

State Board of Education

Minutes

Special Called Meeting via Telephone Conference Call

July 28, 2000

The State Board of Education convened for a special session via conference call on Friday, July 28, 2000, at 9:00 a.m.

The following members reported present for the roll call: Luke Gordy, Chairman; Richard Smith; Vice-Chairman; Jo Nell Caldwell; Claiborne Deming; Robert Hackler; Betty Pickett; Lewis Thompson, Jr.; Anita Yates.

The following members were not on line: Bill Fisher; Shelby Hillman.

Others attending via conference call or in person at the Department of Education site:

Raymond Simon, John Kunkel, Patty Martin, Gayle Morris, Terri Hardy, Charles Knox, Kimberly Gillespie and Charles Watson.

Mr. Gordy called the meeting to order and declared that a quorum was present. He stated that the special meeting was called at the request of Mr. Simon and the agenda would be limited to the single item. He requested that Mr. Simon summarize the background information provided in the call for the meeting.

Mr. Simon indicated that at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2000, there was approximately \$47.7 million fund balance in the public school fund. He is recommending that \$10 million be released immediately in State Equalization Aid which would raise the base local revenue per student by an additional \$22.41.

Mr. Smith moved that the Board accept staff recommendation to release \$10 million in State Equalization Aid. Ms. Yates seconded the motion.

Ms. Pickett asked if the other funds from fund balances were obligated. Specifically, would those funds be needed for the Lakeview School District Case? Mr. Simon indicated there are unknowns at this time and funds must be in reserve should attorney fees be assessed. Ms. Pickett asked if the recommendation was overcautious. Mr. Kunkel suggested that there is a possibility for additional desegregation expenses, attorney fees in the Lakeview case, and a hedge against revenue stabilization needs in the winter and spring quarters.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hackler moved adjournment. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes reported by Dr. Charles D. Watson.