

Minutes of the Meeting of the
COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION POLICY, RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT
Wednesday, April 9, 2003
Flagler College
St. Augustine, Florida

Members Present: Diane Leone Pat Telson
 Bob McIntyre Elaine Vasquez
 Bob Taylor

Members Absent: Akshay Desai
 Philip Morgaman

Mr. Bob Taylor opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 12, 2003, meeting were approved with one correction noted by Ms. Pat Telson. On page 2 (fifth paragraph), Ms. Telson made the motion that the Council express their appreciation to former members Mr. Ed Moore and Mrs. Mary Watts for their work on the Teaching Profession report.

Chairman's Report

There was no Chairman's report at this time.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. William Proctor read a letter from Chairman Philip Morgaman explaining his absence today. As a result of the action taken in the House of Representatives last week, Mr. Morgaman has been engaged in discussions with the leadership of the House, the Governor, and other cabinet members about the future of CEPRI. Chairman Morgaman is planning on having a second conversation with the Governor today.

Ms. Telson made a motion for Dr. Proctor to create a talking paper indicating that the Council is concerned about the situation and will be pro-active. It was seconded and approved.

Master Plan

Mr. Taylor discussed the draft outline for the overall Master Plan, which was distributed to the members prior to the meeting. He said the Plan needs to look at the overall picture, establish a unifying concept or vision, and identify where the state is and where it wants to go through a limited number of major initiatives needed to achieve the overall vision. He said there is also a need for consistent, ongoing support by both policy leaders and the general public to assure continued focus

on the vision. Mr. Taylor noted that Dr. John Dornan, President/Executive Director of the Public School Forum of North Carolina, who will be meeting with the Council in May, has had success with this approach in North Carolina. He observed that the best part of CEPRI is the confluence of information and ideas generated by independent members and staff not imbedded in bureaucracy.

Ms. Elaine Vasquez asked about the inclusion of desired outcomes in the Plan, and the members agreed this should be addressed. Mr. Taylor compared education to patients who are given different pills over time rather than dealing with their condition holistically.

Mr. Bob McIntyre expressed concern with both the Bright Futures and the Prepaid Tuition Programs and asked whether the Plan should address needed changes. Mr. Taylor responded that this is another example of a band aid, when what is needed is a cogent funding system overall. Dr. Proctor discussed recent shifts in support for this and other initiatives such as the class-size amendment. He said a number of countries, Korea and the Netherlands for example, have developed ten-year education plans. He noted that while the Kentucky reform effort is not perfect, it has enjoyed consistent support for an extended period of time.

Mr. John Wiegman observed that education in Florida appears to have experienced seismic shifts every ten years or so but that there has been a lot of clutter in the interim, due to numerous reform initiatives during the period.

The members and staff discussed the draft vision and it was noted by Mr. Taylor, Dr. Nancy McKee, and others that postsecondary education was not specifically addressed. Ms. Tara Goodman observed that realization of the vision as drafted would have a tremendous impact on postsecondary education. After additional discussion, the Council voiced their general support for the proposed vision subject to further refinement and agreed that middle grades and postsecondary education should be addressed within the major initiatives. Ms. Diane Leone and Ms. Telson observed that the initial discussion of the Plan did not emphasize the comprehensive focus necessary. Mr. Taylor noted that all the strategic imperatives originally identified would be addressed in the Plan and that the overall vision had been identified through one of these imperatives.

The members directed staff to prepare and circulate a revised draft of the outline based on the discussion for review and action at the next Council meeting.

Funding – Mr. Bob Cox presented a brief history of government budget reform movements in the U.S. and recent trends in Florida. He noted that in general, such movements begin with a simple concept but become more complex over time. He noted that eventually, the paperwork and effort necessary to maintain the systems advocated by these movements, combined with a lack of consistent political support, cause them to collapse. Florida's Workforce Development Education Fund appears to be the only major program in the State that is fully funded through a performance-based funding formula.

Character Education Presentation by Dr. Bob Williams

Dr. Bob Williams, Department Chair for Teaching and Learning Principles, College of Education, University of Central Florida, was introduced by Dr. John Wiegman. Dr. Williams addressed three main points about character education. The first point built the case for why character education is

important; point two provided an overview of character education; and the final point described the role of the state in supporting character education.

Dr. Williams noted that it cannot be assumed that all children come to school with a well-developed character. As a result, schools have a responsibility to become involved in character education. He noted that schools, particularly elementary schools, are already teaching much in the way of character education. Florida's required instruction statute now requires the teaching of character education in grades K through 12. Dr. Williams shared several anecdotes of how character education has made a lasting difference for both students and educators.

The origins of the modern character education movement began in the 1960's as "values clarification." The approach was embroiled in controversy, receded and returned in the 1990's under the label of "character education." Publishers and vendors have developed a wide array of character education materials, including *Character Counts* and *Character First*. The majority of character education programs, however, tend to be locally developed by schools and school districts. Dr. Williams stressed the importance of community-based efforts, and shared several examples of locally developed programs, notably, the "Keys to Character" program of the Seminole County Public Schools and the Flagler County Public School's initiative.

Dr. Williams explained the origins and operation of the *Florida's Partnership's for Character Education* at the University of Central Florida. FPCE serves as a clearinghouse for character education resources, research and training. It includes the components of citizenship education, law-related education, conflict-resolution and service-learning. FPCE and the UCF *Consortium for Social Responsibility and Character in Education* partner with the Seminole County Public Schools and the Department of Education to conduct an annual summer conference. The 2002 conference had over 400 participants, representing 43 school districts. Dr. Williams extended an invitation to Council members to attend the conference on June 16-18 at UCF.

The state role in promoting and supporting character education should include staying "on message" about its importance; developing guidelines for the DOE approval of K-12 curricula; setting standards while allowing local flexibility; recognizing schools of character; and providing incentive grants.

Dr. Williams closed by emphasizing that character education, when implemented deeply, can transform the culture of a school. In such a setting, habits of character are consciously and routinely infused into the daily interactions between students and staff. He noted that it may still be a "leap of faith" to connect student achievement with character education, but that such research is essential to the future of character education, and is underway at the FPCE.

Community College Baccalaureate Proposals

The Council received updated staff recommendations regarding the Okaloosa-Walton Community College Baccalaureate Degree proposals in nursing and project/acquisitions management from Dr. Bill Proctor. Dr. Proctor noted that these recommendations had been discussed with Commissioner Jim Horne of the Florida State Board of Education and that a copy had also been provided to Phil Handy, Chair of the SBE.

Dr. Proctor stated that he had engaged in further discussions with representatives of Okaloosa-Walton Community College, staff of the Division of Community Colleges, the Division of Colleges

and Universities, and businesses in the Okaloosa-Walton area with regard to establishing demand for the management program. After discussion among Council members, Dr. Proctor, and Dr. Bob Richburg, President of OWCC, further revisions were made to the recommendations. Dr. Proctor cited a local demand for both programs, and stated that the revised staff recommendations, which endorse the establishment of a collaborative program between UWF and OWCC to deliver the nursing baccalaureate, as well as the establishment of the BAS program in project/acquisitions management, respond to the need for the proposed baccalaureate programs in the Okaloosa-Walton area.

A motion was made to accept the report. It was seconded and approved.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2003, at the Sheraton Suites Orlando International Airport.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9, 2003.

William B. Proctor
Executive Director