

**Minutes of the  
North Carolina State Board of Education  
Education Building  
301 N. Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825  
May 6, 2009**

**Education Building, Raleigh**

**Wednesday, May 6, 2009**

**Board Room, 11:15 AM**

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

William Harrison, Chairman  
Melissa Bartlett  
Ray Durham  
Shirley Harris  
Kevin Howell

Wayne McDevitt, Vice Chair  
Kathy Taft  
John Tate  
Patricia Willoughby

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent  
Debra Morris, Principal Advisor  
James Bell, Teacher Advisor

Cindi Rigsbee, Teacher Advisor  
Shirley Prince, Superintendent Advisor

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION**

Chairman Harrison called the Wednesday session of the May State Board of Education meeting to order and declared the Board in official session. The Chairman made brief comments regarding the agenda and asked for a motion to convene in closed session.

*Upon motion made by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Mr. Kevin Howell, the Board voted unanimously to convene in closed session to consult the Board attorneys on attorney-client privileged matters, and to consider the handling of the following case: Hoke County Board of Education vs. State of North Carolina.*

Following the closed session, the Board reconvened in open session. Indicating no other business, Chairman Harrison requested a motion to adjourn.

*Upon motion made by Mr. Wayne McDevitt and seconded by Mr. John Tate the Board voted unanimously to recess the State Board of Education meeting until 2:45 p.m.*

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

William Harrison, Chairman  
Melissa Bartlett  
Janet Cowell, State Treasurer  
Ray Durham  
Shirley Harris

Kevin Howell  
Wayne McDevitt, Vice Chair  
Kathy Taft  
John Tate  
Patricia Willoughby

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent  
James Bell, Teacher Advisor  
Wendell Hall, Local Board Member Advisor

Debra Morris, Principal Advisor  
Shirley Prince, Superintendent Advisor  
Cindi Rigsbee, Teacher Advisor  
Brandon Young, Senior Student Advisor

Chairman Harrison called the Wednesday session of the May State Board of Education meeting to order and declared the Board in official session. The Chairman then provided a brief overview of the committee structure and explained to the audience that today's agenda includes discussion and voting on the Board's action items. Chairman Harrison announced the shortened meeting schedule this month as a cost-savings effort, and noted that the Board would not meet on Thursday. In addition, he announced that the Board meeting for July was already scheduled to be held via conference call and that in order to continue efforts to decrease expenditures, the June meeting may also be held via conference call.

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

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

### MINUTES

*Chairman Harrison asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 1-2, 2009, Board meeting. Upon motion made by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the April 1-2, 2009, meeting as presented.*

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- Outgoing Student Advisor
  - Mr. Brandon Young

Recently named by WTVD in Durham as their Person of the Week, the Board viewed the video clip by WTVD highlighting the Board's Senior Student Advisor Brandon Young for his involvement in cancer research.

Chairman Harrison also shared some of Mr. Young's accomplishments:

- Member of the National Honor Society at Enloe High School
- Awarded first place in the Poster Presentation for the American Chemical Society, October 2008

- Served as a student ambassador and a marshal at Enloe High School and participates in the Science Club
- Participated in the NASA Astronaut Communications Space Ship Expedition 18 Mission, 2008
- Excelled in athletics both on the football field and on the track
- Received the Cap 7 Academic Award in football, junior and senior years
- Volunteer in the radiology department at WakeMed, Cary

Mr. Young and his parents, Pam and Reuben Young, were invited forward as Mr. Young was presented with a plaque in recognition of his service to the State Board of Education. A photograph was made of the presentation.

At this time, Chairman Harrison called on Mr. Tom Ziko, Special Deputy Attorney General in the Education Section of the N.C. Attorney General’s office, for an update on the Department’s work with Halifax County Schools. According to Mr. Ziko, he appeared last Wednesday, on behalf of the Board, in Wake County’s superior court to present the Board’s education plan for intervening and increasing educational opportunities in Halifax County. During the hearing, Mr. Ziko also presented to the court a consent order signed by the Halifax County Board of Education authorizing the State Board of Education to have access to its students and records to make presentations to the Board, and to require the Halifax County Board to account for its failure to adopt the State Board’s recommendations or failure to take action. Mr. Ziko presented the consent order to the Board for its approval.

*The Chairman called for a motion. Upon motion made by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve and sign the consent order.*

Chairman Harrison signed the consent order on behalf of the State Board of Education.

Chairman Harrison then called on Mr. Kevin Howell to present TCS 2 for *Information*.

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

***INFORMATION***

**TCS 2 – Duke Student Projects**

**Policy Implications:** N/A

**Presenter(s):** Mr. Philip Price (Associate Superintendent, Financial and Business Services)

**Description:**

**Effective Teachers Project**

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) partnered with the Duke graduate students at the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy to answer the question:

“What are the characteristics of effective teachers, and how can the State Board of Education promote those characteristics among current North Carolina teachers?”

The graduate students used surveys, conducted interviews, and used resources at SAS and DPI for statistical analysis.

**Salary Project**

On the second project, the Duke graduate students partnered with the Fiscal Research Division of the North Carolina General Assembly and (NCDPI) to address the following question:

"How should North Carolina revise its teacher salary schedule (within existing funds) in order to attract and retain high quality teachers and maximize student achievement?"

The Duke graduate students analyzed current research, using North Carolina data, to develop a salary schedule that would more effectively reward evidence-based characteristics of effective teachers. The research examined which teacher characteristics would most likely positively impact student learning and developed a schedule to improve the recruitment and retention of teachers with those characteristics.

**Recommendations:**

N/A

**Discussion/Comments:**

- Mr. Price introduced the graduate student interns responsible for the research presented regarding the Effective Teachers Project: Promoting Teacher Effectiveness in North Carolina (Daniel Behrend, Magdalena Fernandez, Allison Horowitz, and Di Luong).
- The Teacher Effectiveness team described the focus of their research. The policy question, "What are the characteristics of effective middle school math teachers, and how can the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the State Board of Education (SBE) promote those characteristics among its active teaching force?" They provided a brief overview of their methodology and results, criteria used, alternatives, analysis and recommendations. The complete report is located at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/intern-research/reports/teachereffectiveness.pdf>.
- Research on the Salary Project was conducted by the following graduate student interns: Lauren Akers, Sarah Cordes, Mary Kingston, Jackson Miller, and Caleb Varner.
- The Salary Project team's research focused on the following policy question, "Which teacher characteristics should North Carolina's salary schedule reward in order to most effectively utilize existing funds?" The team provided a brief overview of their study describing their methodology and results, criteria used, alternatives, analysis and recommendations. The complete report is located at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/intern-research/reports/teachersalary.pdf>.
- Each of the teams fielded a few questions from Board members regarding their research.
- Board members expressed appreciation to the graduate student interns for their work on these important topics.
- There was no additional discussion.

This item was submitted for information only.

Chairman Harrison 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,  
ACTION AND DISCUSSION AGENDA**

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

Chairman Harrison asked for a motion to convene as the State Board of Career and Technical Education.

*Upon motion made by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, the Board voted unanimously to convene as the State Board of Career and Technical Education to discuss the next item on the agenda.*

## STATE BOARD OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

### ***ACTION***

#### **GCS 1 – Construction Education Programs Certification and Credentials**

**Policy Implications:** N/A

**Presenter(s):** Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Curriculum Instruction, Technology and Accountability Services), Ms. Rebecca Payne (Director, Career and Technical Education) and Mr. David Wehbie, Section Chief, Industrial Technology and Human Services)

#### **Description:**

This new policy is proposed to ensure that construction education programs (carpentry, electrical trades and masonry) offered in North Carolina public schools provide students with skills and knowledge that meet or exceed industry standards. When a program is National Center for Construction Education Research (NCCER) certified, participating students will graduate with industry-developed skills and knowledge that will prepare them for further education and employment. The NCCER program leads to various craft (trade) certifications and credentials. Students also can earn community college credits while in high school. This national certification is the only certification for the construction trades. Teacher and program certification will occur during the 2009-2010 school year. Teachers will begin assessing and registering students in the national registry August 2010.

#### **Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the policy that requires construction education programs be NCCER certified so that students can earn the credential.

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

- GCS Committee Chair Kathy Taft spoke briefly about the cost associated with requiring NCCER certification for construction education programs. Ms. Taft reported that the expected total cost for implementing the NCCER program for each school with existing construction programs is \$350 plus the cost of the items needed to meet safety requirements. The funds are included in Federal Perkins allocations.
- Board member John Tate reported that he received a call from Mecklenburg County Schools about the cost of this recommendation if a school is challenged with bringing their school up to safety standards which could cost up to \$6,000.00 per school in Charlotte. Mr. Tate explained that the request was for a year's extension given the financial and economic circumstances in North Carolina. Therefore, Mr. Tate asked that the motion consider delaying the requirement for another year with a caveat that safety issues need to be brought to standard immediately. Superintendent Atkinson and CTE Director Rebecca Payne provided clarification about facility and safety issues where NCCER can develop a waiver with the school system. Further, Ms. Payne explained that in terms of equipment, tools and materials, school systems must have these items to meet the Standard Course of Study requirements.
- After a brief discussion, Board member Willoughby rescinded her second on the motion until further clarification is provided.
- Board members agreed that further clarification should be brought to the GCS Committee for additional discussion prior to a vote.

*Ms. Kathy Taft made a motion, seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, to approve the staff recommendations to require construction education programs to be NCCER certified. After a brief discussion concerning associated costs, Ms. Patricia Willoughby rescinded her second. The motion died for a lack of a second. (See Attachment GCS 1)*

*Upon motion made by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, and seconded by Ms. Kathy Taft, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the State Board of Career and Technical Education and reconvene as the State Board of Education.*

**ACTION**

**GCS 2 – 2009-10 Writing Instruction Plan**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy #HSP-A-004, HSP-N-005, HSP-N-003; APA #16 NCAC 6D.0502, 16 NCAC 6D.0504

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Rebecca Garland (Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Curriculum, Instruction, Technology and Accountability Services)

**Description:**

In June 2008, the North Carolina State Board of Education (SBE) adopted “A Framework for Change: The Next Generation of Assessments and Accountability” and subsequently directed the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to develop a new writing instruction system that would replace the annual on-demand writing tests at grades 4, 7, and 10 and to elevate the importance of writing throughout the K-12 curriculum. The new K-12 writing system includes authentic and on-demand writing assignments that mirror 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

In 2008-2009, students in grades 4 and 7 were asked to complete two content-specific writing assignments and two on-demand writing tasks. Students in grade 7 used word processing tools in order to complete their assignments. Most students in grades 4 and 7 housed their work in paper portfolios. Students in 19 pilot sites stored their work in an electronic portfolio. The SBE will hear findings from the first year of the writing project as well as receive a proposal for the 2009-2010 writing instruction system.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Department’s proposal for the 2009-2010 writing instructional system.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- GCS Committee Chair Kathy Taft reported that the Department provided an excellent presentation to the Committee regarding the Department’s proposal for the 2009-2010 writing instruction plan.
- There was no additional discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Mr. Kevin Howell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Department’s proposal for the 2009-2010 writing instructional system as submitted. (See Attachment GCS 2)*

**ACTION**

**GCS 3 – Changes to Policy Providing Annual Performance Standards Under the ABCs Model**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # HSP-C-021; APA #NCAC 6G.0312; No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001

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

**Description:**

HSP-C-021 is revised to reflect two modifications to the ABCs growth formulas. First, the component for college university prep/college tech prep (CUP/CTP) is modified to give additional credit to schools with high baseline and current year performance. Second, the U.S. History prediction is revised to use either Civics & Economics or Biology as the primary predictor in conjunction with English I as the secondary predictor.

**Recommendations:**

The Department recommends that the amendments to SBE Policy # HSP-C-021 be approved and that the APA process be initiated.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- GCS Committee Chair Kathy Taft provided a brief explanation about the two modifications to the ABCs growth formulas.
- There was no additional discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amendments to SBE Policy # HSP-C-021 and that the APA process be initiated. (See Attachment GCS 3)*

***ACTION ON FIRST READING***

**GCS 4 – Changes to NC's NCLB Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # EEO-I-005; No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001

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

**Description:**

On January 15, 2009, Associate State Superintendent Rebecca Garland responded to the U.S. Department of Education's (USED) letter 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 is awaiting a letter from the USED which will outline the changes the State Board of Education can 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 SBE meeting. The amended Workbook will be submitted to the USED as soon as possible for their final review and approval.

**Recommendations:**

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

**Discussion/Comments:**

- GCS Committee Chair Kathy Taft explained that the Department is requesting approval of the proposed amendments to the North Carolina Accountability Workbook for 1) Students with Disabilities Who Exit the Program, 2) Retesting Results in Grades 3 through 8, and 3) Students taking OCS EXTEND2 assessments counted as non-participants for AYP calculations.
- There was no additional discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to the North Carolina Accountability Workbook. (See Attachment GCS 4)*

***ACTION ON FIRST READING***

**GCS 5 – Changes to Policy Delineating the Components of the ABCs Accountability Program for the 2009-10 School Year**

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

**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:**

Due to the state budget crisis, the NCDPI requests that the Grade 3 Pretests in Reading and Mathematics be removed from the testing and accountability program for the 2009-10 school year. This will remove grade 3 from ABCs growth calculations in both reading and mathematics but grade 3 EOG results still will be used for AYP and the ABCs performance composite calculations. Not printing the grade 3 pretests will save approximately \$93,000 out of this year's budget.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended the Board approve the changes to the HSP-C-020 policy for the 2009-10 school year.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- GCS Committee Chair Kathy Taft explained that the recommendation to remove grade 3 from ABCs growth calculations in mathematics and reading was based on economics. The recommendation is for the 2009-10 school year only.
- After a brief discussion, Ms. Taft stated that she would not vote in favor of this recommendation.
- Dr. Rebecca Garland reminded the Board that the Grade 3 pretest was not actually designed to be a diagnostic tool. All LEAs have access to a K-2 assessment that is designed to be a diagnostic measure.
- There was no additional discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted to approve the revisions to SBE Policy # HSP-C-020 for the 2009-10 school year. Board member Kathy Taft voted in opposition. (See Attachment GCS 5)*

***ACTION ON FIRST READING***

**GCS 6 – Occupational Course of Study – Proposed Temporary Waiver of Paid Employment Graduation Requirement**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy #HSP-N-004; 16NCAC 6D.0503

**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:**

The Occupational Course of Study (OCS) is one of two Future-Ready Courses of Study that students with disabilities may complete to receive a North Carolina diploma. Currently, students participating in the OCS are required to complete 300 hours of supervised school-based vocational training, 240 hours community-based vocational training and 360 hours of competitive, paid employment in an integrated employment setting. The

students must be compensated at or above the federal minimum hourly wage. Students must complete the vocational training and competitive employment hours, in addition to completing all required state and local course credits and Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals which outline the computer/technology skills to be mastered.

The current economic recession has made it extremely difficult; and in many cases, impossible for students with cognitive disabilities to obtain competitive employment after completing their unpaid vocational training. If the current graduation requirement remains in place, hundreds of students with disabilities from all regions of the state will be denied a North Carolina diploma due to no fault of their own.

The Department of Public Instruction recommends that the paid employment graduation requirement for the OCS be temporarily amended to allow participating students in the graduating classes of the 2008-2009 and the 2009-2010 school years to substitute 360 hours of additional unpaid vocational training, unpaid internships, paid employment at community rehabilitation facilities, and volunteer and/or community service hours for the 360 hours of competitive, paid employment hours if unable to secure paid employment in an integrated employment setting due to local job market conditions. Any community rehabilitation facility used must be considered an affirmative employer by the North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. This recommendation means that students in the OCS will still be required to complete a total of 900 hours of vocational training and/or employment in order to receive a North Carolina diploma. All paid employment, unpaid vocational training hours, internship hours, volunteer and/or community service hours will be conducted in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act and applicable state and federal child labor laws. In addition, LEAs will be required to maintain documentation of their attempts to help the student secure paid employment through referrals to the North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Services for the Blind, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funded youth employment programs and other appropriate adult employment service agencies. Evidence of interagency collaboration and referral(s) must be documented on the student's transition component of their IEP.

**Recommendations:**

The Department of Public Instruction recommends that the paid employment graduation requirement for the OCS be temporarily amended to allow participating students in the graduating classes of the 2008-2009 and the 2009-2010 school years to substitute 360 hours of additional unpaid vocational training, unpaid internships, paid employment at community rehabilitation facilities, and volunteer and/or community service hours for the 360 hours of competitive, paid employment hours if unable to secure paid employment in an integrated employment setting due to the local job market conditions.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- GCS Committee Chair Kathy Taft stressed that this is a temporary amendment due to the economy and the inability of these students to obtain paid employment opportunities to meet the graduation requirements for the OCS. The amendment is for 2008-2009 and the 2009-2010 school years.
- There was no additional discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Kathy Taft, and seconded by Mr. Kevin Howell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Department's recommendations to temporarily amend the paid employment graduation requirement for the OCS to allow participating students in the graduating classes of the 2008-2009 and the 2009-2010 school years to substitute 360 hours of additional unpaid vocational training, unpaid internships, paid employment at community rehabilitation facilities, and volunteer and/or community service hours for the 360 hours of competitive, paid employment hours if unable to secure paid employment in an integrated employment setting. (See Attachment GCS 6)*

**DISCUSSION**

**GCS 7 – Recommended Changes to Achievement Level Descriptors for the NCEXTEND2 for 2009-10**

**School Year**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # HSP-C-026; No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001

**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 adopted the achievement level descriptors for the NCEXTEND2 EOG mathematics at grades 3-8 in October 2006 and the NCEXTEND2 EOG reading at grades 3-8 and the NCEXTEND2 EOG science at grades 5 and 8 in October 2008. As part of the peer review process with the U.S. Department of Education, the achievement level descriptors have been revised to define more clearly the performance of NCEXTEND2 students in each of the four achievement levels for mathematics, reading, and science.

The NCEXTEND2 is an assessment that tests students on grade-level standards using modified achievement standards; therefore, the achievement level descriptors must reflect the expectations of these students. The revised achievement level descriptors meet these criteria.

The revised achievement level descriptors are recommended for implementation with the 2009-10 school year.

**Recommendations:**

The department recommends that the amendments to SBE Policy # HSP-C-026 be approved.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- GCS Committee Vice Chair Patricia Willoughby explained that achievement level descriptors have been revised to define more clearly the performance of NCEXTEND 2 students in each of the four achievement levels. She suggested that Board members refer questions and input to Dr. Gary Williamson prior to the June meeting.
- There was no additional discussion.

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

**DISCUSSION**

**GCS 8 – Academic Scholars Program**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # HSP-L-003

**Presenter(s):** Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer/Assistant State Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction, Technology and Accountability Services) and Dr. Cindy Williamson (Director, Division of K-12 Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology)

**Description:**

The Academic Scholars Program is a rigorous program of courses that exceed SBE graduation requirements. The last revision of the Academic Scholars program was in 2003. The Future-Ready Core Graduation Requirements, including the North Carolina Graduation Project, were approved in September 2008. This will go into effect with the rising class of eighth graders who will enter high schools in fall 2009. The Academic Scholars Program must be revised to align with the Future-Ready Core Graduation Requirements for students entering ninth grade for the first time in or after 2009-2010. The Academic Scholars Program revision includes additional required credits for Health and Physical Education, Career and Technical Education and Arts Education (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, or Visual Arts) plus the requirements for Future-Ready Core Graduation Requirements.

**Recommendations:**

State Board members are requested to review the attached information prior to the item being returned in June for action.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- GCS Committee Vice Chair Patricia Willoughby explained that the Academic Scholars Program is being modified to align with the Future-Ready Core Graduation Requirements, and noted a great deal of discussion during the Committee meeting.
- There was no additional discussion.

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

***DISCUSSION***

**GCS 9 – High School Courses Taken in the Middle School Considerations for Social Studies**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # HSP-M-001

**Presenter(s):** Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer/Assistant State Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction, Technology and Accountability Services), Dr. Cindy Williamson (Director, K-12 Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Division), and Ms. Tracey Greggs (Section Chief, K-12 Social Studies)

**Description:**

The K-12 Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Division will share information with the GCS Committee on expanding the current policy HSP-M-001 that allows students to take high school social studies for high school credit while they are in middle school.

**Recommendations:**

State Board of Education members are requested to discuss the expansion of the existing policy to include social studies courses.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- GCS Committee Vice Chair Patricia Willoughby explained that this recommendation expands the current policy to allow middle school students to take high school social studies courses in middle school for high school credit.
- There was no additional discussion.

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

***NEW BUSINESS REPORTS***

Under New Business, Ms. Patricia Willoughby provided a brief overview about the following new business items:

- Honors Review Follow Up
  - Recommendations on Course for Credit – Credit Recovery
  - CCSSO – NGA Common Core Memorandum of Agreement
- Ms. Willoughby reported that State Superintendent Atkinson presented a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to the GCS Committee outlining the work for North Carolina to participate in the state-led

common core standards initiative coordinated by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices.

- Dr. Atkinson reported that representatives from 41 states convened a meeting about national voluntary standards. The meeting was sponsored by CCSSO and the NGA. Dr. Atkinson stated that the proposal is to have state-led national voluntary standards in English language arts and mathematics. Further, she explained that this work builds directly on recent efforts of leading national organizations and states which have focused on developing college-and career-ready standards. The purpose of this effort is to raise the bar for all students, and states and will draw on educational experts and research-based evidence. Standards will be benchmarked against international standards, where available. States will have the opportunity to review the standards throughout the development process. The standards will also be reviewed by an independent validation committee prior to being finalized for states to adopt. End of high school standards will be released in July 2009 and K-12 grade-by-grade standards in December 2009. Dr. Atkinson noted that this timeline works well with the current ACRE project.
- By signing this MOA, states are committing to the process of the common standards initiative; the MOA does not obligate a state to adopt the standards since the common standards are under development, according to Dr. Atkinson.

Chairman Harrison called for a motion to endorse North Carolina's participation.

*Upon motion by Mr. John Tate, and seconded by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, the Board voted unanimously to endorse North Carolina's participation by signing the Memorandum of Agreement with CCSSO and NGA as recommended by State Superintendent Atkinson.*

**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 – 2009-2010 Reading First; and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Awarded to NCDPI from USDA**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # EEO-O-001

**Presenter(s):** Mr. Philip Price (Associate State Superintendent, Financial and Business Services), Dr. Cindy Williamson (Director, K-12 Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology), Ms. Jackie Colbert (Section Chief, Reading First), Dr. Ben Matthews (Director, School Support Division), and Dr. Lynn Hoggard (Section Chief, Child Nutrition Services)

**Description:**

The grants listed below are being submitted for approval. Please see attachments for description of grants.

- Attachment 1 – Reading First Funding
- Attachment 2 – Fruit and Vegetable Program Awarded to NCDPI from USDA

**Recommendations:**

Action on First Reading is being recommended in order to distribute funding to school systems in a timely manner.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- TCS Committee Chair Kevin Howell reported that North Carolina received \$12.2 million for the final year of the Reading First grant; a 62 percent reduction in funds from previous years.

- In addition, the USDA's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program awarded \$1.7 million to North Carolina to be distributed among 62 elementary schools throughout the state. The amount distributed to each school will be based on the school's actual enrollment. These funds will provide fresh fruits and vegetable snacks daily, free of charge, to students in the 62 elementary schools. The program's intent is to promote healthier food choices among children throughout the school day.
- There was no additional discussion.

*Upon motion by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Ms. Shirley Harris, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Reading First and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program grants as recommended. (See Attachment TCS 1)*

***ACTION ON FIRST READING***

**TCS 3 – Temporary Policy for Flexible Furlough Leave**

**Policy Implications:** N/A

**Presenter(s):** Mr. Philip Price (Associate State Superintendent, Financial and Business Services)

**Description:**

Governor Beverly Perdue signed an Executive Order on April 28, 2009, announcing a flexible furlough plan for teachers and state employees. The Executive Order indicates that the State Board of Education (SBE) shall cooperate with the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) in the implementation of the salary reduction part of this plan. The SBE will adopt rules to be applied by local boards of education in designating the times public school employees will be furloughed (see attached Temporary Policy for Flexible Furlough Leave).

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Temporary Policy for Flexible Furlough Leave.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- TCS Committee Chair Kevin Howell reported that Governor Perdue signed Executive Order #11 on April 28 announcing a flexible furlough plan for teachers and state employees. He explained that, as required by the Executive Order, the TCS Committee is recommending a temporary policy to establish rules to be applied by local boards of education regarding the flexible furlough leave for public school employees.
- Mr. Price provided several clarifying comments concerning the policy and its implications on school systems and their employees.
- There was no additional discussion.

*Upon motion by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Temporary Policy for Flexible Furlough leave as submitted. (See Attachment TCS 3)*

***ACTION ON FIRST READING***

**TCS 4 – Emergency Flexibility for Transfers within the State Public School Fund**

**Policy Implications:** N/A

**Presenter(s):** Mr. Philip Price (Associate State Superintendent, Financial and Business Services)

**Description:**

Governor Beverly Perdue increased the required reversion for public schools from \$159 million to \$200 million. Based on this required reversion, the Department of Public Instruction has calculated the local education agencies

(LEAs) and charter schools reduction. This reduction of \$27.75 per average daily membership (ADM) is in addition to the \$58 million reduction previously required of the LEAs and charter schools. The remaining \$101 million of the required reversion is expected to come from Department and other State Public School Fund reversions.

The Department of Public Instruction will reduce the Non-Instructional Support allotment (LEAs use this allotment to pay for clerical and custodial personnel) for each LEA by \$27.75 per ADM.

The Department recommends that the SBE authorize local education agencies (LEAs) the flexibility to adjust all state allotment categories (except Driver Education) to offset the mandated reduction to the LEAs Non-Instructional Support allotment. This flexibility allows LEAs to move funds from any state allotted category, in the State Public School Fund, to Non-Instructional Support. This flexibility will allow each LEA to identify the specific allotment categories for which they have determined a reduction could be absorbed. All funding categories within the State Public School Fund are available for this adjustment (except Driver Education which is funded by the Highway Fund).

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the SBE authorize local education agencies (LEAs) the flexibility to adjust all state allotment categories (except Driver Education) to offset the mandated reduction to the LEAs Non-Instructional Support allotment.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- TCS Committee Chair Kevin Howell explained that this action is in response to Governor Perdue's recent required reversion increase for public schools from \$159 million to \$200 million.
- There was no additional discussion.

*Upon motion by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to allow LEAs emergency flexibility for transfers within the State Public School Fund as recommended. (See Attachment TCS 4)*

**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.

**NEW BUSINESS REPORTS**

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

- Communications Update
- Budget Update
- Intern Update

**21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT**  
**(Ms. Shirley Harris, Chair)**

***ACTION***

**TCP 1 – Principal and Teacher Evaluation Instrument State Level Ratings**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # TCP-C-006; APA # 16 NCAC 6C .0504

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

**Description:**

Based on the new standards for teachers and school executives, a new evaluation instrument and evaluation policies were approved by the State Board of Education at the June 2008 meeting. Currently, ratings from these two instruments are not required to be collected by the State. Access by the SBE to these ratings would allow for further validation of the implementation process of these two instruments as well as provide quantitative-based research data that could help improve classroom instruction and school-based leadership.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the State Board of Education identify and adopt a process whereby a random sample of principal ratings utilizing the North Carolina Principal Evaluation Instrument and a random sampling of teacher ratings utilizing the North Carolina Teacher Evaluation Instrument are collected and analyzed.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- TCP Committee Chair Shirley Harris reminded Board members that this discussion began approximately one year ago, and the TCP Committee recommends moving forward with the process.
- There was no additional discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to identify and adopt a process whereby a random sample of principal ratings utilizing the North Carolina Principal Evaluation Instrument and a random sampling of teacher ratings utilizing the North Carolina Teacher Evaluation Instrument are collected and analyzed. (See Attachment TCP 1)*

***ACTION***

**TCP 2 – Principal/Assistant Principal Evaluation Instrument**

**Policy Implications:** N/A

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

**Description:**

In May 2008, the State Board of Education adopted an evaluation instrument aligned to the School Executive Standards for School Executives: Principals; and subsequently developed a policy for the evaluation process. At the time of the development of the principals' evaluation instrument, no such instrument was developed for assistant principals. Consequently, there is no evaluation instrument for Assistant Principals that is aligned with the new School Executive Standards. Adoption of an assistant principal evaluation instrument will require validation of a proposed or development of a new one. It is proposed that we allow McREL to perform the necessary steps to validate using the current principal evaluation for assistant principals. Adoption of the North Carolina Principal Evaluation Instrument for use with assistant principal evaluations would provide an instrument aligned with the standards and suitable for Assistant Principal evaluations.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the SBE allow McREL to begin the validation process to determine suitability of using the principal evaluation instrument for evaluating assistant principals.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- TCP Chair Shirley Harris stated that after considerable discussion and input, the TCP Committee's recommendation is to allow McREL to begin the validation process to determine the suitability for using the current principal evaluation instrument for evaluating assistant principals.
- Board member Tate noted that this step of the process will be field tested and there may be some amendments necessary after feedback from the pilot.
- There was no additional discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Ms. Kathy Taft, the Board voted unanimously to allow McREL to begin the validation process to determine suitability of using the current principal evaluation instrument for evaluating assistant principals. (See Attachment TCP 2)*

***ACTION*****TCP 3 – Proposed Adjustment to Physical Education Praxis II Assessment Qualifying Score**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # TCP-A-003

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

**Description:**

On March 25-27, 2009, a panel of experts was convened to examine five Praxis II assessments and current qualifying scores being used by the State of North Carolina to determine whether those tests remain appropriate for continued use as one criterion required for licensure of beginning practitioners. The panelists were asked to review the tests with a view of what a beginning practitioner would know and be able to do when they enter into their respective roles for the first time. Panelists were directed to make a judgment as to whether there is enough of a relationship between that knowledge and the knowledge measured by the assessment to continue use. The Praxis II tests reviewed were Physical Education, Marketing Education, Middle School English/Language Arts, Middle School Science, and Speech Language Pathology. In addition to the review of the five test forms, the panelists reviewed national/state specific pass rate data to determine if the current qualifying score should be raised, lowered or remain the same. The State Board of Education is asked to act on a recommendation from the Physical Education Expert Panel to adjust North Carolina's Physical Education Praxis II Assessment Qualifying Score based on this panel's review. Results of the reviews in the other areas (Marketing Education, Middle School English/Language Arts, Middle School Science, and Speech Language Pathology) will come to the Board in a subsequent month.

**Recommendations:**

It is requested that the State Board of Education approve changing the Physical Education Praxis II Assessment Qualifying Score from 158 to 152.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- TCP Committee Chair Shirley Harris directed Board members to the Executive Summary and backup material, printed on yellow paper, where the panel of experts is listed for each of the areas that were reviewed from the report. Only one recommendation resulted from the review. The recommendation requests approval to change the Physical Education Praxis II Assessment Qualifying Score from 158 to 152, effective July 1, 2008, forward or until the test is changed.
- There was no additional discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve changing the Physical Education Praxis II Assessment Qualifying Score from 158 to 152, effective July 1, 2008. (See Attachment TCP 3)*

***ACTION***

**TCP 4 – Recommendations from the Advisory Board on Requests for Exception from Teacher Licensing Requirements**

**Policy Implications:** SBE Policy # TCP-A-021, TCP-B-009

**Presenter(s):** Ms. Shirley Harris (Member, State Board of Education )

**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:**

- Discussion on this item occurred in closed session.

*Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Ms. Kathy Taft, the Board voted unanimously to approve the actions related to each request as recommended. (See Attachment TCP 4)*

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

***ACTION***

**LFI 1 – Approval of LEA and Charter School Technology Plans**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute § 115C-102.6C

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Cindy Williamson (Director, K12 Curriculum, Instruction & Technology) and Mr. Neill Kimrey (Section Chief, Instructional Technology)

**Description:**

In accordance with Public School Law 115C-102.6C, the technology plans for the LEAs and charter schools listed in the attachment following have been approved by both ITS and DPI technology consultants. ITS consultants have evaluated the plans to comply with the statewide architecture guidelines; and DPI instructional technology consultants have evaluated the plans for their instructional components. Final approval by the State Board of Education qualifies these LEAs for the School Technology Trust Fund, No Child Left Behind and federal eRate monies, as well as a variety of private technology grants. The list of LEA and charter school technology plans is attached.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the SBE approve these technology plans.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- There was no discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Mr. Ray Durham, the Board voted unanimously to approve the LEA and charter school technology plans as presented. (See Attachment LFI 1)*

***ACTION***

**LFI 2 – Appointment to Joint Advisory Committee for Cooperative Innovative High School Programs**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute § 115C-238.51

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

**Description:**

The application process for the Cooperative Innovative High School Programs (General Statute § 115C-238.51) requires that the State Board of Education and the applicable governing Boards appoint a joint advisory committee to review the applications and to recommend to the Boards those programs that meet the requirements. This item requests SBE approval of the appointment of the LEA Council Director from Academic Services and Instructional Support (ASIS) and the Program Director from the New Schools Project (NSP) to the joint advisory committee.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the SBE approve the appointment of one member of the ASIS staff and one member of the NSP staff to the Joint Advisory Committee.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- There was no discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of one member of the ASIS staff and one member of the NSP staff to the Joint Advisory Committee as recommended. (See Attachment LFI 2)*

***ACTION***

**LFI 3 – School-Based Calendar Waivers for Educational Purposes**

**Policy Implications:** General Statute § 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, which states the State Board may waive the specified opening and closing dates 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. Guilford County Schools originally submitted these waivers in February 2009. Unexpected changes resulted in withdrawal and re-submission of the waiver requests.

**Recommendations:**

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

**Discussion/Comments:**

- LFI Committee Co-Chair Melissa Bartlett noted that three waivers were requested for an extended year. She directed Board members to their notebooks and provided clarifying information about each request prior to making a motion.
- There was no additional discussion.

*Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Ms. Kathy Taft, the Board voted to approve the calendar waivers for educational purposes as presented. See Attachment LFI 3)*

**DISCUSSION**

**LFI 4 – Standardization of Waivers/Exemption List for Cooperative Innovative High School Program**

**Application**

**Policy Implications:** N/A

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

**Description:**

The Cooperative Innovative High School program follows a multi-step annual process for approving programs, assessing and approving program exemptions for the State Board of Education as well as North Carolina Community College Board policies and procedures. The current process unnecessarily burdens personnel at the school districts and at the NCDPI. It requires significant time to be used to identify required waivers at the school district and at NCDPI to prepare for SBE approval. In most cases, the exemptions requested are routine, having been repeatedly approved for similar programs in past years. A similar procedure used by the NCCCS Board requires additional time.

NCDPI Academic Services and Instructional Support proposes that the routine waivers included in this item become part of the Cooperative Innovative program approval process and be granted automatically with program approvals, thus saving school districts from identifying and requesting these waivers. Any exemptions not clearly identified here should be considered non-routine and will, as in the past, require an explicit request and approval by the SBE.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the SBE approve routine waiver exemptions to become a part of the application process. It is also recommended that the State Board Chair be authorized to approve these routine waivers for LEAs that are opening innovative programs not requiring Board approval.

**Discussion/Comments:**

- LFI Committee Co-Chair Melissa Bartlett explained that in most cases, exemption requests are routine and regularly requested. Citing several waiver requests included in this report, Ms. Bartlett noted that the LFI Committee recommends that the SBE approve these routine waiver exemptions to become a part of the innovative program application process, and to authorize approval of these routine waivers for LEAs that initiate programs that do not require State Board approval. This item will be submitted in June for Board action.
- There was no additional discussion.

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

### ***NEW BUSINESS REPORTS***

Under New Business, LFI Committee Co-Chair Melissa Bartlett provided a brief overview about the following new business item discussed in the LFI Committee meeting. She reported that the Committee will have a telephone discussion (open to the public) to select their top three charter school applicants in order to bring forth recommendations to the State Board at its June meeting.

- New Charter School Applications

### **STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **The Choice Bus Update**

In her Superintendent's Report, Dr. Atkinson reminded Board members that several months ago, Ms. Cynthia Marshall, President, AT&T North Carolina, came before the Board to award a \$50,000 grant to the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation to fund the Choice Bus and InsideOut DVDs and toolkits. The InsideOut program and the Choice Bus are powerful tools for educators to encourage young people to stay in school. To date, approximately 10,000 middle school students across North Carolina have had the opportunity to see the Choice Bus. Dr. Atkinson shared some student reflections regarding their experiences. In addition, she noted a press conference was held on May 5 at the North Carolina General Assembly to focus attention on the importance of public/private partnerships in addressing the state's dropout problem.

#### **Race to the Top**

Dr. Atkinson reported that Ms. Myra Best, Education Advisor, Governor's Office, convened a meeting to work on North Carolina's application for the Race to the Top funds. Several State Board and staff members are contributing to this effort to provide the assurances necessary to have a comprehensive approach.

#### **Commission on Workforce Development**

Superintendent Atkinson reported that at the request of Governor Perdue, she convened the first meeting of the Commission on Workforce Development to begin discussions on issues pertaining to workforce development, workforce education and economic development in North Carolina. The goals of the Commission are to:

- Review current and future labor market needs for North Carolina over the next decade;
- Discuss the role of entrepreneurship in economic development; and
- Examine workforce development and education with an international perspective.

The Commission will meet several times over the summer to develop recommendations to present to Governor Perdue, the General Assembly, the State Board of Education, economic development boards and the educational institutions. Dr. Atkinson noted a request to share the list of Commission members with State Board members.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

#### **AT&T Teacher of the Year**

Chairman Harrison thanked AT&T North Carolina for its generous funding of the North Carolina Teacher of the Year event where Ms. Jessica Garner, Porter Ridge High School, Union County Public Schools, was named the 2009 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Garner will join the State Board of Education as an advisor beginning with the July meeting. The Chairman thanked Mr. Dan Holloman, Lead Consultant, Office of Recruitment, Retention and Recognition, for his role in coordinating and planning all of the activities associated both with the Principal of the Year and the Teacher of the Year events.

**SCORE Luncheon and Program**

Chairman Harrison thanked Ms. Paula Hudson Collins, Senior Policy Advisor for Healthy Responsible Students, for coordinating and hosting the Southern Collaborative on Obesity Reduction Efforts (SCORE) luncheon and program held earlier today. SCORE is a project made possible by grant funding to the State Board of Education from the Council of State Governments to help educate policy makers on obesity prevention efforts. During the luncheon and program, three school-based pilot programs reported on their childhood obesity projects to legislators and State Board of Education members.

**H1N1 Virus Update**

The Chairman reported that Superintendent Atkinson participated in a conference call on Tuesday with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the H1N1 virus. The CDC has changed its approach to closing schools. Conversations are occurring with Craven County Schools in terms of their school closing decision. LEAs will be kept up-to-date with information as received.

**Update on the *Framework for Change***

At this time, Chairman Harrison recognized Chief Academic Officer for Academic Services and Instructional Support Dr. Rebecca Garland to provide an update on the *Framework for Change*. Dr. Garland directed Board members to the May 2009 status update located behind the “Other” tab in their Board notebooks. The Department is still on track against the schedule and list of deliverables, according to Dr. Garland. Describing some of the monumental work taking place on the development of essential standards, Dr. Garland noted that Phase I has been released including K-12 science, math, computer skills, English 10 and Occupational Course of Study. Each LEA has a structured way for which they are to provide input back to the groups working on the standards. In addition, there is an opportunity for educators and individuals to provide input as well as a survey going out to the business community to provide feedback. In terms of accountability, there is a draft of a proposed accountability model that is being prepared to distribute to external stakeholders. Dr. Garland indicated that the Department is slightly off track with the Comprehensive Assessments–Next Generation (CANG) due to funding issues.

***Legislative Report***

Legislative Liaison Chris Minard provided a brief report on legislative activity. She spoke about House Bill 88 - The Healthy Youth Act, an act to provide for abstinence until marriage and comprehensive sexuality education programs in grades seven through nine. She also cited two bills related to the Graduation Project. Senate Bill 722 has been pulled from consideration at this time and House Bill 223 passed the House Education Committee as a study bill and was assigned to the Program Evaluation Committee at the General Assembly; a report is due July 2010. House Bill 223 states that no student shall be required to prepare a high school graduation project as a condition for graduation prior to July 1, 2011. The bill was re-referred to the House Committee on Rules. In closing, Ms. Minard spoke briefly about and distributed copies of the May 6, 2009, NC General Assembly-Fiscal Research Division’s, *Revised Revenue and Budget Outlook* report for North Carolina. The report provides a 2009-11 biennium forecast, an estimate of gap between revenues and the continuation budget, and the Governor’s use of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, etc. A brief discussion ensued regarding this report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

N/A

**NEW BUSINESS**

N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Indicating no other business, Chairman Harrison requested a motion to adjourn. Upon motion by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the May 6, 2009, meeting of the State Board of Education.*