

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, January 14, 2004
Florida Atlantic University
Boca Raton, Florida

Members Present: W.C. Gentry Pat Telson
 Bob McIntyre Harold Wishna
 Bob Taylor

Member Present by Conference Phone: Elaine Vasquez

Members Absent: Akshay Desai
 Diane Leone

Vice Chairman Bob Taylor opened the meeting and welcomed the Council members.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 10, 2003, meeting were approved as circulated.

Chairman's Report

There was no Chairman's report at this time.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. William Proctor said that the lead story in **Insight** was about Career Education. He mentioned that the newsletter was mailed out to every Representative and Senator. Dr. Proctor said that the newsletter was also going out to all the newspapers and to college and school boards.

Dr. Proctor said that the staff has updated a draft on No Child Left Behind. He asked the Council to submit any comments. Vice Chairman Taylor suggested that the conclusion of the NCLB summary be the lead-in statement.

Dr. Proctor said he is on the national steering committee for the Florida Higher Education in the Work Place and Where We Stand project. Dr. Proctor said that we have contracted with Mr. Patrick Kelly from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, to do an analysis for Florida. Dr. Proctor said that he met with Dr. Nancy McKee, and Mr. John Temple who is on the Board of Governors. Dr. Proctor said that he is assisting the Board of Governors' subcommittee on Medical Education.

Dr. Proctor said that staff is concluding their work on Workforce Funding. He said that this will permit the Council to resume its work on Career Education overall.

State Board of Education/Board of Governors' Report

There was no report at this time.

Legislative Assignments

Workforce Education Funding - Ms. Tara Goodman presented the draft recommendations and report on a new funding methodology for adult and career education. Public testimony on the draft report and recommendations were provided by the following school district, community college, apprenticeship and other education representatives: Mr. Dave Barnes, Pinellas County Schools; Ms. Marsan Carr, Florida Association for Career and Technical Education; Mr. Bob Crawford, Broward County Public Schools; Ms. Pam Cunningham, School District of Hillsborough County; Mr. Bobby Gornto, Miami-Dade County Public Schools; Ms. Angela Kersenbrock, Seminole Community College; Mr. Joe Kolinsky, School District of Hillsborough County; Ms. Susan Lehr, Florida Community College at Jacksonville; Ms. Bonnie Marmor, Florida Department of Education; Ms. Erin McColskey, Palm Beach Community College; Mr. Dan Meyer, Associated Builders and Contractors; Ms. Linda Mundt, Florida Electrical Apprenticeship Association Incorporated; Ms. Kathie Schmidt, Florida Association for Career and Technical Education/FLCTE, St. Lucie County Schools; Mr. Gerald Smith, Learey Technical Center/Hillsborough County Schools; Mr. Mark Webel, Ellon Electric Incorporated/Associated Builders and Contractors; and Mr. Jim Whittamore, Lee County School District.

After a short break in the Council discussion in which CEPRI staff and representatives from the public education sector discussed revisions to the recommendations, final recommendations were presented. The final report and revised recommendations were adopted, pending final review of Council members and Vice Chairman Taylor.

After adoption of the report, Ms. Schmidt and Ms. Carr each stressed the importance of providing adequate recognition and support for career education at the middle and high school levels. Dr. Proctor said that prior to the Workforce Funding study, the Council had explored the role of career academies and other strategies to promote career awareness and preparation, and will further examine this area as it develops the career education component of the Master Plan.

Master Plan

Early Childhood Education - Dr. Glenda Rabby presented a brief overview of the status of the constitutionally mandated universal pre-kindergarten program adopted by Florida voters in 2002. She noted that both the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Council and the Florida State Board of Education (SBE) had issued reports and recommendations for developing Pre-K curriculum and standards, evaluation and assessment measures, teacher qualifications, program funding levels and sources, as well as other important issues related to delivery and governance. Currently, some 62,000 four-year-olds are served in childcare centers across Florida that are funded through a combination of state and federal dollars. These children, from predominately low socio-economic backgrounds, will be joined in 2005 by another 91,000 children who will be eligible for the free program.

Dr. Rabby introduced the two guest speakers, both experts in the field of early childhood education: Ms. Shan Goff, K-12 Deputy Chancellor for Student Achievement, and Ms. Phyllis Kalifeh, President of the Children's Forum. In her remarks, Ms. Goff noted that the SBE report focused on provider capacity, workforce capacity and funding issues. Some specific recommendations included program length (4 hours per day for 180 days) teacher qualifications (minimum Child Development Associate), instructional staff ratio (1:10) and program curricula based on early literacy and oral language skills. According to the SBE report, the outcome for Florida's UPK program shall be that 100% of all children enter kindergarten ready for school. The SBE report calls for the Legislature to provide the board with the authority to adopt rules establishing licensing standards for providers (the majority of which are now private) and with the authority to adopt rules identifying standards for the approval of CDA programs. The SBE report directs the Department of Education to conduct a review of existing CDA programs while assessing the capacity of the state's workforce to provide high quality pre-K instruction. The SBE report also calls for a consumer protection system that would identify appropriate outcomes for students enrolled in pre-K programs and establish consequences for those programs that fail to produce children ready for kindergarten. While the SBE recommends that the Legislature should maintain a consolidated local governance structure, it recommended that the Legislature transfer school readiness programs to the Department of Education under a separate Chancellor for Early Learning. Mr. Harold Wishna noted that he did not notice any provision for parental involvement in the report. He noted the importance of parental involvement in education, particularly in early learning programs. Ms. Goff said that while the SBE report was "silent" on this issue, the Pre-K Advisory Council, which the board would rely on, included some of the richest information in that area. Ms. Pat Telson asked Ms. Goff if pre-kindergarten would be provided to all four year olds in the state regardless of family income and if capital outlay money would be provided to meet infrastructure demand. Ms. Goff noted that due to constitutional provisions there will be no parental fee for the four hour UPK program. There will be a fee for children who stay longer than four hours unless they are eligible for federal funding. She added that no capital outlay dollars have been requested, so provider capacity is crucial to the implementation and success of the program. Following a question by Ms. Telson, Ms. Goff said that centers that do not meet Gold Seal Standards after two years would no longer be eligible for state funding. Vice Chairman Taylor asked how the state would track whether children stay in the program longer than four hours. Ms. Goff said that tracking student involvement will require the development and use of up to date data systems across the state. Vice Chairman Taylor asked if the local school boards would be administering the program. Ms. Goff said that existing local collations (or similar local structures) would continue to administer the pre-K programs under the Department of Education and a separate chancellor.

Ms. Kalifeh briefly addressed the council on the differences between the State Board of Education's report and the report and recommendations of the Pre-Kindergarten Council. A chart detailing those differences was prepared by the Children's Forum and included in the mail out. Ms. Kalifeh noted that the Children's Forum (along with many other advocacy groups) strongly support the findings and recommendations of the Pre-K Advisory Council. She said that the Forum supported some of the SBE recommendations but that the report of the Pre-K Council best reflected the representation of what the people wanted and what the majority of stakeholders had communicated to that council. Vice Chairman Taylor asked Ms. Kalifeh to explain the benefits of supporting the UPK council and not the SBE's recommendations. Ms. Kalifeh explained that numerous early learning experts and practitioners from all over the country had shared their findings and recommendations to the council as it deliberated over a three month period. In addition, the council was chaired by Lt. Governor Jennings who brought a high level of visibility and inclusiveness to the public meetings, conference calls and other activities that were held across the

state. The council was comprised of a variety of stakeholders who, along with members of the audience, discussed and debated the issues.

Ms. Kalifeh noted that research has shown that teacher preparation and professional development are essential components of a successful pre-K program. She noted that the UPK report was more specific in providing mechanisms for ensuring that well qualified pre-K teachers are available by 2005 and beyond. One of the most important recommendations that both the UPK and SBE reports shared was that all programs serving children birth to five, stay together. Both bodies recommend that readiness programs be housed in the Department of Education under a separate chancellor.

Ms. Kalifeh emphasized that although the Pre-K Council had reached a “fragile consensus” for its far reaching recommendations, there were some individuals and advocacy groups in the state that were not in agreement with either report. Consequently, some unique challenges face the state in creating a universal pre-kindergarten program. One of them, Ms. Kalifeh noted, is that the majority of pre-K providers are currently in the private sector.

Some contentious points remain, particularly over what entity should govern the pre-K program. Disagreement over the length of the program, teacher qualifications and program standards continue to divide advocacy groups. Ms. Kalifeh said it was essential that all groups work together to assure that Florida does implement a quality, well defined pre-kindergarten program. She agreed with Ms. Goff and the SBE that one of the biggest difficulties facing the state was capacity. Mr. W.C. Gentry asked Ms. Kalifeh how the state would “make” private providers take in additional students. Ms. Kalifeh said that the program was voluntary for both parents and providers. The incentive for providers is not to lose their students (any money) to other schools. Schools who receive payment from the state must follow the accepted guidelines and standards.

Ms. Kalifeh said there were many challenges still ahead that must be met before the Pre-K Program is implemented. Because many legislators are unfamiliar with the various recommendations and models for the pre-K program it is vital that all stakeholders come together in a united effort to ensure that the best pre-K program for the state’s children is developed.

Vice Chairman Taylor thanked Ms. Kalifeh for her presentation and underscored CEPRI’s interest in all issues related to early learning in Florida.

President Frank Brogan’s Comments

Vice Chairman Taylor introduced Mr. Frank Brogan, President of Florida Atlantic University. Mr. Brogan welcomed everyone to FAU. Mr. Brogan introduced Dr. Fred Hoffman who is a faculty member at FAU in the mathematics department, a leader that works with the faculty senate, and a Board of Trustees member.

Mr. Brogan extended a formal invitation for the Council to be partners in the Literacy in Teaching Conference on January 29 and 30, 2004, at Florida Atlantic University. Mr. Brogan said that he believes the hallmark of college education is addressing two responsibilities: the new workforce and the existing workforce. Mr. Brogan said that they will be bringing people to the university important to the topic of teaching reading and literacy. He also said that the Secretary of Education, Mr. Rod Paige, is a partner for this conference and will be participating.

Mr. Brogan said that he is pleased that the Council has chosen to highlight some of the initiatives in the College of Education at FAU, in the latest issue of **Insight**.

Mr. Brogan said that the No Child Left Behind Act is a perfect illustration of what people in both houses of congress can accomplish in a bipartisan way, when they decide what is important. He said that the NCLB Act was not just signed by the President, it was witnessed by members of Congress; both chambers and by leaders from both political parties. He said that it is important for people to recognize that while other states are just beginning their journey to NCLB status, Florida is well ahead of the curve. He said that Florida needs to stay the course.

Mr. Brogan said that he looks forward to working with the Council and he is delighted that we chose to have the Council meeting at FAU.

Mr. Brogan introduced Dr. Gregory Aloia, Dean of College of Education, FAU. Dr. Aloia said that he has been involved in higher education for 30 years. He said one of the questions he asks is can we move the college of education forward in addressing the problems that face the schools today. Dr. Aloia said that there are two primary goals; one is to educate a quality teacher force to go into the profession but also to address the professional development needs of faculty and teachers that are currently in the profession. Dr. Aloia said that one of the major problems that he has faced in the college of education is how you change a culture. He said that FAU has searched for new faculty, staff, and administrators that basically have pre-criteria. He said that they are looking for people with a broad vision, people who have the attitude to move the agenda forward, and who come from a higher education background. He said that FAU's fundamental motto is to "Make a Difference." Dr. Aloia said that they have four major programs that are making a difference in the State of Florida; 1) Acceleration Induction in Teaching (AIT), 2) Leadership, 3) Special Education, and 4) Early Childhood.

Vice Chairman Taylor asked how FAU deals with funding and constraints. Dr. Aloia responded that the entire budgeting process is complex. He said that the process of state funding for universities needs to be addressed more aggressively, and FAU plans to follow the budgetary process, make their arguments as to why the budget needs to be increased, and what the outcomes will be. Dr. Aloia said that in terms of the State's requirements, FAU has had numerous discussions in the college of education in rethinking the way they go about business and basically saying judge us by our outcome, accountability, hold us by what we are doing, and the quality of teaching that we put into the school. He said that if we can move in this direction where we are held by what we are accountable for, and what we end up doing, it will streamline the system and change the way we are funded and supported. He said that the bottom line is that you want to put out high quality teachers in sufficient numbers who are durable and successful in the classroom with student achievement. Dr. Aloia said that the culture at FAU has change dramatically with the new leadership team.

Dr. Aloia thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak.

Master Plan

Collaborative Efforts - Dr. Pat Dallet briefly discussed earlier efforts to foster cross sector and community wide communication and collaboration, including regional coordinating councils in the 1970's and state funded pilot projects support education/business consortia and other cooperative efforts through the Postsecondary Cooperation Trust Fund in the 1980's. He said that rather than being created in response to a state mandate, the Palm Beach County Education Commission

(PBCEC) arose as a voluntary effort due to a locally perceived need for better communication and a unified approach for addressing K-20 issues.

Ms. Jody Gleason, Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Education Commission, discussed the work of her 35 member board which consists of education, business, and community leaders and operates on a consensus basis. She said that there are 37 cities in Palm Beach County and many divergent interests, and that the Commission would not be possible without the commitment of local leadership. She said that while there was some institutional resistance initially, the Commission has proceeded to support a number of collaborative initiatives including the establishment of career academies within the comprehensive high schools; a Leadership Development Initiative in collaboration with the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business and College of Education with major support from CITRIX Corporation; a Distance Learning Consortium involving FAU, Palm Beach Community College, and the school district; the Intensive Teacher Education initiative which resulted in the training and placement of former Siemens Corporation employees in classrooms; and CD2 Child Development, Career Development which promotes other careers in addition to teaching that involve working with children. Mr. Taylor asked how the Commission responded if initiatives were not going as planned. Ms. Gleason said that it generally would be handled informally, but to date this has not been necessary due to the commitment of the people involved to make this work.

The Council thanked Ms. Gleason for her presentation and for the excellent work of the PBCEC. Dr. Dallet briefly discussed the Stay the Course case statement and the profile of other states that have made a significant commitment to sustained collaborative planning and implementation of education policy and practices. Mr. Taylor said that two questions he would like to see answered are, "Why don't we tend to stay the course?" and "Why hasn't such a unifying group come forward and what are the impediments to its creation?" Mr. Wishna asked about the awareness of CEPRI within the Legislature which was followed by a discussion of the need for ongoing orientation on education policy issues for legislators, college and university trustees, and school board members. Mr. Gentry shared the opinion that one reason it is difficult to reach and maintain a consensus position on education overall, is because everyone has been involved in education so there is no shortage of differing expert opinions.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest at this time.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2004, at the Tampa Airport Marriott.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2004.

William B. Proctor
Executive Director