

**Minutes of the
North Carolina State Board of Education
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
April 2-3, 2008**

Education Building, Raleigh	Wednesday, April 2, 2008	Board Room, 1:15 PM
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The North Carolina State Board of Education met and the following members were present:

Howard N. Lee, Chairman	Tom Speed
Wayne McDevitt, Vice Chair	John Tate
Melissa Bartlett	Eulada Watt
Shirley Harris	Patricia Willoughby
Kevin Howell	

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent	Sue Stone, Local Board Member Advisor
Diana Beasley, Teacher Advisor	Danielle Alston, Senior Student Advisor
James Bell, Teacher Advisor	Brandon Young, Junior Student Advisor
Shirley Prince, 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 committee structures and the meeting process to the audience. Chairman Lee stated that this month the Board will attend the luncheon for the announcement of the new Wachovia Principal of the Year on Thursday.

The Chairman noted that Board Member Kathy Taft would not be present today due to work commitments, but will be present on Thursday. In addition, Ms. Deshera Mack, SBE Principal Advisor, would be absent from the meeting this month.

At this time, the Chairman spoke about the recent passing of former SBE Executive Director, Dr. Weaver Bickett Rogers. Dr. Rogers led the Board Office from 1989 until his retirement in 1998. He later worked part-time serving the NC Community Colleges System. Chairman Lee spoke of Dr. Roger's intellect, kindness, and understanding of the role of the State Board of Education which he served so well. Chairman Lee announced to the audience that this month's meeting is convened in Dr. Roger's honor and will adjourn in his memory on Thursday. In addition, Board staff will present a proposal in the future for a memorial to reside in the Board suite. Superintendent Atkinson and Board Member Tate briefly shared comments about Dr. Roger's character and work with the State Board.

Chairman Lee welcomed Student Advisor Brandon Young back from his recent travels to Beijing, China. Mr. Young was chosen through the North Carolina International Science Challenge (NCISC) which is a

yearly science competition offered by the Grassroots Science Museums Collaborative that chooses several excellent inquiry-based science projects. The student creators display their projects at the Beijing Youth Science Creation Competition (BYSCC) held in March each year. The students chosen through the NCISC process are the sole representatives of the United States of America. The BYSCC features students from many countries; this event is an unparalleled opportunity for students to interact with future scientists from around the globe. Mr. Young conducted his scientific research at NC State University. He spoke briefly about the excitement of collaborating with students from 11 different countries and the opportunity to see a wide range of science exhibits.

Recognizing the value and importance of the Teacher Working Conditions (TWC) Survey initiative, Chairman Lee passed around several posters featuring the first drawing for prizes for Board members and the audience to see. Superintendent Atkinson announced that, as of this morning, approximately 62,000 teachers had completed the survey. Board members were asked to promote the survey in their districts with a goal of 100 percent participation.

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. At this time, Board Member Kevin Howell recused himself from discussion and voting on TCS 1. No other 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.

Chairman Lee then called on the priority chairs to present items in their respective areas for *Information*.

INFORMATION AGENDA

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

INFORMATION

GCS 7 – Operating Procedures for the Enrollment of High School Students in Community College Courses

Policy Implications: N/A

Presenter(s): Dr. Delores A. Parker (Vice President for Academic and Student Services, North Carolina Community College System)

Description:

This is the culmination of an initiative that began in 2003 when the community colleges and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction began work on developing a manual that described resources and opportunities for high school students who wanted to enroll in community college courses. The revised manual is presented for your information.

Recommendations:

N/A

Discussion/Comments:

- Following a historical overview, Dr. Parker asked the Board to consider this item for information only. She explained that later this month the State Board of Community Colleges will be asked to approve the draft, effective for the 2009-10 school year.
- Mr. Antonio Jordan provided a summary of the major revisions to the procedures manual which was last revised in 2003. The revisions are intended to be more inclusive of the different partnerships with DPI such as Learn and Earn and the early college high schools as well as other future initiatives with regard to partnerships with high schools.
- Chairman Lee asked about the distribution of the manual to students. Mr. Jordan explained that the manual is essentially for guidance counselors and administrators; however, access to the manual will be made available to students. The manual is scheduled to be posted online for public access. Superintendent Atkinson also noted that the Department could publicize the availability of the online manual through our Communications Office.

This item was presented for information only. (See Attachment GCS 7)

21ST CENTURY PROFESSIONALS
(Ms. Shirley Harris and Ms. Eulada Watt, Co-Chairs)

INFORMATION

TCP 5 – Licensure Update

Policy Implications:

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Associate Superintendent, Financial and Business Services) and Mrs. Susan Ruiz (Section Chief, Licensure).

Description:

Our goal is to carry the Licensure Section of DPI into the 21st century through better and more efficient utilization of people, processes and technology. Following an assessment period of the current status of the Licensure Section and study of suggestions from the State Board of Education, a new reorganization plan is to be implemented which will greatly streamline communication between stakeholders and Licensure staff. Licenses will be processed more quickly, and unnecessary, procedural steps will be eliminated. Existing resources will be reallocated to create a customer-oriented specialist team, while maintaining the essential subject matter expertise to fulfill and resolve complex issues. Internal processes leading to “self service” will be automated, and a “one-call, one answer” system will be put in place.

Recommendations:

N/A

Discussion/Comments:

- At this time, Mr. Price introduced the new Section Chief of Licensure Ms. Susan Ruiz.
- Ms. Ruiz spoke briefly about her first 30 days’ assessment of the current processes, technology and the staff in Licensure. She shared her vision to improve the perception of Licensure in the field, and to explore options to streamline communications between stakeholders and Licensure staff including improved technology, process efficiency and policy simplification.
- Ms. Ruiz presented the Licensure staff to the Board for recognition. Each staff member received an SBE mug from the Board.

This item was presented for information only. (See Attachment TCP5)

**COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS ON ACTION ON FIRST READING
AND DISCUSSION AGENDA**

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

ACTION ON FIRST READING

**GCS 4 – Changes to North Carolina’s NCLB Consolidated State Application Accountability
Workbook**

Policy Implications: SBE Policy #EEO-I-005; No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act

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

Description:

On February 15, 2008, Superintendent Atkinson and Deputy Superintendent Buxton responded to the US Department of Education (USED) letter to State Superintendents, which laid out the structure for States to propose amendments to their Accountability Workbooks. A copy of the letter is attached which contains the amendments under consideration. North Carolina anticipates receiving another letter (or other form of communication) from the USED outlining the changes the State Board of Education could make to the State’s Accountability Workbook. The SBE will be sent a copy of the Workbook with the appropriate changes highlighted prior to the next SBE meeting. It is critical that the amended Workbook be submitted to the USED as soon as possible for their final review and approval so that the LEAs can be informed of the rules for calculating AYP prior to their data submissions scheduled for June 30, 2008.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve the revisions to the North Carolina Accountability Workbook.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Vice Chair Patricia Willoughby announced that GCS 4 will not be presented for action this month because, to date, an official response has not been received from the U.S. Department of Education.

DISCUSSION

GCS 5 – Academically or Intellectually Gifted Program Revision Update

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-150.5-8, Article 9B

Presenter(s): Dr. Robert L. Logan (Associate Superintendent for Innovation and School Transformation), Ms. Mary N. Watson (Director, Exceptional Children Division), and Dr. Elissa Brown (Consultant, Academically or Intellectually Gifted)

Description:

An action plan with proposed timeline and strategies to address necessary changes to be made in the Academically/Intellectually Gifted program will be presented to the State Board of Education for

discussion and input. The action plan is in response to a recent audit by the Office of the State Auditor and addresses the relevant findings. Auditor's findings were in the areas of program development, program monitoring/evaluation, AIG funding, and parent satisfaction. DPI personnel will seek input from a variety of stakeholder groups such as state advocacy groups, institutions of higher education, administrators of gifted programs, parents, teachers and state school board members.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education review and discuss the proposed action plan and timeline and provide input.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Vice Chair Patricia Willoughby announced that the GCS Committee requested that this item be brought back for discussion in May for further vetting. The committee is currently evaluating the various components of the report.
- Chairman Lee stated that those who wish to provide input should consider attending the committee meeting.
- There was no additional discussion.

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

DISCUSSION

GCS 6 – Approval of Supplemental Education Services Providers for 2008-09

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

Presenter(s): Mr. Robert L. Logan (Associate Superintendent, Office of Innovation and School Transformation) and Dr. Lynn Warren (Director, Student Support Services)

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 2008-2009 school year will be the seventh year that schools must provide services. This item also includes a list of applicants not recommended for approval.

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is requested to discuss 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 6)

NEW BUSINESS REPORTS

GCS Committee Vice Chair Willoughby noted several reports received by the GCS Committee on Tuesday. The reports included presentations about

- Update on Graduation Project (Effective for every student who entered the ninth grade in the 2006-07 school year.)
- Update on HSP-M-001- Course for Credit Policy
- Dropout Issues
- Alternative Math Courses for Select Non-Future-Ready Core Students

Due to the abundance of ongoing activity for new policy and requirement considerations by the GCS Committee, Ms. Willoughby stated that the committee is requesting that their monthly agenda include a portion about rollout and dissemination of any new policies and requirements in the future.

21ST CENTURY PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT (Ms. Shirley Harris and Ms. Eulada Watt, Co-Chairs)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCP 3 – 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 (Senior Policy Analyst, SBE Office)

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 was taken during closed session on Thursday, April 2. (See Attachment TCP 3)

DISCUSSION

TCP 4 – Approval/Adoption of the School Executive: Principal Evaluation Instrument

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCP-C-006; Session Law 2005-179 and Sections 7.28 and 7.29 of the 2005 Budget Bill

Presenter(s): Dr. Kathy Sullivan (Senior Policy Analyst, Office of the State Board of Education) and Dr. Jean Williams (Vice President of Research and Evaluation, McREL [Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning])

Description:

In December 2006, the State Board of Education adopted new standards for the evaluation of school executives: principals. Following adoption of the new standards, the Department of Public Instruction contracted with McREL to develop and validate a new evaluation instrument. A new instrument has been developed, piloted, and validated. The new instrument is presented for discussion this month and will be presented for approval next month.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve the proposed new evaluation instrument for School Executives: Principals.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Co-Chair Shirley Harris stated that it was important to note that Dr. Williams met earlier today with LEA superintendents who were invited to participate in a focus group session to discuss the new School Executive (Principal) Evaluation Instrument.
- Dr. Williams reported that the first big issue of discussion with the superintendents was about changing the definitions for the ratings and how that would impact the decision about whether a principal is below standard, and what would trigger an action plan. The second issue concerned the plan for professional development and specifically the training scheduling.
- Ms. Harris noted the individual changes included in the attachment for Board members. She also noted that Dr. Williams met with Special Deputy Attorney General Tom Ziko since some of the suggested changes came from the Attorney General's Office. In addition, Ms. Harris noted that Dr. Williams supplied a list of recommended policies that the Board would need to implement to support implementation of the new evaluation instrument. She further reported that the TCP Committee asked Mr. Ziko and DPI staff to examine the policies and provide recommendations for changes, if necessary, for committee discussion next month.
- In addition to student drop-out data and in the spirit of the Board's focus on the graduation rate, State Superintendent Atkinson suggested inclusion of the graduation rate on pg. 9 under "Suggested Artifacts for Standard 2."
- In closing, Ms. Harris noted that the Teacher Working Conditions Survey website is www.ncteachingconditions.org. The TWC survey drawing winners will be included on the website. Ms. Willoughby added that the winners will also be published on the NC Business Committee for Education's website at www.ncbce.org.
- After a brief discussion about efforts currently underway to encourage participation in the Teacher Working Conditions survey. Board members were asked to contact their districts directly to encourage LEA participation.

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

NEW BUSINESS REPORTS

TCP Committee Co-Chair Shirley Harris noted that the Committee received a report about Highly Qualified Teachers and the Equitable Distribution of Teachers. The committee will discuss this item again in May.

**TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SYSTEMS
BUSINESS/FINANCE AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT
(Mr. Kevin Howell, Chair, and Mr. John Tate, Vice-Chair)**

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCS 1 – Approval of Grants

Policy Implications: Grants

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Associate Superintendent, Financial and Business Services), Mr. Robert Logan (Associate Superintendent, Innovation and School Transformation), Dr. Wandra Polk (Director, K-12 Curriculum and Instructional Services) Ms. Everly Broadway (Section Chief, K-12 Mathematics), Ms. Jackie Colbert (State Director, Reading First), and Dr. Lynn Warren (Director, Student Support Services 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 – Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant Cohort V
- Attachment 2 – 2007-2008 Reading First Grant Allocations
- Attachment 3 – Title I Distinguished Schools’ Recognition

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve these grants.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCS Committee Chair Kevin Howell recused himself from discussion regarding the Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant Cohort V.
- Mr. Price provided a brief overview of the grant recommendations.
- There was no additional discussion.

Action on this item will be taken at the regular business session of the SBE meeting on Thursday, April 3. (See Attachment TCS 1)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCS 2 – Individual Class Size Exceptions Waiver Requests

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-301

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Associate Superintendent, Financial and Business Services), Mr. Paul LeSieur (Director, School Business Division), and Mrs. Alexis Schauss (Assistant Director, 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. There may be additional waivers submitted for the April SBE meeting. If there are class size waivers reviewed after the submission of this report but prior to the April Board meeting, they will be provided to the State Board as a late item.

Recommendations:

The Department recommends that the State Board of Education approve the attached waiver pertaining to the class size exception request submitted by Alexander County, the Department will then notify the LEA(s) of the action taken by the State Board of Education.

Discussion/Comments:

- Chairman Lee noted that Mr. Ziko is rewriting TCS 2; therefore, discussion about this item would be delayed until Thursday prior to the vote.

Action on this item will be taken at the regular business session of the SBE meeting on Thursday, April 3. (See Attachment TCS 2)

UPDATE ON CONTRACTS

(See Attachment in book)

- There was no discussion.

NEW BUSINESS REPORTS

Under New Business, TCS Committee Vice Chair Tate provided a brief overview about the following new business items:

- Communications Update
- Legislative Update
- Pilot Program of Alternative Teacher Salary Plans
- Improving Teacher Quality in the DSSF Pilot Districts: A Comparison of Progress from 2004-05 to 2005-06-January 2008.
- North Carolina High School Resource Allocation Study – Final Report, February 2008.

Mr. Tate suggested that Board members read the NC High School Resource Allocation Study Executive Summary and the Comparison of Progress for Improving Teacher Quality in the DSSF Pilot Districts. It is the Committee's consensus that these items be brought back for further vetting, according to Mr. Tate.

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

ACTION ON FIRST READING

LFI 2 – Program Approval 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): Mr. Robert L. Logan (Associate Superintendent, Innovation and School Transformation) and Ms. Tabitha Grossman (Director, Learn and Earn Early College High Schools)

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 and a copy of the enabling legislation.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the SBE approve the recommendations of the staff regarding the exemptions under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act.

Discussion/Comments:

- With regard to Madison County Early College High School (Learn and Earn), LFI Committee Co-Chair Melissa Bartlett noted the Committee's unanimous recommendation for approval with a caveat on several requests regarding the language, particularly for courses that are being created and/or blended that they undergo a DPI review process.
- There was no additional discussion.

Action on this item will be taken at the regular business session of the SBE meeting on Thursday, April 3. (See Attachment LFI 2)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

LFI 3 – The Cooperative Innovative High School Program Act -Calendar Waivers for Educational Purposes

Policy Implications: Senate Bill (656)

Presenter(s): Mr. Robert L. Logan (Associate Superintendent, Innovation and School Transformation) and Ms. Tabitha Grossman (Director, Learn and Earn, North Carolina New Schools Project)

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 its February 2008 meeting.

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is requested to review and approve the following calendar waivers for educational purposes recommendations.

Discussion/Comments:

- After a brief review of the waiver requests, LFI Committee Co-Chair Melissa Bartlett noted the Committee's unanimous recommendation to approve all of the requests as submitted.
- There was no additional discussion.

Action on this item will be taken at the regular business session of the SBE meeting on Thursday, April 3. (See Attachment LFI 3)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

LFI 4 – School-Based Calendar Waivers for Educational Purposes

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-84.2

Presenter(s): Mr. Robert L. Logan (Associate Superintendent, Innovation and School Transformation)

Description:

Calendar Waivers for Educational Purposes are being presented to the State Board for approval. School-based calendar waiver requests are submitted for State Board Action per GS 115C-84.2. This statute states that the State Board may waive the opening and closing dates specified in the School Calendar Law for educational purposes that may include

- a specific school to accommodate a special program offered generally to the student body of that school,
- a school that primarily serves a special population of students, or
- a defined program within a school.

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is requested to review and approve the following calendar waivers for educational purposes recommendations.

Discussion/Comments:

- LFI Committee Co-Chair Tom Speed referred Board members to the revised attachments located in their binders and provided a brief review of the requests. He noted the Committee's recommendation to approve all of the school calendar waivers as submitted.
- There was no additional discussion.

Action on this item will be taken at the regular business session of the SBE meeting on Thursday, April 3. (See Attachment LFI 4)

DISCUSSION

LFI 5 – Transfer of Charter for Exploris

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-238-29D(d)

Presenter(s): Mr. Robert L. Logan (Associate Superintendent, Innovation and School Transformation) and Mr. Jack Moyer (Director, Office of Charter Schools)

Description:

In July 2007, Exploris Museum merged with Playspace Children’s Museum to create Marbles Kids Museum. The mission and target age group of the new museum are different from the original Exploris concept. The target audience of the museum shifted from middle school children to elementary and preschool children. As a result of the museum’s shift in focus, the board of directors of Marbles Kids Museum is no longer the appropriate governing body for Exploris Middle School. To create an environment in which Exploris Middle School will continue to excel, the museum board elected to transfer the Exploris Middle School charter to a new 501(c)3 organization that will be governed by a board of directors solely dedicated to the mission of Exploris Middle School.

As stated in G.S. §115C-238.29D(d), “A material revision of the provision of a charter application shall be made only upon the approval of the State Board of Education.” Transfer of these charters is considered a material revision to the charters and as such required the approval of the SBE.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the charter transfer of Exploris Middle School.

Discussion/Comments:

- LFI Committee Co-Chair Tom Speed provided a brief overview of the merger between the Exploris Museum with Playspace Children’s Museum. He further explained the legal requirements as it relates to the transfer of charter schools which are considered a material revision as stated in G.S. § 115C-238.29D(d) requiring State Board action.
- There was no additional discussion.

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

NEW BUSINESS REPORTS

Committee Co-Chair Bartlett spoke briefly about the reports received by the committee this month. The reports included presentations about

- NC Virtual Public School/Learn and Earn Online Director’s Report – Professional Learning and Communications Update
- Comprehensive Support – Turnaround Update
- HSP-M-001 - Course for Credit Update

At this time, SBE Vice Chair Wayne McDevitt distributed a copy of a resolution in support of global education to Board members asking them to review the resolution prior to Thursday’s meeting. The resolution will serve as a model to work with other countries from around the world. Mr. McDevitt stated that he would ask for the Board’s approval of the resolution on Thursday.

Related to this issue, Chairman Lee noted that conversations are occurring regarding a delegation visiting China in November. More information will be forthcoming.

CLOSED SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wayne McDevitt moved that the Board go into closed session to consult with the attorneys on attorney client privilege matters and to consider the handling of the case of Townsend vs. State; SBE Final Decisions for Cancino, Layton, Taylor, Rayne, Huckaby, Hesse, Wydo, Miller, and Putnam; and Motions for Extension of Time for Hancock, Fox, Corporation for Effective Schools d/b/a Kestrel Heights, and Radford. The motion was seconded by Mr. John Tate, and the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session.

Mr. John Tate moved that the Board adjourn the closed session and return to open session. Ms. Shirley Harris seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to go into open session.

Following closed session and upon motion by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to recess the State Board meeting until 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 3, 2008.

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

Howard N. Lee, Chairman	Tom Speed
Wayne McDevitt, Vice Chair	Kathy Taft
Melissa Bartlett	John Tate
Shirley Harris	Eulada Watt
Kevin Howell	Patricia Willoughby

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent	Shirley Prince, Superintendent Advisor
Diana Beasley, Teacher Advisor	Sue Stone, Local Board Member Advisor
James Bell, Teacher 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 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. The Chairman encouraged anyone interested in providing input about specific agenda items to attend the Committee meetings.

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. Board Member Kevin Howell recused himself from discussion and voting on TCS 1. No other 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.

Following the ethics statement reading, the Chairman reminded the Board and audience that the Board, meeting as a committee of the whole, convened on Wednesday afternoon and will adjourn today in memory of Dr. Weaver Bickett Rogers, former Executive Director who passed away on March 23.

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

The invocation followed and was presented by Mr. Kevin Howell.

MINUTES

Chairman Lee asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5-6, 2008, Board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. John Tate and seconded by Ms. Kathy Taft. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the March 2008, meeting as presented.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- **State Employees Credit Union for Participation in the Personal Financial Literacy Program**
 - Ms. Leigh Brady, Senior Vice President

Chairman Lee recognized the State Employees Credit Union for its assistance in helping the Board and the Department of Public Instruction with implementation of the financial literacy curriculum. He noted that the credit union helped provide six regional workshops using the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) High School Financial Planning Program. Credit Union Senior Vice President Ms. Leigh Brady co-presented in these workshops with DPI Social Studies Section Chief Ms. Tracey Greggs to help build teacher capacity for Civics and Economics teachers. Topics ranged from online banking to saving, investing, budgeting, and identity theft. The workshops also assisted teachers in learning how to use the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) High School Financial Planning Program online pre- and post survey to measure students' understanding of Personal Financial Literacy.

Ms. Greggs noted that April has been recognized nationally and declared by Governor Easley as Financial Literacy Month. She extended a hearty thank you to the following collaborative partners: State Employees Credit Union (SECU), civics and economics teachers across the state, the State Treasurer's Office, and the national financial literacy experts. Ms. Greggs invited Board members to visit DPI's new Personal Financial Literacy website at www.ncpublicschools.org/pfl to observe components of this very vital initiative. In closing, she introduced Ms. Sandra Jones from the SECU for comments on behalf of Ms. Brady who could not attend due to scheduling conflicts.

Ms. Jones extended appreciation for the recognition noting that it was a great privilege to partner with the Department of Public Instruction and the State Treasurer's Office in an effort to help with the Personal Financial Literacy Program initiative. The State Board presented mugs to the SECU guests. In addition, State Superintendent Atkinson presented a plaque of appreciation, and Board members joined the guests for a picture.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- Project K-Nect
 - Mr. Shawn Gross, Project Director

Mr. Peter Asmar reminded Board members that approximately one year ago, North Carolina was awarded a \$1 million Qualcomm Grant. Project K-Nect is a pilot education program using Smartphones with advanced mobile technologies to deliver educational material to disadvantaged students specifically to improve math proficiency levels in the state.

After providing a historical overview of the project, Mr. Gross was pleased to provide specifics about Project K-Nect's partners, its technology, and a summary of the interim results collected from a research and evaluation perspective. In addition, he explained that in February, the following schools were selected to pilot the project: Dixon High School and Southwest High School in Onslow County, Southern High School in Durham County, and Carver High School in Forsyth County. The project will run through June 2008 and be followed up with an extensive research study examining the viability of utilizing Smartphones to increase student achievement in mathematics. Mr. Gross also spoke about the safeguards in place to assure that students are able to communicate only with the authorized users and that they observe acceptable use policies. Mr. Gross noted that initial observations include higher student engagement and motivation levels as well as increased parental support and involvement.

Mr. Gross stated that the world is watching North Carolina. He is receiving inquiries from around the globe about the project and its ability to enable students from an instructional perspective. In closing, Mr. Gross spoke about the sustainability of Project K-Nect specifically as it relates to the project funding. Funding for the project runs out in June. He provided the Board with a report of his recent efforts to identify resources through grant applications citing that there is a need for additional commitment from North Carolina in order to move forward. Mr. Gross indicated that while Qualcomm is interested in providing cash resources to North Carolina, they want to know that North Carolina is deeply committed to the project as well. As a result, they are willing to make a 100 percent match of any funds that the state or LEAs are willing to commit toward continuity and sustainability of the project.

Board Member Kathy Taft clarified that LEAs may choose to spend their textbook money on innovative technology.

Superintendent Atkinson reported that she was privileged to be at Project K-Nect's kickoff in Onslow County. She stated that if the enthusiasm she witnessed was any indication of how well this project will go, it will go far. There are valuable implications for our millennial generation, according to Superintendent Atkinson.

Board Members asked Mr. Gross to provide a follow-up report at the end of the pilot period in June. The results will help Board members with future funding decisions.

In appreciation for his work, Mr. Gross was presented with an SBE mug and was photographed with the Board.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

In his remarks, Chairman Lee provided several reminders about upcoming events. He noted that the Board will be attending the Wachovia Principal of the Year luncheon today at 12:30, Capital City Club, for the announcement of the new Wachovia Principal of the Year. He thanked Wachovia for its long running support of public education.

The Chairman reminded Board members that on April 29, the Teacher of the Year banquet will be held at the Brier Creek Country Club. This exciting event honors the state's finest classroom teachers who have competed locally and regionally, culminating with the announcement of the new Teacher of the Year. At this time, Chairman Lee announced that AT & T is the new sponsor and thanked the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association (NCADA) for its past and very long-time participation as the sponsor.

On Thursday, May 1, the SBE is co-sponsoring with the Friday Institute, the "Summit on US/China K-12 Education: Global Collaborations and Partnerships." Although the event begins at 9:00 a.m., the Board will join the group at lunch. At this event, participants will learn why US/China collaborations are important for creating a globally educated citizenry and workforce. The Board will welcome guests from Jiangsu Province in China during the May meeting, and they will join us for the luncheon. Chairman Lee stated that Mr. McDevitt will have a detailed report about the visit under the New Business reports.

Looking ahead a bit, the Chairman reminded the Board that Senior Student Advisor Ms. Danielle Alston's last meeting will be in May. As a tribute to the student advisors, May is declared as student month, and the Board will convene in honor of all North Carolina's students. Ms. Alston and Mr. Young have been invited to make a presentation to the Board. In addition, the Board has invited other North Carolina outstanding students for recognition during the May meeting.

During their last official State Board of Education meeting in June, the Board will recognize the following advisors for their work and commitment to the State Board: Ms. Diana Beasley, Teacher of the Year Advisor, Ms. Deshera Mack, Principal Advisor, and Dr. Shirley Prince, Superintendent Advisor.

Chairman Lee also reminded Board members that the July meeting will be a conference call meeting, as has been the practice for the last few years.

In conclusion, Chairman Lee publicly thanked Ms. Loretta Peace-Bunch, Administrative Assistant, for her hard work and commitment to the Board as she has carried the water for two positions during the vacancy of the position formerly held by Mr. Donald Kerns.

Vice Chairman's Remarks

Vice Chair Wayne McDevitt spoke briefly about the work occurring to support the Chinese Education partnership. The Board is working on a draft Memorandum of Understanding that will be signed by the Jiangsu Province and DPI. Mr. McDevitt spoke about the importance of supporting global education and presented the following resolution for the Board's consideration:

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION A Resolution in Support of Global Education

Whereas, the North Carolina State Board of Education guiding mission is that every public school student will graduate from high school, globally competitive for work and postsecondary education and prepared for life in the 21st Century; and

Whereas, the North Carolina State Board of Education goal recognizes that students need languages and cultures studies; and

Whereas, the North Carolina State Board of Education goal recognizes that students need interaction with international communication and technology; and

Whereas, the North Carolina State Board of Education goal recognizes that students need preparation for collaboration in a constantly changing international environment; and

Whereas, the North Carolina State Board of Education recognizes the importance of developing strong student character, personal responsibility, and community/world involvement; and

Whereas, the North Carolina State Board of Education goal states that every education professional will receive preparation and professional development in the interconnectedness of the world; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the North Carolina State Board of Education applauds the ongoing efforts of local school boards along with the external state partners to develop global education policies and opportunities for students, educators and policy makers, thereby discovering innovative transformational strategies that will facilitate change, 21st Century learning, and understanding of global connections; and encourages all local school boards to adopt a global education perspective and practice within their districts.

Education Building, Raleigh	Thursday, April 3, 2008	Board Room, 1:30 PM
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Howard N. Lee
Chairman, North Carolina State Board of Education

June St. Clair Atkinson
State Superintendent, NC Department of
Public Instruction

April 3, 2008
Date

Upon motion by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution in support of global education.

In closing, Mr. McDevitt stated that the Board working group addressing the Blue Ribbon Testing Commission recommendations met recently and that they expect to submit a comprehensive review of the report with recommendations for Board members' consideration at the May State Board meeting.

Executive Director's Report

SBE Executive Director Rebecca Garland provided a brief report on legislative activity and noted that within the next few weeks she will arrange a meeting between Mr. Howell, Mr. Buxton, and Mr. McDevitt to talk about the non-budget agenda for the legislative session. A conference call meeting will follow to discuss the items prior to the May SBE meeting.

Dr. Garland announced several meetings scheduled for April. The Annual Meeting on High School Reform is scheduled for April 10-11 in Pinehurst. The intent of the meeting is to inform business partners about what is going on with high school reform. Board members interested in attending were asked to notify Ms. Betsy West so that she can make their reservations.

On April 17, the Joint Legislative Technology Commissions will meet at the Friday Institute. The topic is Future-Ready Schools Learning in a Global Community. Participants will visit "virtually" many of the initiatives that are underway with technology across the state. Board members were encouraged to attend.

Dr. Garland noted that she visited Currituck County last week to talk about the Board's goals and priorities, and is scheduled to visit Waynesville and the Northwest RESA. In addition, she attended the NASBE Legislative Conference in D.C. with Ms. Chris Minard, Legislative Liaison. They met with Representatives Price and Coble, and visited in the offices of Senators Burr, Dole, and Foxx to talk about the Board's position on No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Dr. Garland reported that the NASBE study group on middle schools has morphed into the Early Secondary Study Group. The reason for this change is due to funding. Gates is funding the study.

In closing, Dr. Garland recognized Ms. Betsy West for her work with the China initiative and the North Carolina Prevention Partners resolution.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Education Leaders Institute

In her report, Superintendent Atkinson reported that North Carolina was part of the first round of states to participate in the Education Leaders Institute that was held on March 11-13 in Wheaton, Illinois. State teams convened to discuss arts education challenges such as assessment, curriculum development, and access to arts education. North Carolina team members were: June Atkinson, State Superintendent; Kathy Taft, State Board of Education Member; Christie Lynch, NCDPI Arts Education Consultant; Representative Becky Carney, NC Legislature; Karen Wells, Executive Director of Arts NC, and Linda Bamford; Director of Arts Education for the NC Arts Council. The institute was sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Distinguished Schools Recognition

Superintendent Atkinson reported that the National Title I Distinguished Schools award program is a project of the National Association of State Title I Directors, to honor Title I schools that have, through innovative approaches as identified by each state, improved student achievement. The two North Carolina schools recognized for outstanding achievement this year are Longview Elementary School, Hickory City Schools, and Morehead City Primary School, Carteret County Schools.

Longview Elementary School was recognized in the category of "Closing the Achievement Gap." The school received an award of \$7,500. The following staff members were presented with SBE mugs and were photographed with the State Board members: Mr. John Black, Principal; Mr. Peter Rothenberger, School Improvement Team Chairperson; Ms. Teresa Oakley, Title 1 Teacher and member of the School Improvement Team; Ms. Shannon Sprinkle, Teacher Assistant and member of the School Improvement Team; and Ms. Febbie Chisolm, P.E. Teacher and member of the School Improvement Team.

Morehead City Primary School was recognized for Exceptional Student Performance. The school received an award of \$7,500. The following staff members were presented with SBE mugs and were photographed with the State Board members: Mr. Brad Sneed, Superintendent; Ms. Jeanne Huntley, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Renne Newman, Principal; Ms. Libba Shelton, Teacher and Chairman Leadership Team; and Ms. Barbie Smith, Title I Teacher and Chairman Math Team.

Superintendents' Quarterly Meeting

The Superintendents' Quarterly Meeting was held on March 12 in conjunction with the NCASA Conference in Greensboro. A majority of the meeting focused on using the Principals' Standards and Evaluation Instrument. Other agenda items included:

- AP Course Update
- Comprehensive Support to Districts and Schools: DPI's Decision-Making Process
- Course Codes
- NC Virtual Public School Update

Recent Activities of the State Superintendent

- Presented remarks or keynote address at the:
 - NC American Indian Women's Leadership Conference
 - NC Association of Educational Office Professionals' State Conference
 - NC Association of School Administrators' Annual Conference
 - NC Association of Education State Convention
 - National SAS Global Forum Executive Conference
 - Fayetteville State University Doctoral Student Update
 - SW RESA Superintendents' Council

- Gaston Chamber of Commerce Public Education Forum
- Scientific Achievement Reception
- Wilson County 4-H Livestock Banquet
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund Celebration
- Ready Schools Radio Program, Charlotte, Asheville, and Morehead City
- June K. Campbell’s Women in Leadership Conference
- Raising Achievement and Closing Gap Superintendents’ Forum and Annual Conference
- Visited two schools:
 - Ida Rankin Elementary School
 - Mt. Holly Middle School
- Participated in the Women’s Forum of North Carolina

Personnel Actions

Superintendent Atkinson recommended that the State Board approve Ms. Angela Quick as the new Deputy Chief Academic Officer discussed in closed session on Wednesday, April 3, 2008.

Upon motion by Mr. John Tate, and seconded by Mr. Tom Speed, the Board voted unanimously to approve Ms. Angela Quick as the new Deputy Chief Academic Officer as presented on Wednesday, April 2, in the Personnel Report in closed session and now available to the public.

With the Board’s approval, Dr. Atkinson announced that Ms. Quick would join the Department on June 1. She is currently serving as the principal of Watauga High School.

At this time, Superintendent Atkinson indicated that she had one final item to report; however, the information is embargoed until 10:00 a.m. and would need to report out after such time.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS ON ACTION, ACTION ON FIRST READING,
AND DISCUSSION AGENDA**

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

Upon motion by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted to adjourn the State Board of Education meeting and unanimously agreed to operate in the official capacity of the State Board of Career and Technical Education.

ACTION

GCS 1 – Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 Five-Year State Plan

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-154; Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006, Public Law 109-270

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is asked to approve the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 Five-Year State Plan as submitted.

Discussion/Comments:

- Ms. Willoughby encouraged Board Members to review this item on an annual basis to assure that the plan follows the high school reform plan.

Upon motion by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, and seconded by Mr. Kevin Howell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 Five-Year State Plan. (See Attachment GCS 1)

Upon motion by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the State Board of Career and Technical Education and to reconvene the State Board of Education.

ACTION

GCS 2 – 2008 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

Recommendations:

The Department requests that the Board approve the *2008 Invitation to Submit Textbooks for Evaluation and Adoption in North Carolina* for the curriculum as presented.

Discussion/Comments:

- Board Member Kathy Taft reported that she continues to receive questions from teachers, principals, and administrators about textbook expenditures. It is timely that the State Board clarifies that LEAs should promote 21st century skills.

Upon motion by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, and seconded by Ms. Kathy Taft, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2008 Invitation to Submit Textbooks for Evaluation and Adoption in North Carolina for the curriculum as presented. (See Attachment GCS 2)

ACTION

GCS 3 – Changes to Policy Delineating the Components of the ABCs Accountability Program Including Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 2007-08 School Year

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # HSP-C-020; NCLB Act of 2001

Recommendations:

It is recommended the board approve the changes to the HSP-C-020 policy for the 2007-08 school year.

Discussion/Comments:

- Deputy Superintendent Buxton clarified the recommended changes to HSP-C-020 which support the Board's commitment to raise standards. This action keeps the scores in the performance composite, for one year only takes them out of the growth calculation, but in no way reduces the increase in standards previously approved by the Board.
- Ms. Willoughby noted consensus by the GCS Committee to grant approval.

Upon motion by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve the changes to the HSP-C-020 policy for the 2007-08 school year. (See Attachment GCS 3)

21ST CENTURY PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT
(Ms. Shirley Harris and Ms. Eulada Watt, Co-Chairs)

ACTION

TCP 1 – Standards for School Executive Preparation Programs

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCP-B-002; Session Law 2007-517

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve the proposed standards for School Executive preparation programs.

Upon motion by Ms. Eulada Watt, and seconded by Ms. Shirley Harris, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed standards for the School Executive Preparation Program. (See Attachment TCP 1)

ACTION

TCP 2 – Addition of Elementary Level (Grades K-6) Licensure Areas in Reading, English-As-A-Second Language, Special Education; General Curriculum, and Special Education: Adapted Curriculum

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCP-A-001

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve the addition of licensure areas in Elementary Reading (K-6), Elementary English as a Second Language [ESL] (K-6), Elementary (K-6) Special Education: General Curriculum, and Elementary (K-6) Special Education: Adapted Curriculum.

Upon motion by Ms. Eulada Watt, and seconded by Ms. Shirley Harris, the Board voted unanimously to approve the addition of licensure areas in Elementary Reading (K-6), Elementary English as a Second Language [ESL] (K-6), Elementary (K-6) Special Education: General Curriculum, and Elementary (K-6) Special Education: Adapted Curriculum. (See Attachment TCP 2)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCP 3 – Recommendations from the Advisory Board on Requests for Exception from Teacher Licensing Requirements

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCP-A-021

Recommendations:

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

Action on this item was taken in closed session on Wednesday, April 2.

Legal Matters from Closed Session:

Based on discussion with attorneys in closed session about petitions filed in the Office of Administrative Hearings the following actions were taken:

Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to notify Cancino, Layton and Taylor that the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) decision has been adopted pursuant to section 150B-44 of the Administrative Procedures Act. (See Attachment TCP 3)

Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the ALJ's decisions in Wydo and Putnam as the State Board of Education's final decision. (See Attachment TCP 3)

Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Mr. Tom Speed, the Board voted unanimously to grant Extensions of Time until May 1, 2008, for good cause shown to issue a final decision in the Hancock, Fox, Corporation for Effective Schooling doing business as Kestrel Heights and Radford cases. (See Attachment TCP 3)

Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Ms. Eulada Watt, the Board voted unanimously to grant Extensions of Time until June 6, 2008, for good cause shown to issue a final decision in the Rayne, Huckaby, Hesse and Miller cases. (See Attachment TCP 3)

**TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SYSTEMS
BUSINESS/FINANCE AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT
(Mr. Kevin Howell, Chair, and Mr. John Tate, Vice-Chair)**

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCS 1 – Approval of Grants

Policy Implications: Grants

- Attachment 1 – Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant Cohort V
- Attachment 2 – 2007-2008 Reading First Grant Allocations
- Attachment 3 – Title I Distinguished Schools' Recognition

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve these grants.

Discussion/Comments:

- Mr. Kevin Howell recused himself from discussion and voting on this item.

Upon motion by Mr. John Tate, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted to approve the grants as submitted. Mr. Kevin Howell recused himself from the vote. (See Attachment TCS 1)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCS 2 – Individual Class Size Exceptions Waiver Requests

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-301

Recommendations:

The Department recommends that the State Board of Education approve the attached waiver pertaining to the class-size exception request submitted by Alexander County, the Department will then notify the LEA(s) of the action taken by the State Board of Education.

Upon motion by Mr. John Tate, and seconded by Mr. Tom Speed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the waiver pertaining to the class size exception request submitted by Alexander County, the Department will then notify the LEA(s) of the action taken by the State Board of Education. (See Attachment TCS 2)

LEADERSHIP FOR INNOVATION COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

(Ms. Melissa Bartlett and Mr. Tom Speed, Co-Chairs)

ACTION

LFI 1 – Revision of SBE Policy, EEO-U-006, Policy for Charter Schools on Financial and Governance Non-Compliance

Policy Implications: SBE Policy #EEO-U-006

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the SBE approve the amendment to SBE Policy EEO-U-006.

Discussion/Comments:

- LFI Committee Chair Melissa Bartlett shared historical information about G.S. § 115C-238-.29(G) which sets the flexibility of certified teachers for charter schools. In the past, at the end of the year, if charter schools were out of compliance with that law, our only recourse as the State Board was to revoke the charter. Prior to this policy revision, there was no process to work with the charter to help grow the cadre of certified teachers to help charter schools comply with the statute.

Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amendment to SBE Policy EEO-U-006. (See Attachment LFI 1)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

LFI 2 – Program Approval Exemption Requests Under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act

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

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the SBE approve the recommendations of the staff regarding the exemptions under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act.

Upon motion by Mr. Tom Speed, and seconded by Ms. Eulada Watt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the staff regarding the exceptions under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act. (See Attachment LFI 2)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

LFI 3 – The Cooperative Innovative High School Program Act -Calendar Waivers for Educational Purposes

Policy Implications: Senate Bill (656)

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is requested to review and approve the following calendar waivers for educational purposes recommendations.

Upon motion by Mr. Tom Speed, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve the recommendations for calendar waivers for educational purposes. (See Attachment LFI 3)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

LFI 4 – School-Based Calendar Waivers for Educational Purposes

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-84.2

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is requested to review and approve the following calendar waivers for educational purposes recommendations.

Discussion/Comments:

- LFI Co-Chair Tom Speed reminded Board members of the revised material including Alamance-Burlington Middle College substituted for Cummings High School.

Upon motion by Mr. Tom Speed, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve the recommendations for calendar waivers for educational purposes. (See Revised Attachment LFI 4)

National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) in Eighth Grade Writing Results

State Superintendent reported that at 10:00 a.m. today the 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results in Eighth Grade Writing were released by the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is often referred to as “The Nation’s Report Card” because it is the only common assessment used by all states. The results of the 8th grade writing assessment show that 87 percent of North Carolina’s students performed at the basic level or better on the 2007 NAEP. At the same time, students’ writing scores decreased when compared with results from 2002, the last time the national test was given. The results represent the third time that NAEP has measured writing. In 1998 and 2002, fourth and eighth graders were tested. In 2007, NAEP tested only eighth graders. One point of concern for all of us is that NC students who performed at the higher percentiles, did not maintain their performance levels. Students at the 75th or 90th percentile lost ground. Students taking the NAEP writing assessment are given two

25-minute writing tasks, and students' essays are evaluated as first drafts in recognition of the short timeframe involved. A sample of students in each participating state takes the assessment. Because it is given to a sample of students, district or school-level results are not available, with the exception of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools participated in the NAEP Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA), which in 2007 included 11 major urban school districts in the nation. For this reason, Charlotte-Mecklenburg is the only North Carolina school district for which there is a district average NAEP score. Charlotte-Mecklenburg, with a scale score of 155, outperformed all of the TUDA districts and performed statistically the same as the nation and as North Carolina. Charlotte-Mecklenburg did not participate in the 2002 TUDA, so there is not a comparison score. In addition to Charlotte, TUDA districts include Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, District of Columbia, Houston, Los Angeles, New York and San Diego. According to Superintendent Atkinson, this report tells us that we need to look at our students with the highest percentiles to determine how we can continue to make sure that our students have the 21st century skills of creative, informational, and critical writing.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the results. Mr. Tate requested that staff bring suggestions to the Board on how to help increase the NAEP scores. In addition, Teacher Advisor James Bell suggested that teachers need a better understanding of the NAEP assessments. In summary, Superintendent Atkinson recognized the importance of writing as a communication tool in the 21st century. Work with the literacy coaches and the use of technology as a tool for this millennial generation are all important ways to move forward. In addition, it is important for the Department to continue to work to support LEAs in the development of quality formative assessment that will inform the teachers and the students.

OLD BUSINESS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Patricia Willoughby extended an invitation to Board members to join the 25th Annual Meeting of the Business Committee for Education on May 15.

DEPUTY STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Deputy State Superintendent J.B. Buxton reported to the Board that Learn and Earn Online is providing students with additional flexibility by allowing courses to be taken any time during the week without the requirement of a facilitator being present, although that is strongly encouraged as best practice. He also mentioned that the Department's cross-functional councils have been established and that Ms. Carolyn Guthrie is the Interim Director for the Early Childhood/Early Education Council; Dr. Elissa Brown is the Director for the Middle/Secondary Education Council, and Mr. Rob Hines is the Director for the LEA Council. These councils will ensure broad cross-functional development of initiatives and accountability during program rollout.

In closing, Mr. Buxton stated that four additional districts and as many as 18 additional schools will be added to the Comprehensive Support Model in the 2008-09 school year. The districts are Bertie, Halifax, Hertford and Richmond. Currently, Lexington City Schools and Columbus County Schools are piloting the Comprehensive Support Model.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Howard Lee recognized Vice Chairman Wayne McDevitt for a motion to adjourn. Upon motion by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, Board members indicated their approval of the motion by standing in silence to unanimously adjourn the April 2-3, 2008, meeting of the State Board of Education in memory of Dr. Weaver Bickett Rogers, former SBE Executive Director.