

**Minutes of the  
North Carolina State Board of Education  
Education Building  
301 N. Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825  
April 4-5, 2007**

<b>Education Building, Raleigh</b>	<b>Wednesday, April 4, 2007</b>	<b>Board Room, 1:15 PM</b>
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The North Carolina State Board of Education met and the following members were present:

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

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, Superintendent	Carr Ipock, Local Board Member Advisor
Diana Beasley, Teacher Advisor	Melissa McCoy, Student 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 April 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.

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chairman Lee 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. 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.

**Special Presentation**

➤ **Dr. Del Burns, Superintendent, Wake County Public School System (WCPSS)**

Dr. Burns began his presentation by speaking enthusiastically in favor of higher standards for all public school students in North Carolina. He provided a brief overview of Wake County’s initiatives as they address higher standards in their system and their vision that every student educated in the Wake County Public School System will graduate on time prepared for the future. That vision is supported by four strategic directives that are aligned with the State Board’s vision.

1. Rededicating focus on teaching and learning for all children
2. Retaining, recruiting, and training high quality employees
3. Developing and implementing organizational systems and structures to support schools, ensure accountability, and engage the community
4. Expanding the focus on fiscal accountability

Dr. Burns stated that as a school district, the WCPSS has studied the changes that the State Board is looking at with the core curriculum, and he commended the Board for raising standards and expecting more from every student. He asked the Board to consider extending the implementation timeframe to allow additional time for LEAs to prepare teachers, align resources to the core curriculum, help students prepare, and help parents understand. Additional time would greatly improve and impact the success of this initiative according to Dr. Burns.

Continuing, Dr. Burns spoke about population growth as Wake County’s greatest challenge. He stated that in response to that challenge, the district is participating in a curriculum management audit conducted by Phi Delta Kappa. The primary function of the audit is to test the alignment of the WCPSS’s policies and practices with SBE standards, with the WCPSS Board of Education’s standards, and national standards. It is an independent, comprehensive, top to bottom audit starting with board governments going through each classroom with an eye for discrepancies.

In conclusion, Dr. Burns spoke briefly about other initiatives underway including team-based collaboration (professional learning communities), a focus on their central services organizations, and periodic education summits involving large numbers of stakeholders for the purpose of gathering feedback as they consider changes in their system.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- Chairman Lee recognized Wake County Board Member Eleanor Goettee who was present in the audience.
- Further discussion occurred with respect to the audit process and its protocol.
- Mr. Edgar Murphy asked Dr. Burns to share his opinion about why Wake County does not have a high priority school. Dr. Burns gave a brief historical review of the culture in the WCPSS since the time of its merger where courageous board members were insistent on educating every single child regardless, no excuses, in healthy schools, with the outcome of academic achievement. It was his opinion that WCPSS still possesses that culture. A brief discussion continued regarding the need for structures and systems of support in boards of education, and central services staff members who have to be courageous to make the decisions necessary to ensure success for all children.
- On another note, Chairman Lee commended Dr. Burns and Southeast Raleigh High School students for collecting musical instruments for a high school in New Orleans that had lost all of its instruments in the Katrina floods. He stated that those students are wonderful representatives of responsible citizens and good quality training going on in the Wake County Public School System.

The following superintendents were recognized: Dr. Brock Womble, Mitchell County Schools, and Dr. Ira Trollinger, McDowell County Schools.

Chairman Lee called on the priority chairs to present items in their respective areas for *Action, Action on First Reading, Discussion, and Information*.

### **INFORMATION AGENDA**

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

Chairman Lee charged the Globally Competitive Students Committee with the expectation of its work around the core curriculum to consider, as a part of its deliberations, whether to delay the implementation timeline and, if so, to justify their conclusions and recommendations brought forth to the Board for action.

Further, he stated that the committee should pay special attention to the following areas:

- Including the arts and CTE as a part of the core curriculum
- Clarifying the math sequence while being realistic in terms of the approach of the math sequence
- Clarifying the opt-out feature
- Incorporating second languages (alternative approaches especially in the elementary school years and how that might fit in as a part of any proposals the committee brings forth relating to the languages)

In addition, he recommended that the committee provide a complete list of endorsements.

#### ***DISCUSSION***

#### **GCS 11 – Future-Ready High School Core Curriculum Framework**

##### **Policy Implications:**

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Rebecca Garland (Executive Director, Office of the North Carolina State Board of Education)

##### **Description:**

The North Carolina State Board of Education in December 2006 directed Board and Department of Public Instruction staff to conduct a series of regional meetings on the future-ready high school core curriculum framework that the Board adopted. This information item will provide feedback to the Board from the series of regional meetings on this topic.

##### **Recommendations:**

No action required.

##### **Discussion/Comments:**

- After providing an overview of the feedback gathered from the regional meetings, Dr. Garland stated that the Board was asked to provide additional public meetings. She suggested a highly structured clarifying session provided in three venues across the state prior to the Board's action on this item.

- Superintendent Atkinson concurred that there is a need for another round of face-to-face and/or a satellite delivered meeting to garner support for higher standards. In addition, she recommended that the Board seriously consider the timeline.
- Board members agreed that according to the feedback there is a lot of misinformation across the state regarding the proposed curriculum.
- Mr. Wayne McDevitt shared a newspaper headline entitled the “State School Plan Facing Opposition.” He then shared the irony of the next day’s article which spoke about manufacturers waiting to fill top jobs citing that the traditional trades have gone high tech and a machinist, for example, needs to understand trigonometry to master today’s computers and most manufacturing jobs require advanced math and physics. Lt. Governor Perdue asked Mr. McDevitt to share a copy of the referenced article with Board members. A brief discussion and other examples were shared about the disconnect existing in today’s business and education communities in terms of the need for a seamless transition.
- Chairman Lee remanded the whole framework and information from the public meetings back to the Globally Competitive Students Committee for further work to be brought back to the Board for consideration when the committee determines it is ready for further discussion and action. In addition, the committee chair, Ms. Taft, will invite and engage any dialogue she determines appropriate to come back with a proposal. There were no objections from Board members to proceed in this manner.

This item was presented for information. (See Attachment GCS 11)

Chairman Lee recognized several students in the audience from Meredith College who are currently participating the Foundations of Education class with Professor McKinney.

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

***INFORMATION***

**LFI 6 – NC Virtual Public School – Director’s Report**  
**Policy Implications:**

**Presenter(s):** Dr. John Boling (Director, NC Virtual Public Schools)

**Description:**

An update on projects and timeline, including course audits, teacher recruitment, summer and fall pre-registrations, and teacher professional development.

**Recommendations:**

No action required.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- After Dr. Boling provided a brief update about NC Virtual’s activities, he turned the microphone over to Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue for a special announcement.
- Lt. Governor Perdue was pleased to announce that NC Virtual High School went live with pre-registration for online course offerings for the 2007-08 school year on Friday, March 30. Dr.

Boling shared that in less than a week over 100 students had pre-registered to take courses through NC Virtual High School.

- Mr. Edgar Murphy speculated that NC Virtual High School could provide a new resource for students on short- and long-term suspensions. Other conversations for the future include issues of online teacher candidates from the University System and Community Colleges, who “owns” students’ end-of-course grades, how the school might serve students in federal schools such as those on the Cherokee reservation and Department of Defense installations, opportunities to break paradigms between traditional and non-traditional learning, game-based learning, multi-media lessons, and policy implications.

This item was presented for information. (See Attachment LFI 6)

**HEALTHY, RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS  
(Mr. Edgar Murphy, Chair)**

***INFORMATION***

**HRS 1 – Annual Study of Suspensions and Expulsions: 2005-06**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute #115C-12(27)

**Presenter(s):** Ms. Priscilla J. Maynor (Executive Director, Agency Operations and Information Management) and Dr. Kenneth Gattis (Senior Research and Evaluation Coordinator, Agency Operations and Information Management)

**Description:**

G.S. 115C-12(27) directs the State Board of Education to report in a disaggregated manner annually to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Commission on Improving the Academic Achievement of Minority and At-risk Students the numbers of students who have dropped out of school, been suspended, been expelled or been placed in an alternative program. The data in this report cover the requirements in this law except that regarding dropouts which were provided in a separate report. Where possible, data for 2005-06 were combined with data from previous school years for trend information. Data in this report include numbers of short-term suspensions, long-term suspensions and expulsions for 2004-05 both overall and for major demographic subgroups. The data are reported separately overall for charter schools and LEAs. Also, a breakdown of suspensions and expulsions by gender and ethnicity is provided for individual charter schools and LEAs.

**Recommendations:**

No action required.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- Conversations occurred around school districts implementing ninth grade academies (smaller learning communities) as a positive initiative to decrease suspension rates. The report begs for finding ways to improve the data and a closer look at additional allotments, in addition to deploying successful programs statewide. Dr. Larry Price, Superintendent Advisor, cautioned that the Board not simply view ninth grade academies as the end all solution and challenged the Board to look closely for solutions on improving student behavior. A brief discussion ensued about how to address this complex issue.
- Chairman Lee asked that Mr. Buxton disperse the suspension and expulsion data throughout the agency to integrate as a part of the Department’s daily work. Mr. Buxton is to keep the Board

informed about progress in this area including recommendations and ways to focus resources on a broader scale for greater impact.

- Dr. Meghan Doyle, Principal Advisor, spoke briefly about confronting the disparity in terms of students of color and how those students are over represented in long- and short-term suspensions.

This item was presented for information. (See Attachment HRS 1)

### **ACTION AND DISCUSSION AGENDA**

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

##### ***ACTION ON FIRST READING***

##### **GCS 6 – Changes to the 2005-06 ABCs/AYP Report**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute #115C-105.20 (Article 8B), 115C-105.35

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

##### **Description:**

Changes to the 2005-06 ABCs/AYP Report will be presented to the State Board of Education (SBE) for Action on First Reading at the April 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, April 5. (See Attachment GCS 6)

##### ***DISCUSSION***

##### **GCS 7 – Revision of the North Carolina Mathematics Standard Course of Study**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy #HSP-F-012, HSP-F-002

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

**Description:**

The process for curriculum revision was amended in February 2002. The process requires prior permission by the State Board of Education in order to revise an area of the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study*. Based on feedback from stakeholders, permission is requested to revise the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Mathematics K-12*.

**Recommendations:**

The State Board of Education is asked to grant approval for revision to the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Mathematics K-12*.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- There was no discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in April and will be presented at the May meeting for action. (See Attachment GCS 7)

**DISCUSSION**

**GCS 8 – Approval of Supplemental Educational Service Providers**

**Policy Implications:** PL 107-110, No Child Left Behind

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Elsie C. Leak (Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and School Reform Services) and Dr. Lynn S. Warren (Director, Support Services Division)

**Description:**

The reauthorization of ESEA, Section 1116 of Title I in No Child Left Behind, requires that students attending schools in Title I School Improvement for the second year (failure to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for three years) receive supplemental educational services paid with Title I funds. The provider must have a demonstrated record of effectiveness, be selected by parents with advice from the LEA (as requested), and be approved by the State Board of Education. The 2007-2008 school year will be the sixth year that schools must provide services. This item also includes a list of applicants not recommended for approval.

**Recommendations:**

The State Board is requested to review and comment on the attached list of providers.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- There was no discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in April and will be presented at the May meeting for action. (See Attachment GCS 8)

**DISCUSSION**

**GCS 9 – New AYP Threshold for 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates**

**Policy Implications:** No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

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

**Description:**

Under NCLB, schools and districts need to show progress on their Other Academic Indicator (OAI) to make AYP. For schools that graduate students, the OAI is graduation rate. It is recognized that past a certain rate, fluctuations do not have the level of importance that should cause a school to miss AYP. With the implementation of the 4-year cohort graduation rate, a new threshold must be set. The threshold associated with the old placeholder rate is inappropriate.

The Compliance Commission for Accountability held a telephone conference call on March 9, 2007 to discuss this issue. The new threshold does not affect the progress criteria currently in place. Basically, any school or LEA that shows progress (defined as 0.1 percentage point increase from one year to the next) will meet the OAI as would any school or district meeting the threshold. This also enables any subgroups that meet the OAI to access the safe harbor provisions of NCLB if the subgroup does not meet the AYP proficiency targets. The new threshold eventually will need to be included in the NC Accountability Workbook and approved by the US Department of Education (USED).

**Recommendations:**

The recommendation of the Compliance Commission for Accountability, supported by the agency, is that the threshold be changed from 90% to 80%.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- There was no discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in April and will be presented at the May meeting for action. (See Attachment GCS 9)

***DISCUSSION*****GCS 10 – Ready Schools Task Force Recommendations****Policy Implications:**

**Presenter(s):** Mr. John Pruette (Executive Director, Office of School Readiness), Ms. Jackie Colbert (Director, Division of Elementary Education), and Dr. Carolyn Cobb (Consultant, Ready Schools Initiative)

**Description:**

In June of 2000, The NC Ready for School Goal Team issued a report entitled **School Readiness in North Carolina**. The report outlined a series of recommendations for what was needed in our state to assure that all children were arriving at school “ready” and that schools were, in turn, “ready” for all children. Since the release of that report, there has been increased national attention and research around issues related to Ready Schools. Therefore, the NC Ready Schools Task Force, consisting of K-12 and preschool educators as well as other organizational representatives, was convened by State Superintendent June Atkinson in March 2006 to review the initial recommendations that were made in regard to the Ready Schools component of the original report and to determine what steps must be taken to assist our state in moving forward. The Task Force was a joint initiative of the NCDPI and the North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) and was funded through a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The Task Force issued their final report in January 2007, including a definition of Ready Schools, pathways to Ready Schools, and a recommendation that one of two Ready Schools Assessments be conducted by elementary schools as part of the School Improvement Planning Process.

**Recommendations:**

The SBE is requested to endorse/adopt (1) the definition of Ready Schools and Pathways to Ready Schools; and (2) the use of one of two Ready Schools Assessment Instruments in the School Improvement Planning process for elementary schools, and the Power of K position statement.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- Board members reviewed the discussions from Tuesday’s committee meeting and the proposal to alter the recommendation to include the Power of K position statement. Ms. Jackie Colbert will also add a crosswalk of similarities to and differences from the Teacher Working Conditions Survey data.

This item is presented for discussion in April and will be presented at the May meeting for action. (See Attachment GCS 10)

***DISCUSSION***

**GCS 12 – Personal Financial Literacy**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute #115C-81

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

**Description:**

Legislation requires that the State Board of Education determine the components of personal financial literacy that will be covered in the curriculum.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the State Board of Education review and comment on the following recommendations:

- Mandate five days of personal financial literacy instruction as part of the Algebra I/Integrated Mathematics I Standard Course of Study;
- Infuse personal financial literacy topics into the Algebra I and Integrated Mathematics I Standard Course of Study

**Discussion/Comments:**

- After collaborating with the bill’s sponsor, the Director of Middle and Secondary Education, Dr. Wandra Polk, proposed to revise the staff recommendations so that there are five days or a module of instruction for Civics and Economics that would be implemented with the 2007-08 school year. She explained that they would continue the integration of Personal Financial Literacy in Algebra and Integrated Mathematics but would like to use Civics and Economics as the transition for 2007-08.
- A brief discussion occurred about the five-day professional development module, which would provide flexibility for teachers through activities and support documents. Several board members cautioned the requirement of a set number of days.
- Another point of discussion was age appropriateness for the curriculum since the module will focus on budgeting, savings, investment, and credit.
- Dr. Norwood’s concern about the heavy content already in the Civics and Economics curriculum also highlighted concern about the visibility of Personal Financial Literacy in the curriculum, a concern shared by the bill’s sponsor, Senator Kay Hagan.

- Mr. McDevitt brought the Board's attention to a pamphlet entitled *Making the Grade – Understanding Financial Literacy*. Ms. Vanessa Jeter explained that *Making the Grade* is a series of publications produced by North Carolina Newspapers in Education with support from the North Carolina Press Association and the Public Schools of North Carolina on a quarterly basis as an insert for newspapers.

This item is presented for discussion in April and will be presented at the May meeting for action. (See Attachment GCS 12)

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

***ACTION ON FIRST READING***

**TCP 1 – Final Decision in Contested Case – Charlie Richardson vs. DPI, Licensure Section**  
**Policy Implications:** General Statute #150B-36

**Presenter(s):** Mr. Tom Ziko, Special Deputy Attorney General

**Description:**

Mr. Richardson filed a petition for a contested case to challenge the agency's failure to reinstate his teaching license. The Administrative Law Judge granted conducted a hearing and found that Mr. Richardson did not meet his burden of proof, thus upholding the agency's action.

**Recommendations:**

The State Board is requested to adopt the Final Decision presented by the Office of the Attorney General.

**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, April 5. (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

**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, April 5. (See Attachment TCP 2)

***DISCUSSION***

**TCP 3 – Educational Interpreters and Transliterators Extension of Employment**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy #QP-C-001

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Elsie C. Leak (Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and School Reform Services) and Mrs. Mary N. Watson (Director, Exceptional Children Division)

**Description:**

The current deadline for educational interpreters and transliterators to pass the required testing to work in the public schools is June 30, 2007. Individuals not passing the required test by that deadline will not be allowed to interpret in public schools. In late 2006, Boys Town Diagnostic Center implemented a new process that requires states to make reservations for their sign language interpreters to be evaluated. Boys Town is the only organization that evaluates the Educational Interpreter Proficiency Assessment required by the State Board of Education. Currently, no slots are available until August of 2007. Boys Town is currently working to create more slots. However, they have stated it will be impossible to test all interpreters in time to receive their scores required by current State Board policy.

The State Board previously granted two extensions due to the short amount of time LEAs had to come into compliance with State Board Policy. States are taking an average of 4 years to implement policy for standards in educational interpreting and transliterating. Because interpreters will not be able to test during the 2006-2007 school year, a final one-year extension is requested to provide interpreters and transliterators with the opportunity to take their respective assessments.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve a final one-year extension for interpreters and transliterators to pass the required test to 2008.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- Due to extenuating circumstances and the urgency of this matter, Committee Co-Chair Shirley Harris recommended this item be moved to Action on First Reading.

*Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Dr. Michelle Howard-Vital, the Board voted unanimously to move TCP 3 – Educational Interpreters and Transliterators Extension of Employment to Action on First Read. (See Attachment TCP 3)*

- Chairman Lee recommended that Ms. Watson continue to work closely with the committee and any further deliberations be dealt with at the committee level. The Co-chairs will then report to the Board with their recommendations in terms of action.

***DISCUSSION***

**TCP 4 – Testing Waiver Request for Teachers Participating in the Visiting Teacher Program  
Sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Education**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy #QP-A-001

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

**Description:**

NC is one of 38 states that have an agreement with the Spanish Ministry of Education that includes visiting teachers. In the fall, the Spanish government publishes an official announcement inviting applications from individuals to participate in the visiting teacher program. Because the SBE had not passed the policy requiring ACTFL proficiency testing for international teachers (licensed, but not in their native language) seeking to be licensed in their native language in NC, the requirement was not included in the official announcement published by the Spanish Ministry of Education last fall. The Spanish Ministry of Education is requesting that the ACTFL proficiency-testing requirement be waived for their teachers for the 2007-08 school year. The Ministry will include the requirement in future announcements, so the request is for this specific group of teachers. These teachers would be licensed teachers, with a major in English, but seeking to be licensed to teach Spanish in NC. We anticipate approximately 15 teachers would fall into this category.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the State Board of Education waive the ACTFL proficiency testing requirements for teachers placed in NC through the Spanish Ministry of Education for the 2007-08 school year.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- Due to extenuating circumstances and the non-controversial nature of this item, Committee Co-Chair Dr. Michelle Howard-Vital recommended that this item be moved to Action on First Reading.

*Upon motion by Dr. Michelle Howard-Vital, and seconded by Ms. Shirley Harris, the Board voted unanimously to move TCP 4 – Testing Waiver Request for Teachers Participating in the Visiting Teacher Program Sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Education to Action on First Read.  
(See Attachment TCP 4)*

**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 Edgecombe County Schools and Randolph 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, April 5. (See Attachment TCS 1)

***ACTION ON FIRST READING***

**TCS 2 – Approval of Federal Grants**

**Policy Implications:**

**Presenter(s):** Mr. Philip Price (Associate Superintendent, Financial and Business Services), Mr. Jack Moyer (Director, Office of Charter Schools), Ms. Lynn Hoggard (Section Chief, Child Nutrition Services), Mr. Peter Asmar (Associate Superintendent/CIO, Technology Services), Ms. Frances Bradburn (Director, Instructional Technology Division), Dr. Elsie Leak (Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and School Reform Services), Dr. Wandra Polk (Director, Middle and Secondary Education), Ms. Everly Broadway (Section Chief, Secondary Mathematics and Science), and Ms. Jackie Colbert (Director, Elementary Education Division)

**Description:**

The grants listed below are being submitted for approval of distribution of funds to selected school systems. Please see attachments for description of grants.

- Attachment 1 – Allotment of Federal Implementation Funds for Year I and II Charter Schools
- Attachment 2 – NCLB Enhancing Education through Technology Grant Awards – IMPACT II Awards

- Attachment 3 – Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant Cohort IV
- Attachment 4 – Fruit and Vegetable Program Awarded to NCDPI from USDA
- Attachment 5 – Reading First

**Recommendations:**

The attached grants are submitted for State Board approval.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- There was no discussion.

Action on this item will be taken at the regular business session of the SBE meeting on Thursday, April 5. (See Attachment TCS 2)

***ACTION ON FIRST READING***

**Update on Contracts**

**Discussion/Comments:**

- Ms. Shirley Harris inquired about the Leadership Group for the Carolinas contract. Staff described the snapshot assessments for the 54 additional high priority high schools as necessary to compile information and create baseline data to serve as a point of entry. The snapshot will provide information about strengths and needed improvements for each of the 54 priority high schools for staff to determine and develop plans for school improvement.

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

***DISCUSSION***

**LFI 1 – Renewal Recommendations of Alternative School Model Charter Schools**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy #EEO-U-011

**Presenter(s):** Mr. Jack Moyer (Director, Office of Charter Schools)

**Description:**

As per State Board Policy EEO-U-011, all charter schools that currently have alternative school model status must apply for a renewal of the designation every three years. There are a total of six (6) alternative charter schools. Each school must meet the criteria set forth in the policy to be eligible for renewal. The Charter School Advisory Committee at their March 8, 2007, conference call voted to recommend all six (6) schools for renewal of their alternative school model designation from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010.

**Recommendations:**

The Charter School Advisory Committee and The Office of Charter Schools recommend that the SBE approve the renewals of the six schools seeking Alternative School Model Status.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- Ms. Kathy Taft commented that she was hopeful that there would not be alternative charter schools in the future.

This item is presented for discussion in April and will be presented at the May meeting for action. (See Attachment LFI 1)

***DISCUSSION***

**LFI 2 – Maximum Funded ADM Capacity for Sandhills Theatre Arts Renaissance School (STARS)**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute #115C-238.29F(a)

**Presenter(s):** Mr. Jack Moyer (Director, Office of Charter Schools)

**Description:**

Pursuant to GS 115C-238.29F(a), “Health and Safety Standards.- A charter school shall meet the same health and safety requirements required of a local school administrative unit.” The maximum funded ADM for STARS of 300 as previously approved by the SBE should be revised to coincide with the maximum capacity allowed by Moore County Health Department and the North Carolina Division of Environmental Health, which allows a maximum capacity of 250 students.

**Recommendations:**

The Department of Public Instruction recommends that Sandhills Theatre Arts Renaissance School’s maximum funded ADM be capped at 250 students. This cap would remain in effect until any modification of conditional use in the original site plan, the Moore County Health Department, and the North Carolina Division of Environmental Health have all approved an increase in the capacity of students in the school facility.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- After a brief discussion, Board members concurred that this item required no action by the State Board.

This item is will not return for action in May. (See Attachment LFI 2)

***DISCUSSION***

**LFI 3 – Program Approval and Exemption Requests Under the Innovative Education**

**Initiatives Act**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute #115C-238.50 Part 9  
(General Session 2003-277 – Senate Bill 656)

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Elsie C. Leak (Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and School Reform Services) and Ms. Carolyn White (Director, Learn and Earn, New Schools Project)

**Description:**

An Act to Establish the Innovative Education Initiatives Act, 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.

These cooperative innovative high school programs shall target: (1) high school students who are at risk of dropping out of high school before attaining a high school diploma or (2) high school students who would benefit from accelerated academic instruction.

GS 115C-238.53,(f) states “Except as provided in this Part and pursuant to the terms of the agreement, a program is exempt from laws and rules applicable to a local board of education, a local school administrative unit, a community college, or a local board of trustees of a community college.”

The attachment for this item includes the applying schools, the waivers requested, barriers needing to be removed, and recommendations to support the first year of implementation along with programmatic details.

**Recommendations:**

It is requested that the SBE discuss the exemption requests presented and whether the school programs should be approved in preparation for taking action in May.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- Ms. Melissa Bartlett noted a correction on pg. 6, number 8, for the transportation recommendation. It should read, “No action is required” instead of “Do not grant exemption.” On Pg. 9, number 22 – under Rationale it reads, “Testing out of EOC courses should occur based on a certain standard – student must earn a B or better.” The Department is going to define that with conversion charts for the EOC raw scores and what a B means so that it is consistent across the state, according to Ms. Bartlett.

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

***DISCUSSION***

**LFI 4 – The Cooperative Innovative High School Program Act – Waivers for Educational Purposes**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute #Senate Bill 656

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Elsie C. Leak (Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and School Reform Services) and Dr. Wandra C. Polk (Director, Division of Middle and Secondary Education)

**Description:**

High schools established under the Cooperative Innovative High School Program Act are developed in partnership with post-secondary institutions. The partner institutions must have aligned calendars in order to operate effectively. LEAs requiring this alignment submitted Calendar Waivers for Educational Purposes that are being presented to the State Board with this item for approval. Heretofore, Calendar Waivers for Educational Purposes have been submitted annually. In support of the innovative programs, Calendar Waivers for Educational Purposes are aligned with the same approval period of the program application as approval by the State Board at is February 2007 meeting.

**Recommendations:**

The State Board of Education is requested to approve the following calendar waivers for educational purposes as submitted.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- There was no discussion.

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

***DISCUSSION***

**LFI 5 – Exemption Requests Under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act – Turnaround High Schools**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute # Senate Bill 1741 (Joint Conference Committee Report on Continuation, Expansion and Capital Budgets)

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Elsie C. Leak (Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and School Reform Services) and Ms. Toni Patterson (Consultant, Learn and Earn, New Schools Project)

**Description:**

An Act to Establish the Innovative Education Initiatives Act, 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 educational success through high-quality instructional programming. A cohort of turnaround high schools is being presented in this item to get approval to implement STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program sites and approval for exemptions being requested under the above named Act. During the 2006 legislative session, funds were appropriated to the State Board of Education to support a cohort of STEM high schools. The total includes \$40,000 for each of the ten schools for planning. The budget included the following:

Section 16: Small Specialty High Schools (page F-3)

Provides planning grants at 10 small schools that intend to design instruction around the following curricula: science, technology, engineering and/or math (STEM). Provides \$261,680 to support four months of principal salary for each planning site prior to becoming operational in the 2007-08 school year. Any implementation grants for STEM schools shall come from non-State sources.

The attachment for this item includes the turnaround high schools applying to implement STEM programs, the waivers requested to support the first year of implementation, along with programmatic details.

**Recommendations:**

It is requested that the SBE discuss the exemption requests presented and whether the school programs should be approved in preparation for taking action in May.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- Mr. Wayne McDevitt applauded and acknowledged the many innovative initiatives taking place in North Carolina.

This item is presented for discussion in April and will be presented at the May meeting for action.  
(See Attachment LFI 5)

**CLOSED SESSION/ADJOURNMENT**

*Dr. Jane Norwood* moved that the Board go into closed session to consider the Board's attorney's advice and give them instructions in the case of *Kestrel Heights Charter School vs. State Board of Education*, to consider one or more personnel issues described in G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6), to deliberate and make a decision in the following adjudicatory proceeding: *Richardson vs. Department of Public Instruction*, and to examine and determine the qualifications of individual applicants for or holders of a teaching license in accordance with General Statute § 143-318.18(6). *Ms. Patricia Willoughby* seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session.

At the end of the closed session, upon motion by *Mr. Wayne McDevitt*, seconded by *Dr. Michelle Howard-Vital*, the Board voted unanimously to recess the SBE meeting until 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 5, 2007.

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	Beverly Perdue
Shirley Harris	Kathy Taft
Michelle Howard-Vital	John Tate
Wayne McDevitt	Patricia Willoughby

Also, present:

June St. Clair Atkinson, Superintendent	Meghan Doyle, Principal Advisor
Diana Beasley, Teacher 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 provided a brief overview of the new committee structure and 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. Patricia Willoughby to lead the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The invocation followed and was presented by Ms. Kathy Taft.

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chairman Lee 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. 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.

### **MINUTES**

<i>Chairman Lee asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 28-March 1, 2007, Board meeting. A motion was made by <u>Dr. Jane Norwood</u> and seconded by <u>Ms. Patricia Willoughby</u>. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the February 28-March 1, 2007, meeting as presented.</i>
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**Special Recognition**

- **Personal Financial Literacy**
  - Senator Kay Hagan

Senator Hagan spoke briefly about the importance of teaching the fundamental basics of personal financial literacy, citing staggering statistics in terms of young adults, 18-24, who filed bankruptcy last year. She also pointed out that since the Great Depression the savings rate in the United States in 2006 was negative. She quoted Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Chairman, who said, "Our children are financially illiterate and unable to inherit the global economy unless we start to educate them in elementary school."

Senator Hagan provided an update on the bill she introduced about Personal Financial Literacy. She applauded the efforts of the Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education for working to integrate Personal Financial Literacy into the Civics and Economics curriculum and bringing this issue to the forefront for all students.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- Mr. Edgar Murphy also stated that we have an obligation to talk about investments for the future since most companies are not providing pension plans.
- Superintendent Atkinson and Board members thanked Senator Hagan for her perseverance and passion as it relates to educating our students about financial literacy.

**Special Recognition**

- **Recipient, NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence**
  - Mr. Jim Brooks, Teacher, West Wilkes High School, Wilkes County Schools

Mr. Brooks, an English, film and photojournalism teacher at West Wilkes High School, Wilkes County Schools, was nominated for this award by NCAE based on his outstanding instructional expertise, attention to diversity, dedication to lifelong learning, creativity and innovation. He is the 2007 winner of the National Education Association's most prestigious award, the NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence. Mr. Brooks received a total of \$35,000 from the foundation for his achievements - \$10,000 as one of the five finalists and \$25,000 for the national award.

Chairman Lee stated that Mr. Brooks embodies all that the State Board of Education has talked about as desirable in a 21<sup>st</sup> century teacher.

Mr. Brooks was invited forward to receive an award and a mug from the State Board of Education. Mr. Brooks described this recognition as a humbling experience. According to Mr. Brooks, he represents many quality teachers who are teaching with excellence in North Carolina.

**Special Presentation**

- **Resolution Honoring the Late Senator Jeanne Hopkins Lucas**
  - **Presented by Board Member Mr. Edgar Murphy**

Board members and the Superintendent shared memories of Senator Lucas following the resolution presented to her husband, Mr. William “Bill” Lucas, and family, for her compassionate service and steadfast dedication to all public school children.

***NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION***

***Resolution Honoring***

**SENATOR JEANNE HOPKINS LUCAS**

**December 25, 1935 – March 9, 2007**

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina State Board of Education takes pride in the extraordinary qualities and dedication of the citizens who have served public education; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Jeanne Hopkins Lucas has reflected extraordinary, exceptional qualities and dedication throughout her life both as a teacher and a legislator; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Lucas’s experiences as a teacher and a school administrator proved invaluable to her and to the State Board of Education in carrying out her legislative duties with great depth of knowledge and insight on the importance of a sound public education; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Lucas’s ability to connect personally with children and educators helped her to represent their needs passionately and to act fervently in their best interest; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education admired her grace and style as she worked to convince and persuade others as she sought consensus, especially on issues impacting women, children, education, and poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board acknowledges the superior personal qualities of Senator Lucas, including her courage to live her beliefs and convictions, her compassion to embrace those with no one to fight for them, her grace to mentor and parent many who passed her way, and the bravery to work long hours while battling illness; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board knew Senator Jeanne Hopkins Lucas to be a rare and singular individual who gave much to her beloved husband, her family, her friends, her community, and her state;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the North Carolina State Board of Education expresses its deep appreciation to Mr. William “Bill” Lucas for having the generosity of heart to share his adored Jeanne with many, knowing that she worked always for the greater good; and

**THAT** the Board expresses its infinite thanks for Senator Lucas’s compassionate service and steadfast dedication to all public school children and for waging war against those who would stand in the way of improving public education; and

**THAT** the Board, proud to call Senator Lucas “friend,” acknowledges that while a light went out on earth on March 9, 2007, that the heavens became much brighter; and

**THAT** the Board, influenced by Jeanne Hopkins Lucas’s knowledge, wisdom, commitment to public service, hard work, and caring for all humankind, directs the State Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction to enter a copy of this resolution into the official minutes of the State Board of Education, and that an appropriately signed copy be presented to Mr. William “Bill” Lucas.

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Howard N. Lee, Chairman  
North Carolina State Board of Education  
April 5, 2007

### **CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS**

Teacher Advisor Diana Beasley announced that she would be traveling to Denmark in June. The trip is sponsored by the Center for International Understanding to learn about best practices. A Carolyn Hunt Scholarship will underwrite Ms. Beasley’s expenses. She asked the Board to consider sponsoring the other three regional teachers of the year so that, as a team of regional leaders, they may bring back and share their experiences more broadly in North Carolina. The cost is \$2,950 per individual for a total of \$8,850.00.

#### **Discussion/Comments:**

- Board member Melissa Bartlett asked that the team provide a report when they return from their trip about how they will use this training to sustain global learning for students across the state.
- Chairman Lee directed Superintendent Atkinson and Deputy Buxton to work to identify a permanent funding source for trips of this nature in future years.

*Upon motion by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Dr. Michelle Howard-Vital, the Board voted unanimously to underwrite the cost of the Denmark trip for the three regional teachers of the year.*

### **Public Policy Leadership Award**

Chairman Lee recently represented the Board at a meeting of the North Carolina Dietetic Association where he received, on the Board’s behalf, the 2007 Public Policy Leadership Award. This award recognizes outstanding interest, support and contributions to, as well as advocacy for, policies improving the nutrition and health of North Carolina citizens.

He commended Dr. Lynn Hoggard, Section Chief, Child Nutrition Services, for the vision that she provides to ensure that healthy nutritional foods are available to all students in North Carolina’s public schools.

### **Learn and Earn**

The Chairman was pleased to announce that Harvard University recently named the Learn and Earn Program as one of the top 50 innovations in American Government. Other states are also starting to adopt the Learn and Earn concept. He praised Governor Easley for his innovation and creativity.

### **Charter Schools**

Chairman Lee asked the Board for authorization to proceed with creating a Charter School Review Commission to study the Charter School Program. He suggested that the Commission would be charged with taking a broad view of the initial experiences, how to improve, and long-term goals of the Charter Schools' program.

*Upon motion by Dr. Jane Norwood, and seconded by Treasurer Richard Moore, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the creation of a Charter School Review Commission.*

In addition, the Chairman stated that there is less need for advisory committees with the Board's new committee structures in place. Chairman Lee stated that there would be a series of future recommendations to move responsibilities from certain advisory committees to the newly structured standing committees.

Chairman Lee recommended that the Board eliminate the Charter Schools' Advisory Committee and select representation from that advisory committee to be a part of the Leadership for Innovations Committee. Further, all policies, procedures, and requests concerning Charter Schools would be included as a part of Leadership for Innovation Committee's work. This restructuring will allow for more in-depth involvement of the SBE in working with the Office of Charter Schools and individual schools in governance, finance, and academic accountability, as well as streamlining committee budgets and eliminating duplication of spending.

*Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, the Board voted unanimously to eliminate the Charter Schools' Advisory Committee and select members to serve on the Leadership for Innovations Committee to deal with policies and procedures related to the Charter Schools' program.*

### **Testing Extension**

Dr. Lou Fabrizio requested an extension for the EOC and EOG testing windows for the spring administration for the following reasons:

- student accountability standards which require retesting
- new high school exit standards which require retesting
- new EOGs and EOCs that have longer periods of time for students to complete the tests
- the 2007 EOC Comparability Study requires students to take both the paper and pencil EOC and an online version so the Department can study if there are differences between the modes of administration. Dr. Fabrizio further explained that these types of studies are required as a part of the NCLB peer review for NCLB purposes.

*Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Ms. Shirley Harris, the Board voted unanimously to approve the extension as requested for the 2007 spring testing administrations.*

### **Principal-of-the-Year Luncheon**

Chairman Lee reminded Board members that immediately following the Board meeting they would participate in the Wachovia Principal of the Year luncheon. He expressed appreciation to Wachovia for

their continuous support and sponsorship of this prestigious award and their hands-on participation in the selection process across the state. Wachovia also sponsors four regional luncheons where the eight regional winners of the Principal of the Year award are announced.

### **Board Meeting Proposal**

Chairman Lee recommended that the May and June SBE meetings take place as originally scheduled. The Chairman proposed that the July Board meeting could be a teleconference call to manage only necessary business items. There were no objections by Board members to this proposal.

### **Educational Summits**

Chairman Lee announced that Mr. Marvin Pittman has been charged with collaborating with staff to develop educational summits and would bring a proposal to the Board in the near future.

### **Executive Director's Report**

SBE Executive Director Rebecca Garland reported that the high school reform retreat is scheduled for April 19-20. She reminded Board members to communicate with staff about travel arrangements.

Dr. Garland reported that she would be traveling on April 15 to the Education Committee of the States in Kansas City. Garland and Eric Hirsch will present jointly about the Teacher Working Conditions Survey, how it is driving school improvement and student achievement.

### **Technology Plan Proposal**

Dr. Garland asked Ms. Frances Bradburn to provide an update about the revised technology plan for the Board's information. She explained that the plan was realigned with the new Future-Ready Students' priorities. She spoke further about the opportunity to connect and align the LEA and school technology plans, the school improvement plans, and the school connectivity project. Ms. Bradburn proposed to do away with the revision of the district technology plan and instead ask LEAs to develop a new Technology Plan by August 2008 connecting the school improvement plans and the school connectivity project information. She also proposed that the Department procure an outside technology company to consult and provide an in-depth review of the overall educational technology budgets and projects in North Carolina in order that the districts can develop plans that are more realistic.

*Upon motion by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Department to procure an outside technology company to consult and provide an in-depth review of the overall educational technology budgets and projects in North Carolina.*

*Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, the Board voted unanimously to extend the date that the technology plans are due to August 2008.*

Chairman Lee requested that items of this nature be presented to the appropriate committee in the future.

### **Legislative Update**

Ms. Rita Joyner reminded Board members that Friday from Jones Street is being used to communicate legislative actions on a weekly basis.

HB 359 restoring flexibility to the school calendar passed the House on April 4 and will go to the Senate Committee on Public Instruction for review.

Speaker Hackney and a group of concerned legislators on the House side held a press conference this morning to talk about dropout prevention and high school graduation rates. He announced two public meetings in April and in May that will focus on what works. They would like to work with the State Board to develop and fund three to four pilot programs.

### **Calendar Bill**

Activity on HB 359 Restoring Flexibility to School Calendar continued this week. Upon approval by the State Board, this bill would provide system-wide waivers for educational purposes and allow those waivers to be effective as long as the educational purpose exists. HB 359 is now referred to the Senate Committee on Education/Public Instruction.

After a brief discussion about the Board's position, Chairman Lee indicated that he would ask Ms. Vanessa Jeter to develop a statement that can be released on behalf of the Board.

### **Financial Literacy**

Treasurer Richard Moore distributed a skill set survey to Board members citing the survey results, which clearly demonstrate the need for teaching personal financial literacy skills. According to Treasurer Moore, the indisputable data provides enough information about what our student's don't know to figure out a way that every student is exposed to this information with a ready and easy way to test their knowledge of the fundamental basics of financial literacy. Board members expressed their support of the important opportunity for all students.

Chairman Lee asked that this information be forwarded to the Globally Competitive Students Committee with the instruction that the Chair consider how this skill set survey might be integrated into the proposal brought to the Board for action.

## **STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **"Listening Tour"**

In her Superintendent's Report, Dr. Atkinson shared that in March focus group meetings were held in ten schools in six school districts. The objective of the focus group meetings was to hear recommendations from teachers about formulating the next generation of the North Carolina accountability system as specified in the SBE Strategic Plan. The schools visited represent high-priority, high-performing, elementary, middle, high, charter, and alternative schools. The following schools districts were visited: Durham, Guilford, Harnett, Lee, Orange, and Vance.

### **Professional Learning Communities**

Superintendent Atkinson reported that staff members are working to implement a framework for school improvement through professional learning communities. At this time, Dr. Stephen Greene, Senior Professional Development Coordinator, highlighted a proposal to move forward with professional learning community opportunities for professional development. Dr. Greene briefly highlighted the components of the proposal describing current and proposed activities for 2007-08 and asked the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Professionals Committee to partner to expand these efforts throughout North Carolina.

### **LEARN NC**

Superintendent Atkinson requested that LEARN NC share with the Board the partnership results for meeting professional development needs for North Carolina educators. Ms. Melissa Thibault, Executive

Director, LEARN NC, used a PowerPoint presentation to speak about the collaborative effort to deliver a more efficient and broad-reaching online professional development program in North Carolina. Activities include an extensive statewide online professional development effort, course development, and train-the-trainer workshops.

### **Pandemic Flu Preparation**

According to Dr. Atkinson, six NCDPI staff members have participated in training, planning, and other state and federal level pandemic flu preparation. Ms. Priscilla Maynor and Dr. Ben Matthews provided a brief update about the Department's ongoing efforts as it relates to this issue. By June 1, 2007, the NCDPI Continuity of Operations Plan will be revised to incorporate the pandemic flu plans. Mr. Wayne McDevitt asked that there be a continuous update provided to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Systems Committee regarding this effort.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Appalachia Regional Comprehensive Center Advisory Board Meeting, April 17-18, Hilton Hotel, Virginia Beach
- Council of Chief State School Officers Legislative Policy Forum, April 21-25, L'Enfant Hotel, Washington, DC
- North Carolina Teacher of the Year Reception and Dinner, May 1, The Embassy Suites, Cary
- Northeast Education Summit, May 4, Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City

### **Turnaround Schools Update**

High School Turnaround Team Consolidated Assistance Consultant Shayne Goodrum provided a progress update on the turnaround effort. Goodrum discussed professional development needs for high priority high schools broken down by administrators versus teachers. Administrator professional development needs revolve around ensuring quality instruction, developing a vision of a 21st century high school, leading and implementing change and learning to develop others as leaders. Teachers need professional development in instruction and working in a professional learning community.

She reported that the Cohort 1 principals are graduating from the Principals' Executive Program, initial evaluations and planning for professional development and support is underway for Cohort 2, and Cohort 3 is in the midst of baseline assessments being conducted by the Leadership Group for the Carolinas. Professional development in March consisted of Civics and Economics and professional learning communities. In April, workshops are scheduled for biology and geometry.

Superintendent Atkinson recommended that the Board consider referring the Turnaround Schools update to a standing committee for more in-depth conversations and not as a stand-alone report to the full Board. The Chairman concurred that this will allow the committee to examine issues more closely.

### **NC WISE Update**

Superintendent Atkinson summarized that most major project health indicators were positive and the successful deployment of WAVE 2 is completed.

Superintendent Atkinson also recommended that this report could be provided to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Systems Committee rather than to the Board as a whole. There were no objections.

### **Personnel Actions**

Superintendent Atkinson requested that the State Board approve the personnel recommendations presented in closed session on Wednesday, April 4, 2007.

*Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board unanimously approved the personnel recommendation presented on Wednesday, April 4, in the Personnel Report in closed session and is available now to the public.*

### **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***

##### **GCS 1 – Amendments to SBE/APA Policies Following Public Notice**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute #115C-12(9)c4; SBE Policy # HSP-C-021; APA #16 NCAC 6G.0312

The Board is requested to approve the amendments as presented.

*Upon motion by Mr. John Tate, and seconded by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amendments to SBE/APA policies with the changes following public notice as presented. (See Attachment GCS 1)*

##### ***ACTION***

##### **GCS 2 – 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

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

*Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2007 Invitation to Submit Textbooks for Evaluation and Adoption in North Carolina for the curriculum as presented (See Attachment GCS 2)*

***ACTION***

**GCS 3 – Middle Grades Education and High School Graduation Requirements**

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

State Board members are requested to approve the recommended amendment to HSP-N-004.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- After a brief discussion, this recommendation was remanded back to the Globally Competitive Students' Committee for further vetting and clarification.
- There was no objection by Board members to delay action on this item.

***ACTION***

**GCS 4 – Reading Literacy Strategic Plan**

**Policy Implications:**

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Reading Literacy Strategic Plan.

*Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Mr. Edgar Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Reading Literacy Strategic Plan. (See Attachment GCS 4)*

*Dr. Jane Norwood moved that the Board go into the State Board of Career and Technical Education to vote on the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 Transition Plan. Treasurer Richard Moore seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to convene as the State Board of Career and Technical Education.*

***ACTION***

**GCS 5 – Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 Transition Plan**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute #115C-154

The State Board of Education is requested to approve the Career and Technical Education Transition Plan at the April Board meeting.

**Discussion/Comments:**

Ms. Taft clarified that the recommendation includes the removal of the Career Prep course of study to align with the State Board of Education's courses of study on pg. 25.

*Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Career and Technical Education Transition Plan and to remove the Career Prep course of study to align with the State Board of Education's courses of study. (See Attachment GCS 5)*

*Ms. Kathy Taft moved that the Board adjourn the State Board of Career and Technical Education and reconvene as the State Board of Education. Ms. Patricia Willoughby seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to convene as the State Board of Education.*

***ACTION***

**GCS 6 – Changes to the 2005-06 ABCs/AYP Report**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute #115C-105.20 (Article 8B), 115C-105.35

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

*Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve the changes to the 2005-06 ABCs/AYP Report. (See Attachment GCS 6)*

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

***ACTION***

**TCP 1 – Final Decision in Contested Case – Charlie Richardson vs. DPI, Licensure Section**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute #150B-36

The State Board is requested to adopt the final decision presented by the Office of the Attorney General.

Dr. Michelle Howard-Vital read the following statement. “On the instructions of counsel, I request that only those members who were present for the review and deliberation Wednesday, April 4, should vote on this item.”

*Upon motion by Dr. Michelle Howard-Vital, and seconded by Ms. Shirley Harris, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the decision of the administrative law judge without modification and deny Mr. Charlie Richardson’s request to reinstate his teaching license. The following Board members were ineligible to vote due to their absence during the deliberations on April 4: Mr. Edgar Murphy and Treasurer Richard Moore. (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.

*Upon motion by Dr. Michelle Howard-Vital, and seconded by Treasurer Richard Moore, the Board voted unanimously to approve the actions for each request as discussed in closed session. (See Attachment TCP 2)*

***ACTION ON FIRST READING***

**TCP 3 – Educational Interpreters and Transliterators Extension of Employment**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy #QP-C-001

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve a final one-year extension for interpreters and transliterators to pass the required test.

*Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Ms. Kathy Taft, the Board voted unanimously to approve a final one-year extension for interpreters and transliterators to pass the required test. (See Attachment TCP 3)*

***ACTION ON FIRST READING***

**TCP 4 – Testing Waiver Request for Teachers Participating in the Visiting Teacher Program**

**Sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Education**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy #QP-A-001

It is recommended that the State Board of Education waive the ACTFL proficiency testing requirements for teachers placed in NC through the Spanish Ministry of Education for the 2007-08 school year

*Upon motion by Dr. Michelle Howard-Vital, and seconded by Ms. Shirley Harris, the Board voted unanimously to waive the ACTFL proficiency testing requirements for teachers placed in North Carolina through the Spanish Ministry of Education for the 2007-08 school year. (See Attachment TCP 4)*

**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 Waiver Requests**

**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 Edgecombe County Schools and Randolph 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 Dr. Michelle Howard-Vital, the Board voted unanimously to approve the waivers pertaining to the class size exception waivers submitted by Edgecombe County Schools and Randolph County Schools. (See Attachment TCS 1)*

***ACTION ON FIRST READING***

**TCS 2 – Approval of Federal Grants:**

- Allotment of Federal Implementation Funds for Year I and II Charter Schools
- NCLB Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant Awards
- Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant Cohort IV
- Fruit and Vegetable Program Awarded to NCDPI through USDA
- Reading First Grant

**Policy Implications:**

The attached grants are being submitted for State Board approval.

*Upon motion by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the grants as submitted. (See Attachment TCS 2)*

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Leadership Committee Report**

Mr. John Tate stated that the superintendents' standards would be vetted through a solid sampling of superintendents as well as Board members to ensure that the final report would have a solid level of input across the state when it is brought to the Board for approval this summer.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Professional Development Clearinghouse**

Ms. Shirley Harris reported briefly that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Professional Committee is interested in developing a professional development clearinghouse to better serve the needs of the state. A brief discussion ensued.

**Beijing Science Competition**

Ms. Patricia Willoughby reported on her recent visit to China with a group of students who exhibited their graduation/science projects in the Beijing Science Competition. She described the Super Bowl-like atmosphere of the competition and would like science to generate that same kind of excitement in the United States.

**NC Business Committee**

Ms. Willoughby then thanked Board members for attending the Business Committee's regional meetings held recently to participate in ongoing conversations between educators, policy-makers, and business people. She reported that a white paper would be distributed shortly.

In addition, Ms. Willoughby invited Board members to the Annual Meeting of the Business Committee on Thursday, April 12, at Lowes Motor Speedway. Chairman Lee will facilitate a panel from the motor sports industry who will talk about the important connections with education.

**Teacher of the Year Gala**

Teacher Advisor Diana Beasley reminded Board members that Teacher-of-the-Year Gala will be held on May 1.

**ON-GOING BUSINESS**

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

Mr. Buxton reported that the Department was in the process of transforming the Future-Ready Students Plan into a plan with detailed measurable objectives and targets that the Board can use to assess the work plan to carry out their goals. He anticipates bringing the plan to the Board at its May meeting in addition to a performance plan for the deputy's role as well as a performance plan for this agency around the Board's core business.

Mr. Tate announced that he would not be present at the May meeting for the presentation and would allow Mr. Buxton to determine whether to proceed at the May meeting or delay the presentation until June.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Chairman Lee asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon motion by Dr. Jane Norwood, and seconded by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the April 4-5, 2007, meeting of the State Board of Education in honor and best wishes for Ms. Rita Joyner's upcoming marriage.*