State Board of Education
Summary of Action Items
July 17, 2009

1. Resolutions and Presentations

There were no resolutions or presentations at this meeting.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the office of the State Board of Education at (512) 463-9007.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

Any agenda item may be placed on the Consent Agenda by any State Board of Education committee.

(1). Ratification of the Purchases and Sales of the Investment Portfolio of the Permanent School Fund for the Months of April and May 2009

The board voted to approve the purchases and sales of securities executed in the portfolio of the Permanent School Fund for the months of April and May 2009 in the amount of $588,193,155 and $592,331,361, respectively.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the office of the Permanent School Fund (512) 463-9169.

(2). Adoption of an Annual Report on the Status of the Bond Guarantee Program

The board unanimously accepted the annual report on the status of the Bond Guarantee Program as of August 31, 2008.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the office of the Permanent School Fund (512) 463-9169.

(3). Recommendation for Appointments to the Randolph Field Independent School District Board of Trustees

The board approved the appointment of David Dentino and the reappointment of Sharon Holland to serve two-year terms on the board of trustees of the Randolph Field ISD. The terms expire July 16, 2011.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Division of Governance and General Inquiries at (512) 475-3697.

ITEMS FOR ACTION BY THE FULL SBOE
(COMMITTEE OF THE FULL BOARD)

3. Approval of Nominees to Recommend to the Governor for Service on the Board of Trustees of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas

The board nominated six citizens to be considered for appointment on the Board of Trustees of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. They are Lowell Keig of Austin; Gerald McElvy of Southlake; Walter Crone, Jr. of Beaumont; Jim Cummings of Lubbock; James Simms of Amarillo; and H. Keith Wallace of Dallas.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the office of the State Board of Education at (512) 463-9007.

4. Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 127, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career Orientation, Subchapter A, Middle School, and Subchapter B, High School (Second Reading and Final Adoption)

The board gave final approval to revised curriculum standards for career development which includes several Career and Technical Education classes for middle school and high school.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Curriculum Division at (512) 463-9581.

5. Proposed New 19 TAC Chapter 130, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education (Second Reading and Final Adoption)

The board gave final approval to revised curriculum standards for Career and Technical Education as amended. The new standards update the CTE area, trimming offerings from more than 600 courses to about 190. The standards also place each course in one of 16 strands. The implementation date for the new standards is 2010-2011.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Curriculum Division at (512) 463-9581.

6. Update on Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Review

Staff provided an update on the process for revising and implementing the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The board voted to request that expert reviewers and representatives from each social studies writing team be invited to attend the September meeting to discuss revisions to the social studies TEKS. The board also directed that the writing teams be reminded about their roles and responsibilities and about general guidance the board has provided.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Department of Standards and Programs at (512) 463-9087.

7. Proposed Amendments to Proclamation 2010

After learning that the funds appropriated for the purchase of new English language arts and reading materials was $82 million less than requested, the board approved a series of cost cutting measures to align with an appropriation of $465 million. They agreed to base costs on 2008-2009 enrollment figures and to reduce the textbook quota from the current 105 percent to 103 percent. Members also asked staff to reduce the maximum cost per book and to work with publishers to reduce the bid price of materials to achieve the needed savings. Board members agreed that they would not delay the purchase of instructional materials for any subject or grade level.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Department of Standards and Programs at (512) 463-9087.

8. Proposed Amendments to Proclamation 2011

The board postponed action on this item until its September meeting. It plans to hold a work session on textbook issues on Aug. 14.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Department of Standards and Programs at (512) 463-9087.

9. Proclamation 2012 of the State Board of Education Advertising for Bids on Instructional Materials

The board postponed action on this item until its September meeting.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Department of Standards and Programs at (512) 463-9087.

COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTION

10. Consideration of Petition for Adoption of Rule Change Concerning 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter C, Other Provisions, §74.24, Credit by Examination

The board denied a petition to amend the way in which examinations used for Credit By Examination (CBEs) are scored. Mr. Darren Nelson, petitioner, requested that the requirement that a student score 90 percent on a criterion-referenced test be replaced with the requirement that a student score in the 90th percentile or above on a norm-referenced test in order to be accelerated by examination or earn credit by examination.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Curriculum Division at (512) 463-9581.

11. Proposed Approval of Updates to the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students

The board voted to postpone updating the language in the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Curriculum Division at (512) 463-9581.

12. Proposed Approval of Innovative Courses (Moved to consent agenda)

The board extended the approval of the following three innovative courses for a one-year period: PeaceKeepers©: School Team Mediation; Peers Accepting Learning and Sharing I & II; and StrengthBank® for High Schools – A Relationship Skills Initiative I-IV. The board also approved two new innovative courses, Script Your Life For Leadership and College Transitions, for a one-year term. Innovative courses are ones that do not fall within any of the subject areas of the foundation or enrichment curriculum.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Curriculum Division at (512) 463-9581.

13. Requests to Approve Substitutions of Instructional Materials (Moved to consent agenda)

The board approved the request from Davis Publications, Inc. to substitute a digital version of its currently adopted Art Level 1 high school product entitled The Visual Experience. The board also approved a request from Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Scott Foresman with Learning.com, to substitute a newer version of its currently adopted instructional materials for Technology Applications, Easy Tech, Spanish edition.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Instructional Materials and Educational Technology at (512) 463-9601.

14. Recommended Penalties for Failure to Correct Factual Errors in Adopted Instructional Materials (Moved to consent agenda)

The board approved penalties for textbook publishers that failed to correct factual errors in instructional materials adopted under Proclamations 2005, 2004, 2001, and 2000. The board voted to waive penalties for Pearson Education because the publisher replaced all teacher editions for its *Envision Math* and *envision MATH en Español* programs for grades K-5.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Instructional Materials and Educational Technology at (512) 463-9601.

COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FINANCE/PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND

15. Braille Materials for the Visually Impaired (Moved to Consent Agenda)

The board approved the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) dealing with the production of Braille textbook masters and Braille copies of textbooks to be adopted by the State Board of Education in November 2009.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Division of Instructional Materials and Educational Technology at (512) 463-9601.

16. Large Type Textbooks for the Visually Impaired (Moved to Consent Agenda)

The board approved the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) to be used to secure large type versions of textbooks to be adopted by the State Board of Education in November 2009.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Division of Instructional Materials and Educational Technology at (512) 463-9601.

17. Approval of the Selection of a Firm(s) to Provide Global Custody and Securities Lending Services for the Permanent School Fund and Authorization for Contract Execution by the Commissioner of Education (Moved to Consent Agenda)

The board selected The Bank of New York Mellon to provide global custody and securities lending services for the Permanent School Fund. The board also authorized the Commissioner of Education to execute a contract.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the office of the Permanent School Fund (512) 463-9169.

18. Approval of the Selection of a Firm to Provide Investment Counsel Services for the Permanent School Fund and Authorization for Contract Execution by the Commissioner of Education.

The board voted 8-4 with one abstention and two absent to select NEPC, LLC to provide investment counsel services for the Permanent School Fund and authorized the Commissioner of Education to execute a contract.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the office of the Permanent School Fund at (512) 463-9169.

19. Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Investment Counsel Services for the Permanent School Fund.

The board voted to take no action on this item.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the office of the Permanent School Fund at (512) 463-9169.

COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL INITIATIVES

20. Adoption of Governance Reporting Form for Open-Enrollment Charter Schools (Moved to Consent Agenda)

The board approved a governance reporting form for open-enrollment charter schools.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Division of Charter School Administration at (512) 463-9575.

21. Proposed Selection of Open-Enrollment Charter School

The board approved the selection of Koinonia Community Learning Academy, Houston, for an open-enrollment charter school.

Staff Contact: Questions about this item should be directed to the Division of Charter School Administration at (512) 463-9575.