

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 13, 2010**

The State Board of Education met in special session at 11:00 a.m., CST, on January 13, 2010 in the Old Supreme Court Chamber.

Present.....7

**Ms. Carolyn Pearre, Vice Chair
Mr. Jim Ayers
Mr. Flavius Barker
Ms. Vernita Justice
Dr. Jean Anne Rogers
Ms. Teresa Sloyan
Dr. Melvin Wright**

Absent.....4

**Mr. Richard Ray
Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chair
Dr. Richard Rhoda, Ex-Officio
Ms. Katie McMillan, Student Mbr**

Vice Chair Pearre called the meeting to order and introduced the purpose of the resolution in support of the Race to the Top grant application and special legislative session.

Dr. Gary Nixon, Executive Director, State Board of Education, described the resolution’s focus on developing a new teacher evaluation system that would include multiple measures of achievement. The system would rely on value added measures, where available, for 35 out of a total of 50 percent focused on student achievement data. **Dr. Nixon** stated that there may be more than one way of doing this and that the process would be informed by the work of a teacher evaluation committee that would bring back a recommendation to the board.

Dr. David Sevier, State Board of Education, read the resolution.

WHEREAS, in 2008, the State Board of Education, responding to directives by the Governor and the General Assembly, adopted more rigorous high school graduation requirements with the specific goal of giving Tennessee’s children the skills necessary to reach career and college readiness; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee’s leadership in national education reform initiatives, including the American Diploma Project; and its nationally known commitment to gathering educational data for the purposes of promoting education improvement have demonstrated the Volunteer State’s commitment to national education reform; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned developments have placed Tennessee in a unique position to accelerate education

improvement and compete for unprecedented levels of public education funding from the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education's *Master Plan* outlines the conditions necessary for making substantial gains in student achievement, closing achievement gaps, improving high school graduation rates and ensuring student preparation for success in college and careers; and

WHEREAS, the development of a new teacher and principal evaluation process that includes student achievement data as a significant component of the evaluation is critical to helping effective teachers and school leaders fulfill the State Board of Education's mission to "prepare all students for successful post-secondary work, education and citizenship"; and

WHEREAS, the Race to the Top competition, a component of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, requires states seeking funding to have an evaluation process for teachers and principals that includes student achievement data as a substantial component; and receipt of Race to the Top funds will better position Tennessee to successfully develop and implement such an evaluation process.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF TENNESSEE supports and endorses the development of a new teacher and principal evaluation process that includes objective student achievement data as a significant component of the evaluation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the objective achievement data consist of multiple measures including but not limited to value-added data, and that the total measure of student achievement count no less than fifty percent, with the value-added data, where available, comprising no less than thirty-five percent of a teacher's or principal's evaluation.

RESOLVED, this the 13th day of January, 2010.

Dr. Nixon asked that the word "objective" be inserted before "student achievement data" in the two sections of the resolution in which it appears.

ACTION: **Ms. Sloyan** moved approval of the resolution. **Dr. Wright** seconded.

Dr. Wright asked for an explanation of the phrase "where available." **Dr. Nixon** explained that not every teacher has a value added measure. It could be that for these teachers a number of different options are available, maybe using schoolwide achievement data or locally developed tests.

Ms. Sloyan asked if the evaluation would be transferable across classrooms or schools. **Dr. Nixon** said that the specifics had not yet been developed.

Mr. Ayers asked how much local discretion there would be in the make up of the evaluation process, i.e., Could an LEA, for example, water down what the Board approves?

Mr. Haglund explained that the current law and State Board rules allow flexibility, so that school districts can select to follow the process approved by the board or the LEA can submit a plan for approval that would meet specific criteria outlined in the rules.

Dr. Nixon added that it would be possible for the committee to bring a recommendation with three options for LEAs to choose from.

The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Pearre thanked the Board members for their thoughtful deliberations and announced that the Board will meet next on January 29, 2010.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____