

NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE FULL COUNCIL AT ITS NEXT MEETING. SHOULD REVISIONS BE MADE, THEY WILL BE INCLUDED AS AN ITEM IN THE MINUTES OF THAT MEETING.

Minutes of the Meeting of the
COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION POLICY, RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT
Wednesday, May 12, 2004
Sheraton Ft. Lauderdale Airport Hotel

Members Present: Akshay Desai Bob Taylor
W.C. Gentry Pat Telson
Rajendra Gupta Elaine Vasquez
Bob McIntyre Harold Wishna

Member absent: Diane Leone

Chairman Akshay Desai opened the meeting and welcomed the Council members.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 14, 2004, meeting were approved as circulated.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Desai thanked Ms. Elaine Vasquez for hosting a dinner/meeting the evening of May 11, 2004. Chairman Desai also thanked Mr. Jonathan Hage, President of Charter Schools USA, and Ms. Anne Mejeur from the Florida Parent Educator Association, for their presentations on Charter Schools and Home Schooling.

Chairman Desai announced that the Council meeting for June will be held in Tampa in coordination with the Florida Chamber Foundation. He said that the Council meeting will be held on June 8, 2004, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Desai announced that Dr. William Proctor would not be attending today's Council meeting and that Dr. Pat Dallet would present the Executive Director's report.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Dallet distributed a list of study/staff assignments for the coming year. He discussed additional legislative study assignments contained in House Bill 769 related to the need for additional apprenticeship and other workforce programs, and Senate Bill 122 concerning cost savings associated with a pilot program for the purchase of used textbooks. Dr. Dallet distributed a summary prepared by the Senate Education Committee of substantive education legislation passed by the 2004 Legislature. He said that House Bill 769 essentially addressed the recommendations contained in the Council's recent study on funding for adult and career education with the exception of those concerning apprenticeship programs. He said that House Bill 821 provides for a universal voluntary pre-kindergarten program, but some critics have referred to it as a day care rather than an educational program. The decision now faced by the Governor is whether to veto the bill or allow it

to become law and work to strengthen its provisions during the interim. Dr. Dallet mentioned several bills that did not pass including Senate Bill 2388 relating to community college baccalaureate degrees. He said that as a result, the Council will remain involved in the review of any proposed programs of this nature. He also said that while legislation creating tighter oversight of the educational voucher programs was not enacted, the Governor's Office has indicated it will work with the Department of Education to address this administratively to the extent possible.

Dr. Dallet asked Mr. Bob Cox to provide a summary of the education appropriations. Mr. Cox presented a summary of the 2004-2005 legislative appropriations for education. He said that the General Appropriations Act for 2004-2005 provides for an increase of \$1.5 billion or 7 percent from state appropriations and legislatively authorized local revenue sources. The Chairman requested a summary of any budget actions related to Council studies and recommendations. Mr. Bob Taylor requested verification of the amount of state funds spent annually on workforce education.

State Board of Education Report

There was no report at this time.

Board of Governors' Report

There was no report at this time.

Study Outlines

In-Service Education – Dr. Simmie Raiford said that in 1997, the Florida Department of Education conducted a study on the status of In-Service Education. The major findings of the study were as follows:

- An average of 6,000 in-service education offerings was available on any in-service day.
- A coordinated system of staff development does not exist in most school districts.
- Local staff development efforts reflect state and federal initiatives.
- Teacher participation is voluntary and varies greatly in quality and quantity.
- Most staff development offerings are at awareness level, failing to address higher level, critical thinking skills in the content area.
- The majority of in-service education activities focused on three areas: reading, computer education, and instructional strategies. These three concentrations comprised 70 percent of the in-service hours taken by teachers.

Dr. Raiford said that based on these findings the DOE made the following recommendations:

- Create a collaborative, coordinated system.
- Narrow the scope of staff development offerings.
- Provide content area training to teachers.
- Increase use of technologies.
- Include a regularly scheduled block of time for staff development.
- Create professional development schools.

Dr. Raiford said that in 2000, the DOE conducted a follow-up study and found the following:

- District Professional Development Systems were aligned with the needs of students and teachers.
- School improvement plans, student data, and performance data were being used to target professional development activities.
- Professional Development offerings focused on: Sunshine State Standards, content/teaching methods, technology, assessment/data analysis, classroom management, and school safety.

Dr. Raiford said that these findings indicated that districts had adopted many of the suggested reforms from the 1997 study. She said that an additional development, since the 1997 study, was legislation requiring teachers to have individual professional development plans, developed in cooperation with and overseen by their school principal.

Dr. Raiford said that in the 2002-2003 education budget, \$36 million was allocated to in-service education; however, this figure is very misleading in that there are numerous other budget items that include dollars for training and professional development, as well as funds coming from grants and other financial sources.

Dr. Raiford said that the proposed CEPRI study will concentrate on addressing the following questions with regards to In-Service Education:

- What are the measurable results of teacher participation in in-service education in the schools/school districts?
- What concrete changes in student achievement have been effected?
- What type of in-service education programs are districts/schools funding?
- To what degree are districts using online and other delivery formats for in-service education?
- What improvements need to be made to the current system of in-service education to make it more efficient and effective?
- Are low-performing schools and school districts tying their in-service education activities directly to academic areas in need of improvement?

Public Broadcasting – Dr. Dallet reviewed the Public Broadcasting outline and said that Dr. Proctor and other staff would be taking the lead in this area. He said that both Public Broadcasting and the In-Service Education study were requested by Representative David Simmons, Chair of the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee, and that former Senator, now Representative Don Sullivan was instrumental in identifying these issues. He said that Florida's Public Broadcasting System was initiated in 1973 and in 1980 the authorizing legislation was amended to charge the Department of Education with avoiding duplication of services as additional stations were created. He said that in a 1990 study the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission called for the development of a clear statewide telecommunications policy and for tying the state funding for this purpose to established priorities. He said that this year Public Broadcasting received \$41 million, the majority of which was distributed as block grants to each station (\$557,000 per TV station and \$106,000 per radio station).

Several individuals representing individual public television and radio stations provided brief remarks and responded to member questions. In response to Mr. W.C. Gentry's request for examples of how the funds are used, Ms. Marlene Figueroa of WXEL cited Ready to Learn, GED

Connection, and programs for early childhood and parent education. Mr. Bob McIntyre asked if the stations could assist in promoting awareness of career education programs. Ms. Figueroa responded that this could be done, but additional support might be required. Chairman Desai asked about the demographics of the viewing audience and she replied that families from all economic levels watch the children's programming, while the viewership for other offerings leans more to those over 50, who are educated and more affluent. Mr. Patrick Keating, General Manager of WFSU, said that unlike Georgia, which has one broadcasting center with satellite transmitters, Florida has stations throughout the state that can respond to local needs while also coordinating efforts to address issues of statewide concern. He noted that his station was one of nine recognized nationwide by the White House for its work in education in Gadsden County. As for statewide coordination, he said that in October 2003, all stations with digital broadcast capability dedicated a portion of their band width to the Florida Knowledge Network for ten hours per day. He also said that state funds support the statewide Florida channel which is broadcast through the PBS stations as well as 40 cable channels, and these funds are also used to leverage available federal dollars.

Chairman Desai asked if concerns about a perceived liberal bias perhaps led to the study. Mr. Jim Holmes, Station Manager for WQCS at Indian River Community College, said that if the stations were doing their job correctly all segments of the population should take issue with the coverage at some point. He discussed the demographics of the area his station serves and said that majority of listeners are not high income. Ms. Vasquez said that the stations are excellent community partners who donate public service announcements generously. Ms. Pat Telson said that the stations represent training opportunities for high schools and others. Mr. Holmes indicated that his station is involved in this type of activity.

After further discussion, the speakers agreed to provide statewide demographic information requested by the Chairman and pledged their assistance as the study proceeds.

Master Plan – Major Initiatives

Funding Issues – Report was deferred until the June meeting.

Stay the Course – Dr. Dallet reviewed the findings of the Koret Commission which examined the impact of **A Nation at Risk** over the past 20 years. He said that many of the recommendations made in the Koret follow-up report paralleled the thinking in the Council's transformation document. Mr. Taylor quoted from the Koret summary which noted "Risk underestimated the resistance to change from the organized interests of the K-12 public education system, at the center of which were two big teacher unions, as well as school administrators, colleges of education, state bureaucracies, school boards, and many others." He observed that that instinctively summarizes the challenge to stay the course. Dr. Dallet said that next steps would be to combine this effort with work being done concerning funding, leadership, and the other Master Plan initiatives as well as following up the proposal for foundation support to assist with efforts to assist parents and others in accurately assessing the progress of their schools. This will be a topic for discussion at the World Class meeting in June.

Career Education – The Council heard invited testimony from three representatives from the Jacksonville area on their efforts to build and support quality high school career academy programs, Ms. Paula Chaon, Senior Director, Education and Workforce Development, Greater Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce; Ms. Chris Force, Teacher-Director, Wolfson High School, National Academy foundation; and Mr. Larry Fairman, member of the Greater Jacksonville Chamber of

Commerce and career academy trustee. Ms. Chaon, Ms. Force and Mr. Fairman discussed why and how Jacksonville embraced the career academies as a method of reaching the “middle 75 percent” of high school students. The members were interested in how well students in academies perform (compared to the general school population) and how to duplicate this effort at the state level.

Ms. Patricia Vegnani from One Community One Goal also provided brief public testimony on Miami-Dade County Public School’s efforts with regard to the development of career academies and the problems associated with sustaining them with current funding. Ms. Vegnani indicated that the school district does have the capability to track students electronically and that their programs have low dropout rates. Mr. Taylor inquired about why the dropout rate would be lower and Ms. Vegnani expressed that the smaller learning community as well as good advisement are important.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 8, 2004, at the Wyndham Harbour Island Hotel in Tampa, Florida. Committee meetings are scheduled the morning of June 9, 2004, at the same location.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, 2004.



William B. Proctor
Executive Director