

**Report of the State Board of Education
Committee of the Full Board
August 14, 2009**

The State Board of Education Committee of the Full Board met at 9:10 a.m. on Friday, August 14, 2009, in the State Board of Education Room, #1-104, of the William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. The following members of the committee were present:

Presiding: Gail Lowe, chair; Lawrence A. Allen, Jr., vice chair; David Bradley; Barbara Cargill; Pat Hardy; Mavis B. Knight; Geraldine Miller; Rene Nuñez

State Board of Education member Bob Craig participated in the meeting through videoconferencing capabilities at Region 17 Education Service Center, 111 West Loop 289, TETN Room, Lubbock, Texas.

Absent: Rick Agosto; Mary Helen Berlanga; Cynthia Dunbar; Terri Leo, secretary; Don McLeroy; Ken Mercer

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Work Session on High School Graduation Requirements

Mrs. Lowe explained that this would be a work session with less formal conversation, but requested that all SBOE members work through the chair to make comments or ask questions.

Anita Givens, associate commissioner for standards and programs, outlined the agenda for the session and explained the documents that were presented to board members in a three-ring binder.

Monica Martinez, policy director, curriculum division, explained that the September SBOE agenda would include an action item adding language to 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter A, Required Curriculum, that would ensure the changes made to graduation requirements in House Bill (HB) 3 were reflected in Texas Administrative Code. She explained that this would allow the board to take more time to consider additional changes to the high school graduation requirements.

Ms. Martinez explained that the September SBOE agenda would also include an action item to amend the rule in 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter C, Other Provisions, to align with legislation regarding health education and physical education passed during the 81st Texas Legislative Session.

Karen Batchelor, acting managing director, curriculum division, explained options for meeting graduation requirements for mathematics and science in the minimum, recommended, and distinguished achievement programs. She explained that now that the new Career and Technical Education (CTE) Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) have been adopted, the SBOE could begin providing guidance regarding advanced CTE courses for mathematics or science credit. She explained that CTE writing teams had also recommended additional CTE courses to be considered for graduation credit in other content areas.

Ms. Givens explained that HB 3 removed the technology applications graduation requirement from the recommended high school program (RHSP) but did not remove it from the minimum (MHSP) or

distinguished achievements (DAP) programs. She explained that technology applications TEKS are scheduled for revision beginning in January 2010.

The following options were presented to the SBOE regarding technology applications:

- Move this requirement to middle school
- Eliminate this requirement for minimum and distinguished achievement programs
- Retain this requirement for minimum and distinguished achievement programs and revisit the list of courses that may count for technology applications credit
- Eliminate this requirement for distinguished achievement only
- Eliminate this requirement for minimum only

With the discussion of moving the requirement to middle school, Mr. Allen asked how the decisions regarding technology applications would impact the middle school curriculum and infrastructure.

Mrs. Cargill asked for the number of courses that would be considered for middle school. She pointed out the domino effect that would result from moving various high school courses to middle school. She also raised issues about staffing teachers at middle school and high school and the level of work required at the middle school.

Ms. Batchelor explained that HB 3 removed the health graduation requirement from the RHSP but did not remove it from the MHSP or the DAP. She outlined considerations and the following options for the high school health requirement:

- Move this requirement to middle school
- Eliminate this requirement for minimum and distinguished achievement programs
- Retain this requirement for minimum and distinguished achievement programs
- Eliminate this requirement for distinguished achievement only
- Eliminate this requirement for minimum only

Several SBOE members asked for information regarding the impact of moving the high school health requirement to middle school.

Ms. Martinez explained that the SBOE still has authority to require the one-half credit in speech on all three graduation programs. She outlined considerations and the following options for the speech requirement:

- Move this requirement to middle school
- Retain this requirement for all three graduation programs
- Expand the list of courses that may count for speech credit (including courses from other content areas)
- Provide more specific direction to TEKS review committees regarding revisions to Communication Applications TEKS
- Eliminate this requirement for all three graduation programs
- Eliminate this requirement for some, but not all programs
- Increase the total number of credits to 22 ½ for minimum and 26 ½ for recommended and distinguished programs

Mrs. Knight requested additional information on speech courses other than communication applications.

Ms. Martinez explained that HB 3 added the requirement for one credit in fine arts for students on the MHSP. SBOE members were asked to provide staff with direction regarding the implementation year for the new fine arts requirement for students on the MHSP. Board members indicated a preference for implementing this requirement beginning with students who enter Grade 9 in 2010-11. HB 3 also added a fine arts course requirement for middle school students.

Ms. Batchelor explained that HB 3 decreased the credit requirement for physical education from one and one-half credits to one credit for students on the RHSP but did not change the requirement for students on the MHSP or the DAP. She outlined considerations and the following options for physical education:

- Retain the additional ½ credit requirement for minimum and distinguished achievement programs
- Continue to require the Foundations of Personal Fitness course as ½ P.E. credit required for graduation for minimum and distinguished achievement
- Expand course options for P.E. credit beyond the Foundations of Personal Fitness course for distinguished achievement only
- Expand course options for P.E. credit beyond the Foundations of Personal Fitness course for minimum only
- Increase the amount of credit allowed for TEKS-based P.E. courses
- Require the Foundations of Personal Fitness course for all middle school students
- Eliminate the Foundations of Personal Fitness course as ½ P.E. credit required for graduation for minimum and distinguished achievement programs
- Eliminate the additional ½ credit requirement for minimum and distinguished achievement programs

Ms. Batchelor outlined considerations and the following options for physical education substitutions:

- Connect a substitution to a specific set of P.E. TEKS
- Adopt TEKS for extra-curricular activities that may currently count as P.E. substitutions
- Limit the number of substitutions that may be earned for all three graduation programs
- Narrow the list of allowable substitutions
- Continue to allow an unlimited number of substitutions to count for graduation credit
- Eliminate all substitutions

Mrs. Miller asked if a student could take all of the elective credits in athletics. Ms. Batchelor responded that students can take all of the elective credits in one area. Mrs. Miller then asked if the SBOE has the authority to limit the number of credits in athletics. Ms. Batchelor responded that the SBOE does have the authority to limit substitutions. Mrs. Miller indicated a strong preference for limiting the number of credits a student could earn for athletics.

SBOE members indicated preferred options for each area that was discussed and asked staff to provide additional information regarding the narrowed list of options. Ms. Givens summarized the steps staff would take to prepare for the discussion during the September board meeting. Mrs. Lowe

thanked Ms. Givens and the agency staff for carefully outlining the possible decisions that the SBOE will need to make with respect to graduation requirements.

2. Work Session on Instructional Materials

Anita Givens, associate commissioner for standards and programs, introduced the item and summarized the discussion from the July board meeting. She explained that the cost of Proclamation 2010 must be reduced by approximately 15% to accommodate the amount appropriated by the 81st Texas Legislature. After making the adjustments approved by the board in July, publishers were asked to submit their final bid by August 10, 2009. Ms. Givens explained that the reduced prices offered on the publishers' official bid forms were not sufficient to make up the shortfall.

Ms. Givens presented other strategies to reduce costs such as reducing the maximum cost by varying percentages per grade level and analyzing ordering patterns. She also discussed the cost advantages of online instructional materials. Mrs. Cargill asked about open source material addressed in House Bill (HB) 2488 and how it could be an opportunity to deliver instructional materials to all classrooms free of charge. Ms. Givens explained the options in HB 2488 and additional options in HB 4294 that could impact how districts select instructional materials.

Mr. Bradley requested clarification on adopting a 7.7% reduction across the board. Ms. Givens explained that while some publishers did reduce their bid, others publishers did not due to a variety of factors. Some had bid national editions and were unable to lower the cost and others had already bid below maximum cost. Ms. Givens proposed bringing options to the board in September that would include considering a lower or no reduction for primary classrooms and a higher reduction for secondary classrooms and analyzing the ordering patterns of materials ordered to achieve the needed savings. Board members agreed.

Mrs. Lowe adjourned the meeting at 2:47 p.m.