of the Office of Indian Education during their next budget period.

CERTIFICATION

The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs adopted this Resolution by a unanimous vote of the membership during the September 8, 2006, Commission meeting.

Paul Brooks, Chairman

Lila Spaulding, Secretary/Treasurer

Discussion/Comments:

- Chairman Lee expressed appreciation to Mr. Brooks for his leadership with the Indian Affairs Commission. The Chairman stated that the Board would refer the resolution and request for consideration to the 21st Century Systems Committee for further review and recommendations. In addition, the Finance Committee would review the resolution for consideration if there were financial attachments. He stated that the lines of communication would be open during the consideration process. There were no objections by Board members to proceed in this manner.

Special Presentation

- **2006 School Bus Fleet Administrator of the Year**
 - Mr. Derek Graham, Section Chief, Transportation Services

Chairman Lee was pleased to announce that Mr. Graham was recently named the 2006 School Bus Fleet Administrator of the Year at the National Association for Pupil Transportation's Annual Conference in Kansas City, MO.

Mr. Graham also began a two-year term as President of the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) following the conference.

On behalf of the State Board of Education, Superintendent June Atkinson presented Mr. Graham with an award in recognition of his work and dedication to improve school bus safety and his advocacy for efficient school bus transportation systems.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Pandemic Flu

Chairman Lee began his remarks by speaking briefly about the Pandemic Flu and its potential impact on the Department and school systems across the state. He informed Board members that Superintendent Atkinson would provide a report at the April Board meeting on the plan for North Carolina's educational community in the event of a Pandemic Flu outbreak.

2007 President's Invitation Conference

The Chairman reminded Board members that on Wednesday, March 7, available Board members would conduct a three-hour session at the 2007 President's Invitational Conference hosted by the NC School Boards Association, at the Pinehurst Hotel. The focus of the session will be the State Board of Education's high school reform initiatives.

Executive Director's Report

SBE Executive Director Rebecca Garland reported that, in the General Assembly on the day of the State-of-the-State, every office in the General Assembly received a copy of the Biennial Report, the Literacy Plan, and a letter from the Chair supporting the programs that we are asking to be supported in the General Assembly this year.

According to Dr. Garland, the following house bills passed on Wednesday.

HB 17 – Study for Students with Disabilities on Effective Models at the High School

HB 18 – Defines the residence for students with special needs

HB 26 – A study of teacher preparation programs to make sure that they are indeed preparing our teachers to work with our students with disabilities.

She announced that the DPI website contains a running list of all of the bills that are filed in the General Assembly with the status of each. In addition, she reported that every Friday, LEAs receive the *Friday Report from Jones Street* which is a publication generated for the Department staff, LEAs, and other stakeholders, to keep up to date with respect to General Assembly activities.

Dr. Garland reminded Board members that they would travel to the NASBE Legislative Conference to meet with North Carolina's federal delegation on March 15-16 in Washington, D.C. She asked Board members to inform her of their availability so staff could make travel arrangements.

She noted that Board members received, at their places, a final copy of the Joint Technology Report approved at the February State Board meeting. Also inserted in the report was a copy of the bill filed for connectivity to ensure that every school will be able to offer students opportunities for online learning.

In closing, Dr. Garland announced that Mr. Marvin Pittman, Community Liaison for Student Achievement, was awarded the C. Kenneth McEwin Distinguished Service Award from the Middle School Association this week at its Middle School Conference.

11th Annual Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Conference

On behalf of Chairman Lee and Superintendent Atkinson, Mr. Pittman invited Board members to attend the 11th Annual Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Conference scheduled for March 26-28, Koury Convention Center, Greensboro. He spoke briefly about the format and noted that Board members Kathy Taft and Edgar Murphy will participate as presenters during the conference. On Monday evening, Superintendent Atkinson, Dr. Elsie Leak, and Chairman Lee will address the theme: *Changing the Way We Do Business in the Village: The Journey Continues*.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Zoo School

Superintendent Atkinson began her report by featuring the Zoo School. In the quest to provide an educational experience emphasizing rigor, relevance and relationships, the Asheboro High School Science Focus Program is an opportunity to challenge students in a small learning community while maintaining the proud heritage of the comprehensive high school. This partnership between Asheboro City Schools and the North Carolina Zoological Park includes real-life application, multidisciplinary instruction, and technology infused into all aspects of learning. The "Zoo School", with its smaller class sizes, creates a caring and nurturing environment for both students and staff. She was pleased to introduce Asheboro City Schools' Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Denny Jennings, the Zoo School's lead teacher, Ms Heather Soja, and the Executive Director of the North Carolina Zoological Park, Dr. David Jones, to speak about the Science Focus Program in Asheboro City Schools.

The presenters shared a PowerPoint presentation with Board members that provided a comprehensive overview of the Zoo School's journey, goals, vision, and mission. The presenters also spoke about their unique approach to real-life situations building on strengths in school and community to prepare future-ready students. The presentation included future steps and an overview about the overwhelming support from educators, the community, and students. The presenters asked the State Board to consider lending their support in terms of additional funding.

Discussion/Comments:

- Board members were complimentary about the creativity of the partnership to utilize the zoo as a laboratory for the students in terms of their affinities in learning.
- Mr. Edgar Murphy offered the idea that the Zoo School could connect with the NC Virtual High School to expose students across the state to the Zoo School.
- Principal Advisor Meghan Doyle referenced her research with high school reform stating that, in her opinion, the Zoo School is being done correctly. She cited the fact that those athletic programs, after school, and extra curricula activities that bring a community together are important in lieu of this special program.

Operation Recognition

Dr. Atkinson shared that on February 10, twenty-five North Carolina veterans received their high school diplomas at a commencement ceremony called Operation Recognition. The veterans were from all four branches of the Armed Forces and served in the Korean and Vietnam Campaigns. The 35th Signal Brigade from Fort Bragg provided the formalities for the ceremony.

3rd Legislative School Technology Day

Superintendent Atkinson was pleased to report that on February 13, over 200 students and teachers from 65 LEAs participated in the 3rd Legislative School Technology Day. They demonstrated to legislators and the public examples of 21st century learning. Demonstrations included hydro fuel cell cars, video conferencing with Thailand, and podcast interviews with legislators.

By raising legislators' awareness of the use of instructional technology to support teaching and learning, local educators hope that legislators, in turn, will support and expand funding for school technology, an essential component of a 21st century education.

Annual Best Practices Conference and Dare County Education Foundation Breakfast

The Superintendent also reported that on February 19, Dare County Schools hosted the NE RESA 3rd Annual Best Practice Conference. Over 900 participants from 19 LEAs participated in the conference. In addition, the Dare County Education and the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce sponsored a community breakfast where Dr. Bill Daggett delivered the keynote address, "Megatrends: How They are Impacting Our Business, Our Children, and our Society."

DPICast

According to Dr. Atkinson, the NCDPI website has its first podcast posted. The topic of the podcast is Future-Ready High School Core Curriculum and is accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, North Carolina's Proposed High School Graduation Requirements, and a handout, *High School Core Curriculum Frequently Asked Questions*. The podcast and materials support the core curriculum regional meetings, which are currently in progress.

In conclusion, Superintendent Atkinson provided a list of upcoming events as well as a summary from the U.S. Department of Education (USED), *Building on Results: A Blueprint for Strengthening the No Child Left Behind Act*, and a position paper from the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), *States Release Plan to Strengthen NCLB (State education officials: Committed to getting ESEA right)*.

High Priority Schools

High School Turnaround Team Director Pat Ashley provided a list reflecting the reform and redesign plan choices made by the 35 high priority high schools. Schools selected from among four options: America's Choice, New Schools Project, Talent Development, or an approved alternative plan. Dr. Ashley also provided a written description and overview of the basic components of the two models least familiar to Board members: America's Choice and Talent Development. In addition, she provided Board members with a list of the 54 schools, below 70% on their performance composite for 2 years, which will receive assessment site visits beginning in March. In closing, Dr. Ashley announced that they now have several staff members, recently hired, to assist in the instructional areas.

NC WISE Update

Mr. Peter Asmar gave a brief overview that this report relative to deployment is good news. There is one minor change in terms of Production Support, shown as green on the printed report but had actually turned to yellow, which is also good news.

Dr. John Wetsch, NC WISE Program Management Project Manager, updated Board members on the latest development of WAVE 2. He spoke briefly about the conversion and deployment schedule, configuration management, production support, data management and ad hoc reporting. Just over 50 percent of the WAVE 2 schools have been converted at this time and going very well. NC WISE just completed its three-day Symposium in Greensboro with 2,000 participants receiving training to move forward with NCWISE. A continuous WAVE will be instituted to convert the remaining LEAs.

Discussion/Comments:

- Mr. Edgar Murphy asked the NC WISE staff to schedule a future report from a newly converted LEA as well as a district that has been converted for some time to engage the Board in conversation concerning the conversion process.
- Board members and Superintendent Atkinson complimented staff for their efforts to keep NC WISE alive after many transitioning problems, and for their plans for the continuous wave so that all schools can be converted to NC WISE.

Personnel Actions

Superintendent Atkinson requested that the State Board approve the personnel recommendations presented in closed session on Wednesday, February 28, 2007.

Upon motion by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Ms. Kathy Taft, the Board unanimously approved the personnel recommendations presented on Wednesday, February 28, in the Personnel Report in closed session and are available now to the public.

Mr. Wayne McDevitt recognized three of the intern students from Duke University who will be working in the Department's internship pool, Ms. Casey Wyant, Ms. Christine Vaughan, and Ms. Libby Scott.

Treasurer Richard Moore was pleased to report that on February 28, Standard and Poor's and the *Wall Street Journal* released their annual report on the strength of the pension systems across the nation, and North Carolina's pension system was named second best in the country.

ACTION AGENDA

The Board moved into the Action Agenda and Chairman Lee requested that the priority chairs present items under their priority area.

ACTION AGENDA: GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE STUDENTS CHAIR REPORT
Facilitator(s): Ms. Kathy Taft, Chair, and Ms. Tricia Willoughby, Vice Chair)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

GCS 1 – Changes to the 2005-06 ABCs/AYP Report

Policy Implications: General Statute #115C-105.20 (Article8B), 115C-105.35

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the change to the 2005-06 ABCs/AYP Report.

Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommended changes to the 2005-06 ABCs/AYP Report. (See Attachment GCS 1)

ACTION AGENDA: 21ST CENTURY PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT
Facilitator(s): Dr. Michelle Howard-Vital and Ms. Shirley Harris, Co-Chairs)

ACTION

TCP 1 – Praxis II Option for Birth-Kindergarten Teachers to be Designated “Highly Qualified”
Policy Implications: SBE Policy #QP-A-003

That the proposed exam and passing score be adopted as a means for Birth-Kindergarten teachers to be designated “highly qualified” to teach kindergarten.

Upon motion by Dr. Michelle Howard-Vital, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed Praxis II exam and passing score to be adopted as a means for Birth-Kindergarten teachers to be designated “highly qualified” to teach kindergarten. (See Attachment TCP 1.)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCP 2 – Recommendations from the Advisory Board on Requests for Exception from Teacher Licensing Requirements

Policy Implications: SBE Policy #QP-A-021

It is recommended that the actions related to each request be approved.

The Board acted upon this item in closed session. (See Attachment TCP 2.)

ACTION AGENDA: LEADERSHIP FOR INNOVATION COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT
Facilitator(s): Ms. Melissa Bartlett and Mr. Tom Speed, Co Chairs

ACTION

LFI 1 – Recommendation for Final Approval of 2006 Charter School Applications

Policy Implications: General Statute #115C-238.29D(b)

The Office of Charter Schools recommends that the attached charter schools’ applications be given final approval to begin operation during the 2007-08 school year.

Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Treasurer Richard Moore, the Board voted unanimously to grant final approval of the 2006 Charter School applications to begin operation during the 2007-08 school year. (See Attachment LFI 1)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

LFI 2 – Approval of Charter School Technology Plan

Policy Implications: General Statute #115C-102.6C

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve these school technology plans.

Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Ms. Kathy Taft, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Charter School Technology Plan. (See Attachment LFI 2)

**ACTION AGENDA: TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SYSTEMS REPORT FROM THE
BUSINESS/FINANCE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Facilitator(s): Mr. Wayne McDevitt, Chair, and Mr. John Tate, Vice-Chair

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCS 1 – Individual Class Size Exceptions Waivers

Policy Implications: General Statute #115C-301

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the waivers pertaining to the class size exception waivers submitted by Alexander County Schools, Beaufort County Schools, and Onslow County Schools. The Department will then notify the LEA(s) of the action taken by the State Board of Education.

Upon motion by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve the waivers pertaining to the class size exception waivers submitted by Alexander County Schools, Beaufort County Schools, and Onslow County Schools. (See Attachment TCS 1)

OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was no new business discussed.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

- Progress Report On The Future-Ready Students Plan And Implementation
 - Mr. J.B. Buxton, Deputy State Superintendent

Deputy Superintendent J.B. Buxton referenced former Deputy Janice Davis' remarks at the February Board meeting that she had put in motion a strategic plan for Future-Ready Students that would include reports due to Mr. Buxton by March 15. He assured Board members that the plans not only are those strategic plans for how the Department carries out the priorities of the Board, but that the plans will

include measurements to assess progress. Plans are also underway to create the same with the core functions of the agency as they may or may not relate to the strategic priorities, and then the agency will begin looking at conferences, travel, and new initiatives and priorities to ensure that those areas are falling within the priorities of the Board.

Mr. Buxton commended the Communications Division staff and the Accountability Services staff for their work prior to the release of the graduation cohort rate on Wednesday. He cited the work of the local systems and the statewide conference calls led by Superintendent Atkinson with LEA superintendents, testing coordinators, information officers, media, and association leaders to ensure that everyone fully understood what was being released so that they would be prepared at the local level. In addition, he commended the State Board staff for ensuring that the Governor's office and the legislators were well briefed about some important numbers for them locally, as well.

NASCAR Hall of Fame

Mr. John Tate reported that he has been working with Dr. Peter Gorman, Superintendent, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, as it relates to the implications of the pending NASCAR Hall of Fame. The motor sports industry is an intriguing field and has great application, particularly in the fields of math and science. There is a strong commitment by NASCAR to ensure that there is a significant education component when the museum opens in 2009-10.

Leadership Committee

Mr. Tate also briefly spoke about the Leadership Committee, which has expanded to study the areas of assistant principals and superintendents as it relates to leadership standards. Meetings have begun and the committee is leveraging off the previous work related to the principal standards. Consensus is drawn around the necessity for alignment for all areas of leadership within a system. The committee plans to report to the Board at its May meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Lee asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon motion by Mr. Tom Speed, and seconded by Dr. Jane Norwood, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the February 28-March 1, 2007, meeting of the State Board of Education.