

**Report of the State Board of Education
Committee of the Full Board
July 15, 2009**

The State Board of Education Committee of the Full Board met at 1:08 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15, 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; Rick Agosto, Lawrence A. Allen, Jr., David Bradley, Barbara Cargill, Cynthia Dunbar, Pat Hardy, Mavis B. Knight, Terri Leo, Don McLeroy, Ken Mercer, Geraldine Miller, Rene Nuñez

Absent: Mary Helen Berlanga, Bob Craig

Public Testimony

This item provides an opportunity for the public to present testimony at the time the related item comes up for committee discussion or action. The procedures for registering and taking public testimony at State Board of Education committee meetings and general board meetings are provided at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=3958> or in the information section (yellow pages) of the agenda.

The Committee of the Full Board heard public testimony on agenda item #7. Information regarding the individuals who presented public testimony is included in the discussion of that item.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 127, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career Orientation, and Proposed New 19 TAC Chapter 130, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education**
(Board agenda page I-35)

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

1. NAME: Sandra West
AFFILIATION: Science Teachers Association of Texas
2. NAME: Jim Wohlgelegen
AFFILIATION: Texas Association of Supervisors of Math
3. NAME: Denise Kubecka
AFFILIATION: Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District
4. NAME: Deborah Parrish
AFFILIATION: Retired Teacher

2. Commissioner's Comments Regarding the SBOE Agenda
(Board agenda page I-37)

Commissioner of Education Robert Scott explained to the board members that he had decided not to participate in the writing of the national curriculum standards called the Common Core Standards for a number of reasons. In Texas, the State Board of Education, and not the commissioner, establishes the curriculum standards so he had no authority to take action on this matter. Additionally, he was hesitant for Texas to join this effort because the State Board has recently adopted new English language arts, math and science standards after receiving a great deal of input from Texans and curriculum experts. The State has now begun the process of purchasing new instructional material based on the new Texas standards. Halting that work and instead purchasing new textbooks based on national standards and revising our state tests to match those standards would cost an estimated \$3 billion, he said. Lastly, the commissioner said he was uncomfortable endorsing a product that had not yet been written. He asked board members if they felt Texas should join the Common Core Standards Initiative. All board members who spoke endorsed the commissioner's decision to refrain from participating in the project.

3. Ethics Training
(Board agenda page I-39)

Christopher Maska, TEA ethics advisor, introduced the *Ethics Handbook for the Permanent School Fund* and *A Guide to Ethics Laws for State Officers and Employees*, and briefed committee members on the issues to be addressed in an upcoming Ethics Commission opinion regarding corporate and union honorarium travel. He discussed Ethics Commission opinions involving conflicts of interest and the determination of when a board member must recuse himself or herself, noting that the opinions are not consistent and recommending that if a member had a question in this area, the member should request an opinion from the Ethics Commission. Mr. Maska responded to members' questions and closed with a brief review of new legislation.

4. Legislative Update
(Board agenda page I-71)

M. J. Nicchio, director of governmental relations, provided the committee with a copy of the Briefing Book on Public Education for the 81st Legislative Session. He then provided a summary of several bills of interest to the committee. The committee had a discussion on the textbook bills regarding the definition of several terms in the legislation, the meaning of the governor's executive order, and the availability of textbooks in electronic format. There was also a discussion on the changes to the health curriculum.

ACTION ITEM

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

(Board agenda page I-1)
[Official agenda item #3]

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Dr. McLeroy, seconded by Mr. Agosto, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education submit to the Governor the list of six nominees—Lowell A. Keig, Gerald W. McElvy, Walter Seth Crone, Jr., James (Jim) P. Cummings, James Simms, and H. Keith Wallace, for consideration for appointment to the board of trustees of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, to fill a term ending on August 31, 2015.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Discussion of Expert Reviewers for Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Revisions

(Board agenda page I-73)

Anita Givens, associate commissioner for standards and programs, gave an overview of the process that has been followed to appoint expert reviewers. Ms. Givens outlined the steps in the process reflected on page I-77 of the agenda materials regarding the selection of expert reviewers. Ms. Givens stated that the SBOE may designate up to seven expert reviewers. Each expert must receive a nomination from at least two board members and a board member may not nominate more than one expert. The SBOE determines number of work days needed. The Board may not reject any expert that has been nominated by two or more board members.

A discussion followed among committee members regarding changes that they might consider making to the process that is currently in place. Committee members agreed to continue discussion of the process of selecting expert reviewers in the future.

7. Discussion of Texas High School Graduation Programs

(Board agenda page I-79)

Ms. Givens, gave a broad overview of House Bill (HB) 3 and explained how it has affected Texas high school graduation programs. She distributed several documents to assist in the discussion, including *HB3 Graduation Requirements Frequently Asked Questions - Volume One* (see Attachment A) and *HB 3 Graduation Credit Requirements 2009-2010* (see Attachment B).

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

1. NAME: Georgi Roberts
AFFILIATION: Fort Worth Independent School District
2. NAME: Alex Payne
AFFILIATION: Student, The University of Texas at San Antonio

3. NAME: Robert Young
AFFILIATION: Texas High School Athletic Directors Association
4. NAME: Jay Stubbs
AFFILIATION: Self
5. NAME: Deborah Parrish
AFFILIATION: Retired Teacher

Mrs. Lowe suggested that the board schedule a work session in August or October. Ms. Givens confirmed that a work session would be possible and that TEA staff would look for possible meeting dates.

Mrs. Lowe adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.