



State Board Review

A Publication for Members of the
N.C. Association of School Administrators

October 13, 2016

The State Board of Education (SBE) met October 4-October 6 in Boone, NC. The pages that follow summarize the Board's actions for this month. For complete SBE information, visit their Web site: <http://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/>

STATE BOARD HOLDS BI-ANNUAL PLANNING AND WORK SESSION, ALONG WITH MONTHLY MEETING, IN BOONE

The State Board of Education met last week at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC to hold its two day bi-annual planning and work session on Tuesday and Wednesday, prior to holding its monthly meeting on Thursday morning. Ahead of a discussion of the State Board's Strategic Plan, State Superintendent June Atkinson provided the Board a document outlining how much the [role of the State Board has changed](#) over the last 20 years, now being in charge of LEA schools, Virtual Public Schools, Charter Schools, Virtual Charter Schools, the Achievement School District, Lab Schools, and much more.

The meeting started in earnest with a [review of the State Board's Strategic Plan progress](#). The Board used this review and discussion as a jumping off point for their planning session the rest of the week. The State Board of Education's Strategic Plan, as approved in May earlier this year, can be found [here](#).

Day 1 of the Planning and Work session concluded with a discussion of student wrap-around services, and interagency collaboration. Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, Chief Academic and Digital Learning Office with the Department of Public Instruction, provided the Board with an [update on the Interagency Advisory Committee](#), a committee tasked with identifying and reviewing the challenges of at-risk school-aged children such as poverty, safety, health and other non-academic barriers.

District and School Transformation Evaluation

Dr. Nancy Barbour, Director of District and School Transformation with the Department of Public Instruction, kicked off day two of the session with a presentation to the Board on the [progression of services and support for low-performing schools and districts](#).

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)/Accountability Discussion

Day two of the planning and working session continued with a review of the [draft Every Student Succeeds Act plan](#) by Dr. Lou Fabrizio, Director of Federal Policy at the North Carolina Department of

Public Instruction. There are five sections to the plan, reflecting the proposed regulations by the United State Department of Education, though no final regulations have been released. Dr. Fabrizio noted to the Board that a new round of public comment sessions regarding ESSA is recently underway. Dr. Fabrizio noted that the Plan is not close to completion, but is a work in progress.

The Board members then broke in to smaller roundtable groups primarily to discuss the accountability aspects of ESSA. The accountability requirements under ESSA does not fully match and correspond to the A-F School Performance Grades accountability system which North Carolina currently uses. A comparison document showing the accountability requirements of ESSA vs the A-F system can be seen [here](#).

Before breaking into smaller groups, Dr. June Atkinson noted she is still meeting with superintendents across the state to discuss ESSA accountability and performance indicators and continues to receive feedback to roll in to the Department's draft.

Vice-Chair of the Board, Buddy Collins, also addressed the Board before members split up in to breakout groups. Mr. Collins expressed that it is the Board's job to come up with the proper plan, noting that the Board has only had access to the draft ESSA plan for a few days, and that while the timeframe to complete a plan is short, he urged the Board to take a measured approach in the breakout discussion.

Documents available to Board members during their breakout session can be found [here](#).

Once the Board reconvened from their breakout sessions, representatives from each group provided a summary of the group's discussion. The following is a list of indicators and attributes of an accountability system the Board members discussed they would like to see:

- Indicators should not be surrogates for poverty.
- Indicators should show the State what is important and should focus upon
- Whole child model, whole school, whole category measure (how to measure)
- Indicators must be easy to measure, consistency (grade span) and high probability of success
- Include growth as performance (50/50)
- 5 year graduation cohort
- Read to Achieve as a measurement due to test scores and portfolio
- Growth for high school, middle school and elementary school
- Multiple HS measures
- Digital learning/connectivity
- Graduation projects
- Physical activity

The Board is expected to discuss this issue further over the next several meetings and recommend a proposal in March 2017.

2017 Legislative Long Session Budget

The final session of the centered around 2017 budget discussion. The Board heard from Mr. Phillip Price, Chief Finance Officer for the Department of Public Instruction. A [packet of budget information](#) was given the Board members as the Board works toward setting budget priorities as early as next month. During their breakout sessions, the Board members were asked to consider the following three questions:

1. Priorities if money is no option?
2. Priorities if limited to \$200M expansion?
3. How to advocate for budget priorities?

Once the Board reconvened, each break out group summarized their priorities discussed. The following priorities were noted:

If Money Were No Option:

- Fulfill the State Board of Education's Strategic Plan (last calculated to cost \$1.5-1.6B)
- Address work force development issues, including recruitment and retention
- Adequate and quality learning space, including equipping classrooms with technology, supplies and equipment.
- Universal Pre-K
- Implement whole child, whole community model
- Strategic plan to recruit and retain talent, rebuild staffing levels including teachers, TAs, counselors, psychologists, etc. Competitive compensation.
- Digital 1:1 digital devices for students, universal access to internet
- Teacher salaries
- Professional development
- Wrap around services

The Board did not report out on if \$200M limitation, or how to advocate for budget priorities. The Board may revisit these topics in future monthly Board meetings. This information will be used as the Department of Public Instruction and State Board of Education beings to craft their legislative priorities for 2017.

To wrap up the conclusion of the two day planning and work session, Adam Levinson provided the Board with an update of the [Department of Public Instruction's Operational Plan](#), noting to the Board the plan will be updated over the next few months to reflect the Board's planning session this week.

The Board reconvened as a body on Thursday morning to hold its monthly meeting. A summary of the Board's action during its October monthly meeting can be seen below.

STATE BOARD HEARS REPORT ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCING FROM STATE TREASURER COWELL

During their October monthly meeting of the State Board of Education, the Board received a report from State Treasurer, and member of the State Board of Education, Janet Cowell on the [school construction financing needs across the state](#), and possible solutions. According to the Department of Public Instruction, there is a \$8 billion need for school construction and infrastructure over the next 5 years. There is less state money available to fund local schools due to a change in how lottery dollars are appropriated, the removal of school construction earmarks from corporate taxes, and other reasons.

There has not been a bond referendum for public school construction since 1996. The General Assembly is currently studying the needs of school infrastructure needs through the Program Evaluation Division. The Treasurer's office believes the goal should be to invest in school infrastructure consistently over the span of years, whereas investment in school construction and infrastructure has fallen dramatically over the last 10 years.

STATE BOARD APPROVES REVISED LICENSURE FEES

This month the Board approved increased licensure fees for both new and renewing teachers. The licensure system is a receipt based system and receives no money from the State. The Department of Public Instruction noted to the Board that it anticipated a near it will cost nearly \$2.5 million to operate the licensure system for the fiscal year 2016-2017, and that under the current fee structure the system would yield a funding gap of about \$500,000, and thus recommended a new fee structure to the Board for approval. A comparison of the old fee structure, and the new fees structure with the increases (and one decrease), as approved by the Board can be seen below:

Initial-Out of State, Lateral, CTE – Previously \$85, Now \$100

Initial-In State – Previously \$55, Now \$70

LEA Based 5-Year Renewal – Previously \$0, Now \$35

5-Year Renewal – Previously \$55, Now \$35

License Modifications – Previously \$55, Now \$60

Research – Previously \$30, Now \$30

The new fee structure also alleviates the possibility of closing the RALC based in Cumberland County, a previously proposed method of saving funds in order not to raise licensure fees. While the fees do remain below the national average, some Board members expressed concern about raising fees on teachers and the rising costs associated with becoming and being an educator. One suggestion Dr. Atkinson raised was the possibility of making funding of the licensure system a State appropriation budget request. The Board may include this in its 2017 legislative priorities which it will finalize in the coming months.

The fee increases are effecting January 1, 2017. The Board approved the motion to increase the fees with the understanding that should future legislative appropriations occur, the Board will revisit the fee schedule, with priority on relieving rising fee costs on existing teachers.

STATE BOARD DISCUSSES 2017-2019 BIENNIAL EXPANSION BUDGET POLICY ISSUES

This month the State Board discussed budget expansion priorities for the 2017-2019 biennium. The issues included 20 potential issues including charter school funding, competitive school-based administrator salaries, and school calendar flexibility. The possible issues were for discussion only as a way to give the Board background and history as to the various issues the Board may consider pursuing in the 2017-2019 legislative biennium. The issue will be back before the Board during the next few months prior to approval likely before the 2017 legislative session begins in January of next year. All proposed Biennial Expansion Policy Issues can be found [here](#).

Mr. Phillip Price, Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Public Instruction, provided the Board with information related to the difficulties of projecting charter school ADM since the number of charter schools, and the number of students attending charter schools, continued to grow. Mr. Price recommended the Board look at a new method of funding charter schools, one that would fund them as a separate allotment so that it might increase funding for charters, while having minimal to no impact on LEAs. Last legislative session, NCASA, in conjunction with the North Carolina School Boards Association, proposed a method of charter funding to the General Assembly that would eliminate LEAs from writing checks to charter schools at all by allowing the State to fund individual charters directly,

similarly to the way the State funds city-school systems. That proposal was reflected in [House Bill 1111](#), introduced during the 2016 legislative session. That proposal did not receive a committee hearing or consideration for a vote. The issue of charter funding will certainly be a front burner issue during the upcoming 2017 legislative session.

ACTION ITEMS

EDUCATOR STANDARDS AND PRACTICES

Action

ES& P2 New Policy Allowing Adjunct Faculty to Teach Career and Technical Education

Recommendations: It is recommended that the SBE review and provide feedback on the proposed recommendations for the minimum criteria for hiring adjunct instructors for CTE courses. **APPROVED**
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2746>

STUDENT LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT

Action

SLA 4 Report To the North Carolina General Assembly: Biennial Report on Read To Achieve

Recommendations: The State Board of Education is asked to approve the report to the General Assembly Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the [Biennially Report on the Read to Achieve Legislation](#). **APPROVED**
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2746>

Action On First Reading

SLA 5 Report to the North Carolina General Assembly: Improve K-3 Literacy Accountability Measures

Recommendations: The State Board of Education is asked to accept the [report to the General Assembly Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on Improving K-3 Literacy: Accountability Measures](#). **APPROVED**
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2746>

SLA 6 Changes to the 2015-2016 Accountability Data

Recommendations: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the [changes to the 2015-16 Accountability Data](#). **APPROVED**
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2746>

SLA 7 Career and Technical Education Credential Report

Recommendations: DPI staff recommends that the State Board of Education approve [the report as submitted](#). **APPROVED**
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2746>

SLA 8 2016 Report to the North Carolina General Assembly: Local Testing for 2016-2017

Recommendations: DPI recommends that the State Board approve the [attached report](#), subject to any final technical adjustments, for submission to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by October 15. **APPROVED**
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2746>

SLA 9 Report to the North Carolina General Assembly: Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate

Recommendations: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the [report as written](#).

APPROVED

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2746>

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Action On First Reading

BSOP 6 School Improvement Grants

Recommendations: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve [the grant requests as outlined](#). **APPROVED**

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2746>

To view the agenda for the State Board of Education's Bi-Annual Planning and Work Session meeting on October 4, including links to all handouts and power point presentations presented to the Board, and which may include discussion and informational items not discussed above, please click [here](#).

To view the agenda for the State Board of Education's Bi-Annual Planning and Work Session meeting on October 5, including links to all handouts and power point presentations presented to the Board, and which may include discussion and informational items not discussed above, please click [here](#).

To view the agenda for the State Board of Education's meeting on October 6, including links to all handouts and power point presentations presented to the Board, and which may include discussion and informational items not discussed above, please click [here](#).

To view the monthly State Board of Education newsletter for the month of September, please click [here](#).

Members of the NCASA staff represent NCASA at all meetings of the State Board of Education. If you have questions about the issues discussed in this State Board Review, please contact Katherine Joyce, Executive Director, at kjoyce@ncasa.net or Adam Pridemore, Government Affairs Specialist, at apridemore@ncasa.net.