



**MINUTES OF THE
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CALLED MEETING**

**Atlanta, Georgia
Wanda Barrs, Chair**

**July 28, 2009
Kathy Cox, Superintendent**

The State Board of Education met in an official Called State Board Meeting on July 28, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. via conference call in the State Board Room, 2070 Twin Towers East, Atlanta.

Roll Call

Board members present either by phone or in person:

Dr. James Bostic, Jr.	Mr. Robert “Buzz” Law	Mr. Allen Rice
Mr. Brad Bryant.	Dr. Mary Sue Murray	Mr. Larry Winter
Mr. Brian Burdette	Mr. Jose Perez	Mrs. Linda Zechmann
Mr. Al Hodge	Dr. Elizabeth Ragsdale	

Absent: Ms. Wanda Barrs. Third District is vacant.

Mr. Al Hodge served as Chair of this meeting.

Staff Present: Superintendent Cox, Martha Reichrath, Diane Bradford, Randy Trowell, Allan Meyer, Pat Mills, Matt Cardoza, Barbara Lunsford, Jennifer Hackemeyer, Buck Hilliard, Stephen Pruitt, Clara Keith, Courtney Burnett, Sue Goodman, Chris Shealy, and Lynn Roberts. Several reporters, Dr. Jim Puckett, Ms. Angela Palm and other visitors were in attendance.

Action Items

1. State Board of Education Emergency Authorization. The State Superintendent of Schools recommended that the State Board of Education exercise its authority under O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-168(c)(2) to recognize an emergency and critical shortages in state revenue as documented below and authorize local boards of education during FY 2010 to depart from a strict interpretation of “school year” for certified staff as defined in State Board Rule 160-5-1-.01 and in other related rules. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Law and seconded by Dr. Bostic. A unanimous affirmative vote was given to approve this item.

As part of his fiscal plan, the Governor has recommended that local school districts furlough certified personnel for 3 days and announced his intention to withhold state funding accordingly. These budget announcements concerning withholding were subsequently confirmed by the Office of Planning and Budget. Many school districts have several pre-planning days scheduled prior to the start of school in late July or early August. In order for

school districts to lawfully consider these non-instructional pre-planning days as potential furlough days or to implement other possible budget reductions, immediate action is needed.

Under state law, public schools must provide students with “access to no less than 180 school days of education each fiscal year, or the equivalent thereof...” The law further requires the State Board of Education to “define a school year, which shall be no less than 180 days of instruction,..., or the equivalent thereof...” See O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-168(ac)(1). In State Board Rule 160-5-1-.01, the State Board has defined “school year for certified staff” as a “minimum of 190 days.” SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.01 SCHOOL YEAR is attached. By taking the action recommended, the State Board will allow local boards of education flexibility concerning all school days in excess of the 180 days of instruction or the equivalent thereof mandated by state law.

In the Elluminate session held last week with local school superintendents, the Department indicated that the state salary schedule was not going to be reduced, but would be changed to reflect per day pay. This position is reflected in the Elluminate Presentation attached to the State Board item (*which is found on E-Board, July 28, 2009 Called Meeting*) as background information. Please note that upon gathering additional information, the Department decided that a change to the salary schedule would not be appropriate.

Adjournment

At 8:30 a.m., by motion of Dr. Bostic, seconded by Dr. Ragsdale, a unanimous affirmative vote was given to adjourn the July 28, 2009 Called State Board meeting.

Next Scheduled State Board Meeting

The next meeting of the State Board of Education is scheduled for August 13, 2009.

Lynn Roberts, Recorder