

NCAE SBE Review

Provided by the NCAE Center for Teaching and Learning

The SBE met in Raleigh on Wednesday, May 6, 2009. The meeting was conducted in one day, instead of the normal 2 ½ days due to the budget crisis.

The following actions took place.

1. Approved the Temporary Policy for Flexible Furlough Leave and Emergency Flexibility for Transfers within the State Public School Fund. The details of these policies can be found on the NCAE web page <http://www.ncae.org/News.asp?nid=97>
2. Approved Reading First Grants for 91 elementary schools at \$12.3 million for the next year.
3. Approved a Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for 62 elementary schools that have a high FRL population. The schools being awarded the grant can be found at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/stateboard/meetings/2009/05/tcs/05tcs01.pdf>
4. Approved the **2009-10 Writing Instruction Plan** that includes modifications based on feedback and results from the 2008-09 Writing Assessment Pilot. <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/stateboard/meetings/2009/05/gcs/05gcs02.pdf> is the link where the 26 page overview can be found. Items/tasks that will be different next year include; two content-specific tasks and two on-demand tasks. The first on-demand task will be diagnostic or benchmarking depending on the school preference. Times the tasks are to be composed or assessed are flexible. Where the task/assignments take place (classrooms, computer-labs, media center, home, anywhere a child would do school work). Scoring changes based on feedback are; 1 score for on-demand, 2 scores for content specific and 1 of content. Professional resources will be provided as LEA need. The purpose of the changes and to have writing instruction throughout the year is based on the need for formative assessment, a shared understanding by all educators of what good writing entails and that assignments are real-world. The process should include draft and revised cycles, schools should use electronic portfolio and provide timely feedback to the students.
5. Approved changes to the NCLB Consolidated State Accountability Workbook which **DOES NOT ALLOW** students in **8th grade taking Algebra I to be exempt from taking the 8th grade EOG**. Eighth grade students will have to take BOTH tests. The SBE, as well as most middle school teachers were hoping the **redundancy** would end. The USDOE says no. The SBE is sending a rebuttal letter regarding the issue.
6. Approved a temporary policy change that allows seniors taking the NC Occupational Course of Study in 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 graduating classes to substitute 360 hours of competitive, paid employment hours with 360 hours of the following: additional unpaid vocational training, unpaid internship hours, paid employment hours at community rehabilitation facilities, and volunteer and/or community service hours. This substitution should only be applied if a student is unable to secure paid employment in an integrated employment setting due to local job market conditions.
7. Gave permission to the State Superintendent to sign an agreement allowing NC to participate in a voluntary National Standards setting process with 41 other states. The goal is to have the power standards drafted by July 2009 and the grade level standards drafted by December 2009 for math

and language arts. This process aligns with the work of the Framework for Change and creating essential standards for each subject.

8. Approved a protocol and process to randomly collect data on the ratings of principals and teachers using the NC McREL evaluation instruments to ensure the process is working in supporting professional growth among educators and impacting students in a positive manner.
9. Approved the process for McREL to revalidate the NC Principal Evaluation Tool to be used with Assistant Principals. The Administrator standards are the same for both principal and assistant principal, schools of Higher Education are retooling MSA programs based on the NC Standards for School Leaders and most assistant principals are being groomed to become principals; therefore the current evaluation tool aligns to what school leaders do every day.
10. Approved an adjustment to the NC Praxis II requirement for the Physical Education test. The required score was 158 will now be 152. The new policy change impacts teachers for this school year and forward.
11. Discussed standardization of waivers and exemptions for Cooperative Innovative High Schools; no action was taken.
12. Approved Bertie, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Currituck, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, New Hanover, Onslow, Washington, Wayne, Whiteville City and DHHS technology plans, along with 19 charter technology plans, as action on first read. This qualifies these LEAs/charters for e-Rate discounts.
13. Appointed Rob Hines (DPI LEA Council) and Antonia Johnson (New Schools Project) to the Joint Advisory Committee for Cooperative Innovative High School Programs.
14. Discussed school based calendar waivers; approved those requested from Guilford, delayed those requested from Bertie. The waivers can be found here;
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/stateboard/meetings/2009/05/lfi/05lfi03.pdf>
15. Approved the Action Plan for Halifax County Schools under the order of Judge Manning. The Action Plan has been signed by the Halifax Local School Board, Superintendent, State Board of Education and Judge Manning. Components of the plan include:
 - ALL Administrators will receive 3 weeks of intense training. Leadership skills, curriculum alignment, expectations, data tools and evaluation instruments.
 - ALL Teachers will receive 2 weeks of paid PD training beginning August 3rd. Principals will attend some of the same trainings. ALL educators need to be on the same page. In the past the trainings have been optional. NOT ANY MORE!
 - Will hire 12 Coaches; 4 for Elementary, 4, Middle and 4 High School
 - TAs will receive training
 - Hire a new staff to assist with HR and recruitment of new staff
 - Halifax will be in Phase II of the NC McREL Evaluation tool. Using this instrument will ensure teachers and administrators are competent and following all protocols. The process affords more transparency and more support for teachers not developing into accomplished teachers.
 - SBE will provide tight oversight to the Halifax LSB and CO staff, having access to all files and records.
 - Building capacity to ensure the job can be done without a support team
 - Raising standards with benchmarks for staff and students – building capacity so the LEA will be responsible for operating the school system properly.
 - LSB will cooperate with the SBE in all aspects of the plan and running a school system.
 - Partnerships with organizations and community must be positive.
 - SBE will use constitutional power if the LSB does not listen and implement the action plan. If the right things are not done, Manning will no longer protect the current system.