

**Minutes of the
North Carolina State Board of Education
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
November 6, 2008**

Education Building, Raleigh	Thursday, November 6, 2008	Board Room, 8:30 AM
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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	Kathy Taft
Melissa Bartlett	John Tate
Shirley Harris	Eulada Watt
Kevin Howell	Patricia Willoughby

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent	James Bell, Teacher Advisor
Shirley Prince, Superintendent Advisor	Cindi Rigsbee, Teacher Advisor
Debra Morris, Principal Advisor	Sue Stone, Local Board Member Advisor

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION

Chairman Lee called the Thursday session of the November State Board of Education meeting to order and declared the Board in official session. Chairman Lee expressed sentiments on being able to witness this week's historic election outcome. He congratulated Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue elected as North Carolina's next governor and the first woman to hold that position. In addition, he congratulated incumbent State Superintendent June Atkinson for her victory and wished her continued success in her role as State Superintendent.

Chairman Lee announced that today his two roles are conflicting and it is necessary for him to engage in a hearing for the N.C. Utilities Commission. Therefore, Chairman Lee stated that Vice Chairman Wayne McDevitt will preside over today's State Board of Education meeting. Prior to departing, Chairman Lee spoke about a brilliant educator's life cut short in former Deputy State Superintendent Brad Sneed who recently passed away. He concluded his remarks stating that those allowed the privilege of living have a purpose to continue to do everything to lift up the spirits of people, serve the needs of children, and pave the way for those to follow. He expressed sincere condolences and suggested that this meeting be convened in honor of Mr. Brad Sneed.

At this time, Chairman Lee relinquished the gavel to Vice Chairman McDevitt.

Vice Chairman McDevitt provided a brief overview of the committee structure and explained to the audience and Board members that today's agenda includes discussion and voting on the Board's action items.

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Vice Chairman McDevitt 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 Vice 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 Vice Chair. It would then be their duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

Vice Chairman McDevitt recognized Ms. Shirley Harris to lead the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

MINUTES

Vice Chairman McDevitt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October, 2008, Board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. John Tate and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the October 1-2, 2008, meeting as presented.

Vice Chairman McDevitt recognized local education agency superintendents Ms. Sue Nations, Jackson County Schools, and Mr. Dan Brigman, Macon County Schools, who were present in the audience.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- **National Bronze Level Recognition from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation**
- **McIver Elementary School; Mr. Allen Sledge, Principal (Halifax County Schools)**
 - **Pittman Elementary School; Ms. Bettie Archibald, Principal (Halifax County Schools)**
 - **Scotland Neck Primary School; Ms. Bonnie Johnson, Principal (Halifax County Schools)**

Ms. Paula Collins described the national award stating that the American Heart Association and the Clinton Foundation have joined together to form the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. She noted that only 43 schools across the nation were recognized for developing a healthier school environment. Mrs. Collins announced that three of those 43 schools are from North Carolina and all are from Halifax County. In addition, she recognized Halifax County Schools Superintendent Gerry Middleton, Program Coordinator Dr. Elise Frederick, and Counselor Mr. James Hunter. At this time, Mrs. Collins presented each of the schools to the Board for recognition. Superintendent Atkinson, Vice Chairman Wayne McDevitt, and Board members presented each school with a congratulatory plaque from the State Board of Education for earning this national recognition awarded by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation for promoting physical activity and healthy eating among students and staff. Representatives from each school received an SBE mug and had their pictures made.

Ms. Middleton commended Dr. Elise Frederick for her commitment to the program, and shared examples about the impact that the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's program has had on her school system. In addition, Ms. Middleton conveyed her student advisory council's excitement and positive opinions of the program. Ms. Middleton and Dr. Frederick also received SBE mugs and had their pictures made.

- National “America’s Best” Bus Inspector for 2007
 - Mr. Danny Reed, Beaufort County Schools Transportation Department
- National “America’s Best” Bus Inspector for 2008
 - Mr. Tim Speer, Yadkin County Schools Transportation Department

Vice Chairman McDevitt noted that for the past five years, the National Association for Pupil Transportation has sponsored a contest to encourage on-going training and development of the nation’s school bus transportation technicians and inspectors. He explained that, in this contest, participants must take a written test and inspect three school buses that have been rigged with mechanical and safety problems.

Mr. Reed and Mr. Speer were invited forward to receive their plaques in honor of their recognition as “America’s Best” Bus Inspectors for 2007 and 2008 respectively. Each of the gentlemen received an SBE mug and had their pictures made. The transportation directors from each of the school systems were asked to stand in recognition of their ongoing commitment to school bus safety.

Vice Chairman Wayne McDevitt then called on Ms. Kathy Taft to present items for information from the Globally Competitive Students committee.

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

INFORMATION

GCS 7 – Report on LEA Status for Title III Improvement

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # HSP-A-012; No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer/Assistant State Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction, Technology and Accountability Services), Dr. Louis M. Fabrizio (Director of Accountability Policy & Communications), and Mrs. Helga Fasciano (Section Chief, K-12 Program Areas)

Description:

As a part of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), LEAs receiving Title III funds must meet a series of Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs). The three objectives are:

- 1) the percent of students who demonstrate progress (improve at least one proficiency level) in at least one of the subtests (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) on the required state identified English language proficiency test,
- 2) the percent of students identified as limited English proficient and who have been in U.S. school(s) for at least five years shall score at the Superior proficiency level in all subtests on the required state identified English language proficiency test, and
- 3) the percent of students in the LEP subgroup meeting its AYP targets.

LEAs that do not meet their AMAO targets in the same set two years in a row will be required to develop a detailed improvement plan as required by NCLB. Information regarding 2007-08 Title III LEA subgrantee status will be available prior to the November 6 State Board meeting.

Recommendations:

This item is presented for information only at the November 2008 SBE meeting.

Discussion/Comments:

- Dr. Fabrizio noted additional information for Board members located in their notebooks for this item.
- He reminded Board members that Title III is a program that deals specifically with LEP students, is a part of NCLB, yet different from Title I which identifies annual measurable objectives (AMOs) while in Title III annual measurable “achievement” objectives (AMAOs) are identified.
- In 2007-08, approximately \$12 million was allocated for this program. Ninety-six LEAs and one charter school were funded, including two consortia.
- Another distinction of Title III is that when the analyses are completed, accountability is only at the district level, not the school level. In May 2008, The Secretary of Education published, via the *Federal Register*, proposed interpretations of several provisions of Title III of the ESEA regarding
 - 1) the annual administration of English language proficiency (ELP) assessments to limited English proficient (LEP students served by Title III
 - 2) the establishment and implementation of annual measurable achievement objectives (AMAOs) for States and subgrantees receiving Title III funds, and
 - 3) State and local implementation of Title III accountability provisions.
- NCLB requires LEAs to meet the following AMAOs under Title III:
 - 1) Progress – students identified as LEP must make progress on the state identified English language proficiency assessment.
 - 2) Proficiency – students identified as LEP who have been in U.S. schools for at least five years shall score at the Superior proficiency level on all four subtests of the English language proficiency assessment.
 - 3) AYP for the LEP subgroup – The LEP subgroup must meet AYP sub-targets in reading grades 3-8, reading at the high school, mathematics grades 3-8, and mathematics at the high school.

Dr. Fabrizio noted that new editions of reading tests 3-8 were introduced in 2007-08. Achievement levels were increased by the State Board of Education and AYP targets were reset. He referenced the additional attachment documenting the LEAs not meeting at least one AMAO for two, three and four consecutive years.
- In June 2008, NC DPI Accountability and Title III staff provided a response to the notice of interpretations to the U.S. Department of Education after participation in national, WIDA consortium and internal discussions, according to Dr. Fabrizio.
- In October 2008, notice was published in *Federal Register* with the Secretary’s final interpretation for each of the ten proposed interpretations. These final interpretations are effective November 17, 2008.
- Dr. Fabrizio reported that the new final regulations will impact how the Department has been calculating AMAOs. AMAO calculations will need to be redefined and the outcome could very well be that more LEAs will be in Improvement Status. In conclusion, Dr. Fabrizio explained that amendments to the SBE policy for the new AMAO calculations will be brought to the State Board of Education in late spring.
- Board member Kathy Taft asked about funding. Dr. Fabrizio stated that as far as he and Ms. Helga Fasciano knew, funding is expected to continue and the level of funding will not change.
- There was no additional discussion.

VICE CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

On behalf of Chairman Lee and fellow Board members, Vice Chairman McDevitt conveyed congratulations to Superintendent Atkinson for her recent induction into the East Carolina University Educators Hall of Fame. Dr. Atkinson was also featured as the keynote speaker at the event on October 18 in Greenville.

The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) conference was a success. Two Board members and three staff members attended. Mr. McDevitt thanked Board member Tate for securing a donation of NASCAR door

panels donated by Hendrick MotorSports which were successfully bid on for a total of \$900. This money will go into a fund that honors Dr. Weaver Rogers, former SBE Executive Director, to fund NASBE study groups.

Vice Chairman McDevitt noted that any report regarding education-related legislative activity will be forwarded to Board members by email this month.

Vice Chairman McDevitt reported that he attended a four-day education summit held in Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, with the U.S. Army and a number of education leaders from around the nation. The summit provided an opportunity for state board members from around the nation to share, understand, and learn better how to partner with the military. Mr. McDevitt noted that attending this event for him was a great personal experience. He shared his learning from the summit, including the U.S. Army's commitment to core values at every level and commitment to leadership, loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. Describing the parallel connection between education and the U.S. Army's policy of never leaving anyone behind because lives are at stake, Mr. McDevitt noted a culture of intervention, induction, life-long learning, and willingness to adapt and to change.

In closing, Vice Chairman McDevitt stated that he asked Dr. Kathy Sullivan to bring to the Board an updated No Child Left Behind response to bring to the state's delegation when they are sworn into office in January. North Carolina's response was made last year, and there are some issues that need to be added to make our response current.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

In opening remarks, Dr. Atkinson expressed commitment to the Board's mission, educators across the state and DPI staff over the next four years.

Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

On October 14, Superintendent Atkinson appeared before the Joint Legislative Education Committee to talk about initiatives to improve the graduation rate. The presentation included:

- State data by school and by district
- Graduation Awareness Week Proclamation by Governor Easley
- "Call to Action" signing ceremony
- Student pledge
- Recognition of schools and districts with high graduation rates
 - 100% graduation rate
 - Top ten school districts
 - Top two schools by 4-year cohort sizes
- Strategies for improving the graduation rate

Superintendents' Quarterly Meeting

On October 21, the Superintendents' Quarterly meeting focused on technology. District technology directors also participated in the meeting. Agenda items included:

- Keynote address by Dr. Jim Goodnight, Chief Executive Officer, SAS
- Remarks by Dr. Hope Williams, President, Independent Colleges and Universities
- Update from Dr. Bryan Setser, Executive Director, NC Virtual Public School
- School district technology initiatives
 - Smartphones and algebra, Onslow County
 - 1:1 small technology devices, Camden and Beaufort Counties
 - PDAs use in math and literacy, New Hanover County
- Moodle and the state writing assessment
- Input about retesting

Recent Activities of the State Superintendent

- Presented remarks or keynote address at the:
 - Milken Award Presentation to Brian Holley, Corinth-Holder Elementary, Johnston County
 - East Carolina University Hall of Fame
 - Renaissance Learning's Educators Symposium on Accelerated Learning
 - Eastern Regional National Board Summit
 - Edgecombe County NCAE Meeting
 - PEP Survival School Graduation
 - American Indian Leadership Institute
 - Lee County Schools Bosses' Day Celebration
 - Professional Construction Estimators Awards Program
 - NC Child Nutrition Conference
 - NC Association of Alternative Education Annual Meeting
- Visited schools
 - New Hanover Schools
 - Ledford Middle, Davidson County
 - Sumner Elementary, Guilford County
- Participated in
 - NCAE State Leadership Team Breakfast
 - NC New Schools Project Press Conference
 - Childhood Obesity Pilot Programs Meeting
 - Superintendents' Monthly Update Conference Call
 - Principals' Retesting Conference Call

Personnel Actions

Superintendent Atkinson recommended that the State Board approve the personnel recommendation of Ms. Faye Agar as the Director of the New Schools Project presented in closed session on Wednesday, November 5, 2008.

Upon motion by Mr. John Tate, and seconded by Mr. Tom Speed, the Board unanimously approved the personnel recommendation presented on Wednesday, November 5, in the Personnel Report in closed session and available now to the public.

DEPUTY STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Deputy State Superintendent J.B. Buxton provided a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the Department's progress on the *Framework for Change* effort.

The Department has begun the Essential Standards (ES) revisions process for Math, Science, English 10 and Computer Skills (using Revised Bloom's Taxonomy.)

- Underway:
 - ES writing teams leads assigned and objectives written
 - Professional development with Dr. Lorin Anderson scheduled for December 1
 - Communication plan being designed
 - Conference calls with partnership states

The Department has begun development of formative assessment professional development modules/online learning community.

- Underway:

- Modules 1-5 being designed
- Online delivery platform in development
- Researching hosting/housing of professional development

The Department has begun work on the RFP for the development of a centralized benchmarking tool.

- Underway:
 - RFP drafted
 - Key possible contractors being identified

The Department will convene the Technical Advisory Committee to begin accountability research based on recommendations and proposed objectives. According to Mr. Buxton, the Department has yet to convene this group but staff is working to identify the right people for the process. The project is on track in terms of calendar; the Kick-Off is set for mid-November. Mr. Buxton also provided slides detailing the Department's internal overall structure for 2008-09 broken out by essential standards, assessment and accountability, meeting schedules, and key deliverables.

Vice Chairman McDevitt requested monthly reports on the Department's progress as it relates to this initiative.

Drop Out Prevention and Recovery Initiative

Mr. Buxton reported that DPI and the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) have come together on several occasions to investigate the potential of an initiative to serve students who are over-age (16-18 years old) and "off-track/under-credit" for graduation to receive intense services toward achieving a high school diploma, to build on existing efforts in North Carolina and to blend national best-practice models into an effective approach to increase high school graduates ready for the workforce and further education. The national organization, Jobs for the Future, is working (pro bono) with the state to provide research on best practices in other states and recommendations on policy and practice. Next steps include determining target population(s), program options and design, staffing needs, budget implications, communication venues, implementation options and timeline, and presentations to respective State Boards and legislative commission on dropouts.

2008 NC School Innovation Day

In closing, Mr. Buxton reminded Board members that on November 18, the public will have the opportunity to see how public schools are changing in the 21st century. Over 100 of the state's public schools will open their doors to the public and show off their best innovations. For a listing of participating sites, select Innovation Sites on the Department's website. Mr. Buxton encouraged Board members to participate in the tour. Board member John Tate suggested a monthly segment to show innovative technology practices to facilitate learning around the state. Another suggestion came from Superintendent Advisor Shirley Prince for the need to identify resources available on the Web that align with the *NC Standard Course of Study*. State Superintendent Atkinson noted an initiative currently underway in the Department to help local school districts utilize the technology available on the Web; however, she noted the Department's work is not ready for presentation at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

Board member Patricia Willoughby brought attention to the November edition of the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce magazine featuring Chairman Howard Lee on the cover. The entire magazine's focus is on education, and it is a great resource and affirmation that the businesses in North Carolina are very supportive of our education system, according to Ms. Willoughby.

Board member Melissa Bartlett reported that she recently participated on a panel at the NASBE meeting to present what North Carolina is doing to create the *Framework for Change*. In addition, Ms. Bartlett shared that she has been invited to represent North Carolina in a study group conducted by NASBE in 2009 on creating a balanced assessment system.

Vice Chairman McDevitt then called on the priority chairs to present items in their respective areas for *Action and Discussion*.

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

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

ACTION ON FIRST READING
TCP 1 – Approval/Adoption of the Teacher Evaluation Instrument Performance Rating Scale
Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCP-C-006

Presenter(s): Ms. Carolyn McKinney (Executive Director, NC Professional Teaching Standards Commission)

Description:
In July 2008, the State Board of Education adopted the new rubric for teacher evaluation. As part of the evaluation process, a teacher’s performance is rated using a scale of developing, proficient, accomplished, distinguished, or not demonstrated. Definitions for the rating scale were approved by the Board for the school executive evaluation rubric. Parallel definitions are proposed for use with the teacher rubric.

Recommendations:
It is recommended that the Board approve the performance rating definitions.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Co-Chair Shirley Harris explained that the Department has added definitions for use with the teacher rubric; the definitions are parallel to the executive evaluation rubric.
- There was no additional discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Ms. Eulada Watt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the teacher evaluation instrument performance rating definitions. (See Attachment TCP 1)

ACTION ON FIRST READING
TCP 2 – Report on the Effectiveness of Representative Mentor Programs
Policy Implications: Session Law 2007-323 Section 7.17

Presenter(s): Dr. Jesse Dingle (Director, Division of Talent Management and Development)

Description:
Session Law 2007-323 directs the State Board of Education to evaluate the effectiveness of a representative sample of local mentor programs and report on its findings to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight

Committee and the Fiscal Research Division. The report is to include the results of the evaluation and recommendations both for improving mentor programs generally and for an appropriate level of state support for mentor programs. This report satisfies legislative reporting requirements for numbers 9 and 30 in the Chronological Schedule.

Recommendations:

It is requested that the report and the recommendations it contains be approved.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Co-Chair Shirley Harris reported that Dr. Jesse Dingle provided a comprehensive report and facilitated a lengthy discussion for the TCP Committee.
- Ms. Harris reviewed the proposed recommendations:
 - 1) The State Board of Education continue to allow school systems the flexibility to use mentor funds in ways to best support beginning teachers based on the needs of the LEA.
 - 2) Funding be provided for a full-time Beginning Teacher Support Program Coordinator (Initial Licensure Program Coordinator) for each LEA.
 - 3) Funding be provided for a full-time mentoring program at a ratio of one mentor teacher per 15 beginning teachers.
- After receiving clarification about next steps, Board member Kathy Taft suggested that it was appropriate to accept the report rather than approve the report at this time.
- There was no additional discussion.

Ms. Shirley Harris made a motion to approve the Report on the Effectiveness of Representative Mentor Programs and its recommendations. Mr. Tom Speed seconded the motion. Upon clarification about next steps, Ms. Shirley Harris amended the motion to "accept" the report. The Board voted unanimously to accept the Report on the Effectiveness of Representative Mentor Programs and its recommendations. (See Attachment TCP 2)

DISCUSSION

TCP 3 – Proposed Revisions to the Non-Teaching Work Experience and Graduate Pay Policies

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCP-A-006

Presenter(s): Ms. Shirley Harris (Member, State Board of Education) and Dr. Kathy Sullivan (Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the State Board of Education)

Description:

To address concerns related to the non-teaching work experience and graduate pay policies, the TCP Committee convened an ad hoc committee to review the policies. The revisions proposed by the ad hoc committee are designed to simplify and clarify the policies. The proposed revisions would allow one year of experience credit to be awarded for every year of full-time non-teaching work experience, up to ten years, for work requiring a bachelor's degree or equivalent completed after the bachelor's degree was awarded. The proposed revisions would also recognize all graduate degrees earned through regionally accredited institutions. No revisions are proposed to the manner in which non-teaching work experience credit is awarded for teacher assistants or for Class V Career and Technical license areas.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve the proposed changes to the non-teaching work experience and graduate pay approval policies.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Co-Chair Shirley Harris reported that the TCP Committee is still engaged in conversation about the fiscal impact of the revisions for the non-teaching work experience. Included in the policy will be a clear statement that this policy will not be retroactive for non-teaching work experience. She stated that this item will not be presented for action in December as the TCP committee will continue to vet this item for additional clarification.
- Ms. Harris directed Board members to pg. 6 regarding Class V Career and Technical Education. She noted that work is being done to clarify this feature of the policy and noted that questions should be directed to Dr. Kathy Sullivan.
- In addition, according to Ms. Harris, consensus of the TCP Committee is to separate the Graduate Pay feature of this policy as a stand-alone policy which will be presented in December as an action item.
- A brief discussion ensued about leaving out the word “relevant” in the policy.
- There was no additional discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in November and will be presented for additional discussion at the December meeting for action. (See Attachment TCP 3)

DISCUSSION

TCP 4 – Revised Teacher Education Specialty Area Standards

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCP-B-002

Presenter(s): Dr. Kathy Sullivan (Senior Policy Analyst, Office of the State Board of Education)

Description:

In January 2008, the State Board approved a comprehensive revision of the program approval process. In the revised process, the seven-year on-site review cycle will be replaced with an annual review of evidence that candidates recommended for teacher licensure meet the NC Professional Teaching Standards. As part of the standards, candidates are expected to demonstrate appropriate content knowledge. Revised standards, focused on the knowledge and skills essential to the content areas, have been developed for each of the teaching specialty areas.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve the proposed revised specialty area standards.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Co-Chair Shirley Harris encouraged Board members to review carefully the revised Teacher Education Specialty Area Standards prior to the December SBE meeting.
- There was no additional discussion.

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

DISCUSSION

TCP 5 – Proposed Framework for North Carolina Board Certification for Principals

Policy Implications: Session Law 2008-181

Presenter(s): Dr. Kathy Sullivan (Senior Policy Analyst, Office of the State Board of Education)

Description:

Session Law 2008-181 directs the State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, to conduct a study to develop a framework for a North Carolina Board Certification Program for Principals and Assistant Principals. The proposed framework was drafted in collaboration with the stakeholders identified in the legislation. It is the recommendation of the ad hoc committee that rather than develop a separate NC Board Certification, North Carolina should utilize the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards *Advanced Principal Certification*.

Recommendations:

It is requested that the Board approve the report and the recommendations contained it.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Co-Chair Shirley Harris reminded Board members that Session Law 2008-181 directs the SBE, in cooperation with the Board of Governors of the University system, to conduct a study to develop a framework for NC Board Certification for school administrators.
- Ms. Harris announced that the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is beginning a National Boards Certification Program for Administrators. North Carolina will participate as a pilot site for this new certificate at no cost to the state.
- Vice Chairman McDevitt commented that some of the recommendations may require statutory change, and Board member Kathy Taft suggested that the recommendations need to be separated.
- There was no additional discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in November and will be presented at the December meeting for action. (See Attachment TCP 5)

DISCUSSION

TCP 6 – Addition of Middle Grades Literacy Coach as a License Area

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCP-A-001

Presenter(s): Ms. Julia Kron (Executive Director, North Carolina Teacher Academy)

Description:

Individuals employed as middle grades literacy coaches with the state literacy coach funding must complete all training prescribed by the NC Teacher Academy and implement the 21st century literacy model designed by the NC Teacher Academy. To be able to designate on an individual’s license that he/she has completed the required training, a proposal to add *middle grades literacy coach* as a license area in presented.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board approve the addition of the *middle grades literacy coach* licensue area.

Discussion/Comments:

- There was no discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in November and will be presented at the December meeting for action. (See Attachment TCP 6)

DISCUSSION

TCP 7 – Proposed Standards for the Evaluation of School Counselors and School Social Workers

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # QP-C-006

Presenter(s): Ms. Teresa A. Smith (K-12 Student Support Services Consultant) and Dr. Kathy Sullivan (Senior Policy Advisor, SBE Office)

Description:

In June 2007, the State Board of Education approved new standards for the evaluation of teachers. New standards for the evaluation of school counselors and school social workers, aligned with the new teacher standards, have been developed and are presented for discussion this month. When approved by the Board, the new standards will be the basis of new evaluation instruments for school counselors and school social workers which are aligned with the new instruments that have been developed by McREL.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the proposed standards for the evaluation of school counselors and school social workers be approved by the State Board of Education. It is also recommended that the job descriptions be used as professional standards support documents.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Co-Chair Shirley Harris reported that the Department has aligned the school counselor standards with the current and new teacher standards.
- Ms. Harris noted that concern was expressed in the TCP Committee meeting about whether or not school counselors were still doing work as testing coordinators rather than working with students. To address this issue, the Department will conduct a survey with school counselors to gather this information and report its findings to the TCP Committee.
- There was no additional discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in November and will be presented at the December meeting for action. (See Attachment TCP 7)

DISCUSSION

TCP 8 – Annual Report on the Reasons Teachers Leave (Teacher Turnover Report)

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-12(22)

Presenter(s): Mr. Danny Holloman (Lead Consultant, Recruitment and Retention, Division of Talent Management and Development)

Description:

GS §115C-12(22) requires the State Board of Education to monitor and compile an annual report on the decisions of teachers who leave the teaching profession. To this end, LEAs are asked to complete an annual report on the reasons teachers leave their systems. The report for the 2007-08 school year is attached.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve the report.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Co-Chair Shirley Harris noted the correlation between teacher working conditions and the turnover rate. She encouraged Board members to review this report.
- There was no additional discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in November and will be presented at the December meeting for action. (See Attachment TCP 8)

NEW BUSINESS REPORTS

Under New Business, Ms. Shirley Harris noted the following new business items discussed in the TCP Committee meeting:

- Update on the Teacher and School Execution Evaluation Instrument Training
- North Carolina’s Praxis II Testing Requirements
- Licensure Update
- Update on the Regional Alternative Licensure Centers

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

ACTION ON FIRST READING

LFI 1 – School-Based Calendar Waivers for Educational Purposes

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-238.50; 115C-105.26; 115C-84.2

Presenter(s): Mr. Rob Hines (Director, LEA Council)

Description:

School-based calendar waiver requests are submitted for State Board action per G.S. § 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: 1) a specific school to accommodate a special program offered generally to the student body of that school, 2) a school that primarily serves a special population of students, or 3) a defined program within a school. There are six LEAs that have requested waivers.

Recommendations:

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

Discussion/Comments:

- Board member Melissa Bartlett recused herself from discussion and voting on this item.
- LFI Committee Co-Chair Tom Speed directed Board members to a revised list of calendar waivers for educational purposes noting the specific revisions.
- There was no additional discussion.

Upon motion by Mr. Tom Speed, and seconded by Ms. Kathy Taft, the Board voted to approve the school-based calendar waivers for educational purposes as submitted. Ms. Melissa Bartlett recused herself from the vote. (See Attachment LFI 1)

DISCUSSION

LFI 2 – Cooperative Innovative High School Program Waiver

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-238.50; 115C-105.26; 115C-84.2

Presenter(s): Dr. Belinda Black (Chief of Staff, Academic Services and Instructional Support)

Description:

The Cooperative Innovative High School Programs Act allows accelerated learning programs to provide a flexible, customized program of instruction for students who would benefit from accelerated, higher level coursework or early graduation from high school. The Early College at Guilford has requested a waiver to allow its students to meet their physical science graduation requirement by taking college level chemistry or physics without taking an EOC. The students are not receiving high school credit for chemistry or physics, but rather are receiving graduation credit for a physical science course.

Recommendations:

The State Board is requested to review the innovative program waiver.

Discussion/Comments:

- LFI Committee Co-Chair Melissa Bartlett noted that there are two waivers for consideration. She directed Board members to a revised attachment for reference purposes.
- Board members discussed granting an exemption request to the Early College at Guilford that would enable its students to meet their physical science graduation requirement by taking college-level chemistry or physics without taking an end-of-course assessment. The students would not receive high school credit for these courses, only graduation credit for physical science. Board members also discussed granting a waiver to Wayne Early/Middle College High School (Wayne County Schools) that would release students taking the Integrated Math series from taking the Geometry EOC exam. The Geometry EOC is problematic for students in the Integrated Math program because the geometry content is taught throughout the three years of integrated math.
- There was no additional discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in November and will be presented at the December meeting for action. (See Attachment LFI 2)

NEW BUSINESS REPORTS

Under New Business, LFI Committee Co-Chair Melissa Bartlett provided a brief overview about the following new business items discussed in the LFI Committee meeting:

- Blue Ribbon Commission on Charter Schools
- Low Performing Charter School Corrective Action Plan Report
- 1:1 Laptop Update
- Comprehensive Support Update
- Learning Lab Initiative
- NC Virtual Public School/Learn and Earn Online (LEO) Director's Report

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

ACTION**TCS 1 – 2009-11 Biennial Budget Request****Policy Implications:** General Statute § 115C-12(1a)

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Associate Superintendent, Financial and Business Services) and Ms. Becky McConkey (Director, Financial Services Division)

Description:

Expansion budget requests for the 2009-2011 Biennium are due to the Office of State Budget and Management on November 14, 2008. At the November SBE meeting, final discussion of the proposed requests will take place and it will be recommended that the State Board approve the final document. Materials will be provided at the meeting.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the 2009-11 Expansion Budget Request for submission to the Governor by November 14, 2008.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCS Committee Chair Kevin Howell reminded the Board of the current state of the economy and its impact on the budget.
- Mr. Price directed Board members to their materials and highlighted the major items included in the proposal as the 14 top priority items. He explained that the first portion of the proposal examines the priorities of the State Board based on receiving percentages in one percent increments. The maximum request at 5 percent of 2008-09 budget is \$7.8 billion. The second portion of the proposal provides a detailed description of why additional funds are needed for each of the priorities and shows examples of what the Department will present to the Governor and General Assembly related to the priorities.
- Vice Chairman McDevitt noted for context that items not included in the expansion request are ABCs bonuses and salaries which must be considered separately. In addition, fuel will be shifted to the continuation budget and will be submitted separate from the expansion budget.
- Board member Patricia Willoughby suggested inclusion of the evaluation instrument for the Graduation Project in the proposal. Several Board members concurred. A brief discussion ensued.
- There was no additional discussion.

Upon motion by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Mr. Tom Speed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2009-11 Expansion Budget Request for submission to the Governor by November 14, 2008. (See Attachment TCS 1)

ACTION**TCS 2 – Approval of Grant – Reading First Supplemental Funding****Policy Implications:** General Statute § 115C-12(1a)

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Associate Superintendent, Financial and Business Services) and Ms. Jackie Colbert (Director, Reading First)

Description:

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

- Attachment 1 – Reading First Supplemental Funding

Recommendations:

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

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Chair Kevin Howell announced that North Carolina recently received an additional \$1.4 million for Reading First, K-3. He explained that these additional funds came to North Carolina, and other states as a result of an allotment to Puerto Rico which was not expended.
- There was no additional discussion.

Upon motion by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Mr. Tom Speed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Reading First Supplemental grant as presented. (See Attachment TCS 2)

ACTION ON FIRST READING**TCS 3 – Halifax Repayment Schedule**

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

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Associate Superintendent, Financial and Business Services) and Mr. Paul LeSieur, Director, (Division of School Business)

Description:

Halifax County Public Schools is requesting a waiver of \$205,262.70 in penalties incurred on outstanding overspent programs and salary audit exceptions (totaling \$852,256.57) dating back to fiscal year (FY) 2005-06 and the 1% interest to be assessed during the repayment period. Halifax County has agreed to a 5-year repayment plan which will include a 1% interest assessed monthly to the remaining balance of the loan. The Department is willing to enter into such a financial agreement with Halifax County to repay audit exceptions in a manner that would not interrupt the school system's educational program.

Waivers requested by Halifax County:

- ◆ Penalties accrued to date \$205,262.70 (DPI recommends to approve waiver request)
- ◆ 1% interest of monthly loan balance (DPI recommends not to approve waiver request)
- ◆ Repay position allotment exceptions at the lowest salary in that PRC. (DPI recommends not to approve waiver request)

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the SBE approve the waiver of penalties assessed through September 30, 2008, in the amount of \$205,262.70.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCS Committee Chair Howell noted that Halifax County has agreed to a 5-year repayment plan for salary audit exceptions and outstanding overspent programs.
- There was no discussion.

Upon motion by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the waiver of financial penalties assessed through September 30, 2008, in the amount of \$205,262.70. (See Attachment TCS 3)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCS 4 – Requests for Waiver of the Repayment Obligation of the National Board Certification Participation Fee

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-296.2; SBE Policy # QP-F-001

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Associate Superintendent, Financial and Business Services) and Mr. Danny Holloman (Section Chief, NC Center for Recruitment and Retention)

Description:

A teacher for whom the state pays the participation fee for National Board Certification who withdraws from the process or does not teach in a North Carolina public school for at least one year after completing the process is required to repay the participation fee to the state. In compliance with GS §115C-296.2, the State Board of Education established an appeals process through which individuals could request waiver of the repayment obligation. The appeals of 46 teachers who withdrew from the process or did not teach the year following were considered by an appeals panel. Action on First Reading is requested.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve the recommendations of the appeals panel.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCS Committee Chair Howell stated that this issue has been vetted by a number of SBE committees. The appeals panel recommends that thirty-seven waivers be denied, four approved, and five receive extensions of time, as submitted.
- There was no additional discussion.

Upon motion by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Ms. Shirley Harris, the Board voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the appeals panel. (See Attachment TCS 4)

DISCUSSION

TCS 5 – North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) Funding Formula

Policy Implications:

Presenter(s): Dr. Belinda Black (Chief of Staff, Academic Services and Instructional Support)

Description:

The North Carolina General Assembly requires the State Board of Education to develop a funding formula for the North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS). Attached are two documents outlining various possible formulas and a specific description of one option.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education review and provide comments on the proposed funding formula options.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCS Committee Chair Howell noted that, due to time constraints, the TCS Committee was unable to discuss this item. Therefore, TCS 5 will be brought back to the committee in December for discussion.
- There was no discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in November and will be presented for discussion at the December meeting. (See Attachment TCS 5)

DISCUSSION

TCS 6 – Replacement of Compliance Commission Members

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # EEO-B-000

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Associate Superintendent, Financial and Business Services) and Dr. Louis M. Fabrizio (Director of Accountability Policy and Communications)

Description:

The State Board of Education established the Compliance Commission for Accountability in July 1996. This Commission was charged with making recommendations to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and State Board of Education related to ABCs issues. Several members are up for reappointment or replacement because their terms of office will expire on December 31, 2008. Attached is the current list of Commission members. The names and resumes of the proposed new members will be provided at the November meeting, if not earlier.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the recommendations for reappointments and for the new members of the Compliance Commission for Accountability.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCS Committee Chair Howell reported vacancies on the Compliance Commission for Accountability. He asked Board members to suggest individuals for membership prior to the December meeting.
- There was no discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in November and will be presented at the December meeting for action. (See Attachment TCS 6)

UPDATE ON CONTRACTS

(See Attachment in book)

- TCS Committee Chair Kevin Howell encouraged Board members to review the contracts listed for information in the Board book.
- There was no further discussion.

**HEALTHY RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS
(Ms. Kathy Taft, Chair; Ms. Patricia Willoughby, Vice-Chair)**

NEW BUSINESS REPORTS

Under New Business, Ms. Paula Collins, Senior Policy Advisor, provided a brief overview of the following new business items. The purpose is to design and implement pilot programs for the schools to help prevent and reduce child obesity by increasing physical activity and reducing consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages. Other goals include collecting Body Mass Index (BMI) data, organizing a health-focused community service project,

and establishing a school employee wellness program. A summary of the full report is located in the Board member notebooks under HRS New Business.

- Think Tank for Child Obesity Pilot Program
- Task Force on Preventing Childhood Obesity

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

ACTION

GCS 1 – Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C; SBE Policy # HSP-D-000-008, EEO-E-001

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer/Assistant State Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction, Technology & Accountability) and Ms. Mary N. Watson (Director, Exceptional Children Division)

Description:

Policies governing services for children with disabilities will be amended as suggested by the State Board of Education to reflect recent changes to G.S. § 115C- 106.3(3a) and 107.7(b). See the attachment for the changes to the policies.

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is asked to approve the amended policies.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Chair Kathy Taft noted that these policy changes governing services for children with disabilities have sat on the table for public comment for 60 days as required by federal law.
- There was no additional discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended policies governing services for children with disabilities. (See Attachment GCS 1)

ACTION

GCS 2 – Changes to Policy Delineating the Components of the ABCs Accountability Program Including Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 2008-09 School Year

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # HSP-C-020; No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer/Assistant State Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction, Technology and Accountability Services) and Dr. Louis M. Fabrizio (Director of Accountability Policy & Communications)

Description:

SBE policy # HSP-C-020 is being modified to reflect the components of the ABCs Accountability Program including Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2008-09 school year. It includes the elimination of writing in grades 4 & 7, the inclusion of science results in grades 5 & 8 in the performance composite and not including non-exit standards EOC assessments in growth calculations.

Recommendations:

It is recommended the Board approve the changes to the HSP-C-020 policy for the 2008-09 school year.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Chair Kathy Taft directed Board members to pgs. 12-14 which reflect the proposed changes delineating components of the ABCs and AYP.
- There was no additional discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the changes to SBE policy # HSP-C-020 for the 2008-09 school year as recommended. (See Attachment GCS 2)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

GCS 3 – Changes to the 2007-08 ABCs/AYP Results

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-105.20.40 (Article 8B), 115C-105.35

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer/Assistant State Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction, Technology and Accountability Services) and Dr. Louis M. Fabrizio (Director of Accountability Policy & Communications)

Description:

Changes to the 2007-08 ABCs/AYP Report will be presented to the State Board of Education (SBE) for Action on First Reading at the November 2008 meeting.

There may be additional changes to the 2007-08 ABCs/AYP Report if errors are discovered that impact school status.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the changes to the 2007-08 ABCs/AYP Report.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Chair Kathy Taft directed Board members to the additional information provided in the Board books which includes three additional schools with status changes for 2007-08.
- There was no additional discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the recommended changes to the 2007-08 ABCs/AYP Report. (See Attachment GCS 3)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

GCS 4 – The 2007-08 Statewide ABCs/AYP Report

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-105.20.40 (Article 8B)

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer/Assistant State Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction, Technology and Accountability Services) and Dr. Louis M. Fabrizio (Director of Accountability Policy & Communications)

Description:

The 2007-08 statewide ABCs/AYP results are presented for approval. The report, including previously reported High School results, is published electronically at <http://abcs.ncpublicschools.org>. The site reports results for ABCs growth and performance and the AYP status for each individual school. The report includes results for all schools, including Honor Schools of Excellence; Schools of Excellence; Schools of Distinction; Schools Making High Growth; Schools Making Expected Growth; Schools of Progress; Priority Schools and Low-Performing

Schools. PDF and Excel formats are available, and links to Schools Not Included in the ABCs and Schools with Unresolved Data Issues are provided. In addition, lists of Title I and non-Title I schools that did not make AYP for two or more consecutive years in the same subject area are provided. The non-Title I schools are required to amend their school improvement plans while the Title I schools will receive sanctions under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

The complete ABCs Executive Summary, containing an overview of the accountability year and statistical summary of the 2007-08 ABCs and Technical Notes, will be presented on November 6, 2008.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve the ABCs and AYP designations of each school.

Discussion/Comments:

- Dr. Fabrizio directed Board members to their notebooks for additional information for this item. He provided a statistical summary of results noting that this is the 12th year of ABCs Growth and Performance Results reporting.
- Reporting that there are 101 low-performing schools (the list appears on pg. 7 of the material), Dr. Fabrizio reminded the Board that after the first year of the ABCs (1996-97 SY) there were 123 low-performing schools. That number was not inclusive of high schools because high schools were not included in the model at inception. Therefore, 101 schools is not a large number in comparison to the first year, according to Dr. Fabrizio.
- Next, Dr. Fabrizio referred to Table #2 for the final AYP results, noting 31.0 percent of schools statewide made AYP in 2007-08. He reminded Board members that with AYP, if any one subgroup misses any one target, the school does not make AYP. Sixty additional schools must undergo a special review to establish their AYP statuses due to having insufficient data for the calculations. Among the 1,134 Title I schools, 376 schools or 33.2 percent met AYP (this excludes eight Title I Schools without a status at this time).
- Under Table 3, Dr. Fabrizio noted that AYP results are presented by ABCs categories showing the relationship; schools must have received both an ABCs status and AYP status to appear in this table. The results of the 2007-08 ABCs are available online at <http://abcs.ncpublicschools.org>.
- Dr. Fabrizio reminded Board members that there were new test editions, and there were delays in the reading scores to ensure that the tests were scaled appropriately and achievement levels were set appropriately. The report gives in-depth analyses of ABCs Growth and Performance, and definitions of ABCs award designation and recognition categories. In addition, the report includes Statewide AYP Results: Secondary Analyses showing the latest data available. Across all of the schools, 40,516 targets (or hurdles) had to be jumped by schools and eighty-five percent of those hurdles were jumped over successfully by schools across the state. He also pointed out the differences by subgroup in terms of the ability of those subgroups to meet their percentages of targets. Sixty-eight percent of targets in schools that had Students with Disabilities Subgroups were met. Dr. Fabrizio also noted that the table on pg. 12 shows 363 schools in the state only missed one target, and because they missed one target, they did not make AYP. Included in the report is the 2008-09 Title I School Improvement List with sanctions; Dr. Fabrizio explained that NCLB requires that schools that miss any target, not necessarily the same target, in the same subject for two consecutive years enter Improvement Status. Exiting Improvement Status requires meeting all targets in the subject for which Improvement Status was entered for two consecutive years. Five hundred fifty-one Title I schools (or approximately 50 percent) are in School Improvement; 22 schools exited Title I Improvement Status in 2007-08. Dr. Fabrizio reminded Board members that as targets for proficiency increase under NCLB, more schools will enter Improvement Status.
- In closing comments, Dr. Fabrizio noted that the last attachment (#7) provides a statewide performance summary broken out by end-of-grade and end-of-course test results.

- Dr. Rebecca Garland announced that during November, the Department will develop a matrix plan on how to apply and deploy available resources against the needs of those school districts and schools in Improvement Status based on a priority order. She stated that a detailed proposal will be presented to the Board for discussion at its December meeting.
- There was no additional discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the ABCs and AYP designations of each school. (See Attachment GCS 4)

DISCUSSION

GCS 5 – Allowing Retest Results in the Calculation of Performance Composites of the ABCs Policy

Implications: SBE Policy # EEO-I-005, HSP-A-004, HSP-C-005; APA #16 NCAC 6D.0305, 16 NCAC 6D.0504

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer/Assistant State Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction, Technology and Accountability Services) and Dr. Louis M. Fabrizio (Director of Accountability Policy & Communications)

Description:

The State Board of Education (SBE), in its *Framework for Change* report (Immediate Improvement #5), calls for allowing retest results in the calculation of performance composites of the ABCs for Public Education. “Any student who scores at Achievement Level III on a retest of an end-of-grade test (EOG) or end-of-course (EOC) test for grades or courses included in the Student Accountability Standards [SAS] is to be counted as proficient for the school’s ABCs performance composite and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) purposes. *Effective:* 2008-09 school year.” This will necessitate changes in several current SBE policies and practices and amendments to the NC Accountability Workbook upon subsequent approval from the United States Department of Education (USED). Additional information will be available prior to the November 6 State Board Meeting.

Some LEAs have argued that this item should be expanded to allow retesting at all grade levels and for all courses with EOC assessments. The USED has advised DPI that retest scores can be used at all grade levels and for all EOC assessments **IF** the SBE mandates that retesting be required for all grades and EOC courses and not remain as a local option. This ensures that AYP decisions are made equitably across the state. The June 30 deadline for data transmission to DPI might preclude some LEAs from having their second retest scores available. Therefore, to maintain consistency and equity, only the first retest-score will be used for calculations. According to the USED, this will ensure equity across the state in making AYP determinations. Please note that retest scores are not included in growth calculations and do not affect financial incentive awards (bonuses).

The USED also does not allow the use of the Standard Error of Measurement (SEM) and a confidence interval for AYP. Therefore, students who meet the Achievement Level III standard using the SEM for SAS must be retested and score proficient without the SEM for their retest scores to be included in the performance composites and for AYP.

With the anticipation of the new assessments based on Essential Standards and the use of constructed-response (CR) items, the SBE should re-evaluate the issue of retesting because of the extended time needed to score the CR items. This could potentially involve moving the initial testing earlier in the school year.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education discuss options and implications for using retest scores and subsequently approve changes in policies that are affected.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Chair Kathy Taft reported a great deal of discussion surrounding this item as it relates to implications for using retest scores. Ms. Taft stated that the GCS Committee recommends that this item go to the Compliance Commission for Accountability for further vetting. The second recommendation is that the Department gather very specific information from specific groups. In addition, the GCS Committee felt strongly about looking differently at NC's accountability program, the ABCs, and NCLB, a federal program, in terms of retesting and responding to the needs of the LEAs.
- State Superintendent Atkinson announced that her Teacher Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, Nov 7. The agenda includes the retesting issue. Ms. Taft requested a brief synopsis of the meeting discussion surrounding this issue.
- There was no additional discussion.

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

DISCUSSION MOVED TO ACTION ON FIRST READING**GCS 6 – High School Exit Documents**

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

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick, (Deputy Chief Academic Officer/Assistant State Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction, Technology and Accountability Services) and Mrs. Mary N. Watson (Director, Exceptional Children Division)

Description:

This State Board of Education policy will give direction for local educational agencies (LEAs) regarding the awarding of certificates to students who do not meet requirements for a high school diploma.

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is asked to provide input regarding the attached new policy.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Chair Kathy Taft explained that Department staff, under the direction of Ms. Watson, have gathered input from across the state and have made suggested changes. She directed Board members to the revised material located in their notebooks for reference.
- In addition, Ms. Taft shared that the GCS Committee felt strongly that it is important for LEAs to maintain local control for awarding certificates to students who do not meet requirements for a high school diploma.
- Ms. Taft noted consensus by the GCS Committee to move this item to Action on First Reading. There were no objections.

Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Mr. Kevin Howell, the Board voted unanimously to approve this new policy, High School Exit Documents for Selected Students with Disabilities as presented. (See Attachment GCS 6)

Teacher Advisor Ms. Cindi Rigsbee announced that Ms. Freida Baker, a current member of Teacher of the Year team, was recently diagnosed with cancer. She requested everyone to keep Ms. Baker in their thoughts and prayers.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman McDevitt requested a motion to adjourn in memory of Mr. Brad Sneeden and Mr. Jack Tate (Board member John Tate's father). Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Mr. Tom Speed, Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the November 6, 2008, meeting of the State Board of Education and paused for a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Sneeden and Mr. Tate.