

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
June 8 & 9, 2004
Wyndham Harbour Island Hotel
Tampa, Florida

Members Present: Akshay Desai Bob Taylor
W.C. Gentry Elaine Vasquez
Rajendra Gupta Harold Wishna
Diane Leone

Members Absent: Bob McIntyre and Pat Telson

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 12, 2004, meeting were approved as circulated.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Desai announced that he was appointed by the White House to the Advisory Commission for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. He said that he is one of fourteen commissioners.

Chairman Desai welcomed Mrs. Mary Brown from the Pinellas County School Board to the meeting.

Chairman Desai proposed that the Council approve a performance bonus for Dr. William Proctor. Mr. Harold Wishna supported the bonus by making a motion and also suggested that the Council send a letter to the Governor, Senate President, and Speaker of the House, on the exceptional work that Dr. Proctor and staff have contributed to the Council. The motion was seconded and approved by the Council.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Proctor suggested that the Council recognize Chairman Desai on his appointment to the Advisory Commission for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. He said that this is a great honor and the Council should be proud.

Dr. Proctor said that Ms. Tara Goodman and Mr. Juan Copa gave a presentation to the Association of Institutional Research and the American Association of Institutional Researchers on the web tool that predicts graduation rates.

Dr. Proctor said that he plans to attend the Massachusetts Higher Education Commission meeting and explain some of CEPRI's work. He said that Massachusetts has a task force on Improving Education and Retention.

Dr. Proctor said that the Colorado Commission will hold a workshop on Innovative and New Funding Methods of Higher Education.

Dr. Proctor said that he would like the next **Insight** Newsletter to go out in September 2004. He said that staff is checking into making the newsletter available on the Internet where you would have the option of clicking on different topics and have access to a full discussion.

Chairman Desai invited the Council members to share their comments on the Governor's vetos. Mr. W.C. Gentry shared his concern regarding the Governor's veto on distance learning and the CORE Program. Mr. Gentry said that these were worthwhile programs that supported the Governor's education program, and he did not understand why the Governor vetoed them.

State Board of Education Report/Board of Governors' Report

Dr. Nancy McKee said that the next SBE meeting will be held in Miami. She said that the SBE will be adopting the guidelines for their legislative budget request. The SBE will update the strategic planning process. Dr. McKee said that progress is being made. She said that the SBE has devoted a lot of time to their website so that parents would be provided information in making better decisions for their children. Dr. McKee said that Chancellor Debra Austin thanks the Council for continued support and for allowing Dr. Pat Dallet to come to the Board of Governors' meeting this past month and share with the Board projects that CEPRI is currently working on.

Dr. McKee said that the Board of Governors met on May 27, 2004, and adopted their guidelines for the fixed capital outlay budget request. She said that the BOG adopted their guidelines for the operating budget in the previous month. Dr. McKee said that the plan is to adopt the legislative budget request at the July 2004 meeting and then in September adopt the fixed capital outlay budget request. At the May meeting the Board was also updated on the strategic planning activities. Dr. McKee said that at this point, they are fine tuning the system wide goals. She said that after the Board is comfortable with the system goals, they will ask the universities how they can contribute to the system wide goals. The Board has also expressed an interest in having a consultant help with the strategic planning process. Dr. McKee said that block tuition was discussed at the May meeting and if presidents are interested, they have been directed to submit plans for implementing block tuition by September 1, 2004.

Dr. McKee said that discussion on the Chiropractic School was intense and lengthy. She said that discussions have been ongoing for several years about adding a Chiropractic School at FSU. She said that if this appropriation and decision had been made a year from now, the outcome may have been different because the BOG would of had a strategic plan in place and could determine whether or not a Chiropractic School fit in the plan. She said that the BOG does not have a strategic plan finalized, and that it is still in the discussion stages. This made it difficult for the Board to say no. Dr. McKee said that the outcome of the discussion was that FSU is expected to bring the curriculum for the Chiropractic School back to the BOG and let the staff review the curriculum when it has been developed. Council continued discussion on the Chiropractic School.

Study Outlines

Inservice Education – Dr. Simmie Raiford presented a study outline on Inservice Education for Florida Educators. She discussed background information and presented a chart on the number of inservice hours delivered. Dr. Raiford said that Inservice Education was one of six categorical funding areas in the 2003 – 2004 Fiscal Year education budget in Florida. A total of \$36,000,000 was allocated to the sixty-seven school districts in the state. She said that a percentage of the base student allocation per FTE must be spent on educational training programs. Dr. Raiford presented a table that shows the amount of funding allocated to each district. Dr. Raiford discussed the timelines for the next several months and the final report is due December 8, 2004.

Medical Education Needs Analysis – There was no report at this time.

Master Plan – Major Initiatives

Funding Issues – Mr. Bob Cox presented data on student and school performance improvements in the A+ Plan. He said that elementary and middle schools have shown dramatic improvement with somewhat less improvement occurring in high schools. Schools with large populations of minority students and students receiving free and reduced lunches have shown less improvement than other schools. However, score improvements in elementary and middle schools with such populations have been significant while improvements in high schools have been minimal. The Council directed Mr. Cox to refine the analysis of the impact of free and reduced lunch populations on performance, and to rewrite the paper associated with the presentation as a newsletter article or “To the Point” paper.

Leadership – Dr. Raiford said due to the development of the mandated Master Plan for Education, and as an outgrowth of previous study on teacher quality in Florida, CEPRI is in the initial stage of a study on school leadership in Florida, focusing on the challenges faced by school principals and district administration, and current “best practices” in the field. She said that the study has been divided into three sections: 1) School district leadership profiles; 2) Current school/district governance structures; and 3) School leadership innovations in the areas of preparation, selection and appraisal. As part of data-gathering efforts, CEPRI will invite K-12 and university faculty and administrators to address Council members and present their perspectives on the various areas of the study. Dr. Raiford said that the first section will examine the demographics of school principals, superintendents and school boards in Florida, and examine the impact on the DROP program on the supply and demand for school principals. The second section will explore the management structures of school districts, with a focus on policies related to staffing and resource allocation. In particular, the study will focus on strategies used by district to staff and equip challenged or “hard-to-staff” schools with chronically low student performance. The final portion of the study will look at the state of school leader preparation, selection and appraisal in the wake of the demise of the Management Training Act and accompanying legislative requirements. Dr. Raiford said the key question to answer is whether districts are opting to select non-traditional candidates to fill principal vacancies with the accompanying creation of policies related to alternative certification for principals. In addition, with the advent of the new state standards for educational leadership, the study will explore what is being done by universities and school districts to educate and train the next generation of school leaders.

Dr. Raiford said that the study will examine and compare efforts to prepare, select and appraise school leaders with those being undertaken in the private sector with business executives, to see

what lessons can be gleaned from their approach to leadership development. She said that this aspect of the study will also examine the governance structures of private organizations to determine the approaches used to overcome obstacles and constraints to high organizational performance.

Early Learning – Dr. Glenda Rabby presented an update on the status of early learning legislation. She explained that the final legislation (HB 821) establishing the Voluntary Universal Pre-Kindergarten (VUPK) program had been widely criticized as an inadequate stopgap that did not meet the tenets of the constitutional amendment passed in 2002. Areas of controversy include program accountability, teacher qualifications, teacher to student ratio, student assessment and curricula. Many advocacy groups and state newspapers have urged the Governor to veto the legislation. Dr. Rabby noted that the Governor had vetoed the \$7 million appropriated for the Pre-K summer pilot program that was one component of the legislation. If the bill is vetoed, the 2005 Legislature would have to create a Pre-K program to go into effect in the 2005-2006 school year. If the Governor signs the bill, Dr. Rabby noted that several key aspects of the program including funding and student-teacher ratios will still need to be addressed by next year's Legislature.

Dr. Rabby reviewed what the council had previously discussed as the best practices for a quality VUPK program. Those practices, organized under standards, provider eligibility, accountability, governance, and funding, would provide for highly qualified teachers and staff, state approved program curricula, adequate program length, national accreditation, and a unified early learning system for children birth to five under the Department of Education. After a brief discussion, Chairman Desai asked Dr. Rabby to develop the Council's Early Learning Master Plan Initiative incorporating recommendations for a quality VUPK as well as other issues and recommendations regarding K-3 education in Florida's public schools.

Career Education – Ms. Tara Goodman presented a brief update on the status of the study required in House Bill 769 and the Master Plan Career Education report. The study outline for the House Bill 769 study on the need for new training opportunities in workforce education and apprenticeship programs will be presented at the July 2004 meeting following consultation with the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The Career Education draft report will also be placed on the July agenda for Council discussion.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest at this time.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, July 14, 2004, at the Schultz Center in Jacksonville, Florida.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 9, 2004.



William B. Proctor
Executive Director