

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

**Quality Assurance Committee**

**May 6, 2008**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Conference Room 3A**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Chairman White, Commissioner Williams, Board Staff H. Washington, District Staff Marilynn Patterson-Grant, Michele Hancock, Cheryl Holloway, Connie Leech, Jeanette Silvers, Gloria Sullivan and Brandon Keaveny.

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Commissioner Campos was absent.

**Agenda Items:**

**I. Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the March Minutes was made by Commissioner Williams. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 2-0**

**II. Discussion and Vote on Read 180**

C. Leech reviewed the information that was sent to Committee members regarding Read 180; which included reports from various teachers and testimonies by students. She also pointed out that students are able to manage their own data and have access to their reports and their data. C. Leech noted that Springboard is the core curriculum for English and that Read 180 is used as an intervention and helps prepare students for Springboard. It is currently being used in East, Marshall and Monroe High Schools and the District would like to use it in grades 5-9. C. Leech also pointed out that the SRI is the diagnostic piece of READ 180 and is time effective, generates reports without subjectivity, is cost effective, assists with predicting summer school needs and placement needs by using real data and not observation like the Diagnostic Reading Assessment does. The SRI will be used for all students in grades 6-9.

Commissioner Williams expressed a concern regarding using READ 180 as a core intervention and regarding using a computer, instead of the teacher to make assessments. C. Leech stated that Diagnostic Reading Assessments are challenging to use at the secondary level and that better results are achieved at the elementary level; that the model is not cost effective or reliable.

Commissioner White asked what prompted the District to move towards using Read 180. C. Leech replied that the District was cited by the State for not having a curriculum aligned with State standards. She also stated that Read 180 is aligned with Springboard, addresses special needs, helps to bridge the gap between elementary and secondary schools and provides consistency within the District. M. Patterson-Grant noted that the District will mandate what is taught by teachers, but not how it is taught. She also pointed out that many of the current exams are developed by classroom teachers. Commissioner

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Williams asked why Springboard was selected if it did not work for all students. C. Leech noted how there was no collaboration and that each teacher was doing their own thing and that Springboard is a workshop model and culturally diverse.

Commissioner White said the Committee is not prepared to vote on the resolution and make a recommendation to the Board. Commissioner Williams suggested that the Read 180 program be done on a pilot basis. He also expressed a concern regarding relying on grant driven programs, such as Read First, and the Department of Education pulling funding for those programs. Commissioner White suggested that C. Leech speak with Commissioner Campos regarding the Read 180 program.

The Committee did not recommend any action on Read 180.

### **III. Instruction Management System: The Curriculum Developer**

M. Patterson-Grant gave the Committee a PowerPoint presentation on the Curriculum Developer, an instructional management system. The District is looking at using a systematic approach to organize the curriculum across the District, across schools and across grade levels. She also noted that the District will take a look at where we are currently in terms of ELA, Mathematics, mobility rates, stability rates and graduation rates; then take a look at where we need to be and how to get there, which includes planning, design and implementation.

M. Hancock pointed out that most of the existing programs can be imbedded within the District's curriculum. M. Patterson-Grant noted that this program will reduce isolation of teachers in schools and that consultants will walk the District through the process; it basically analyzes what we have and what needs to be added to the process. The program offers flexibility in how you teach, but not what is taught. Our teachers will write the curriculum and assessments. It is a web-based system that parents will have access to. M. Patterson-Grant noted that more than 30 districts in New York State are using the NES assessment piece.

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Williams to forward to the Board for approval resolution #729 for National Education Resources to implement the Curriculum Developer and Benchmark Assessment in the District. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 2-0**

### **IV. Presentation on the August Leadership Institute**

M. Hancock gave a brief overview of the Summer Institute, which will provide a learning opportunity for both teachers and school administrators and is aligned with the standards for effective professional development. School Board members are encouraged to attend.

### **V. Changing the Committee's Name**

Commissioner White would like to consider the renaming of the Quality Assurance Committee at the next meeting, so that Commissioner Campos can be a part of that discussion.

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**VI. Miscellaneous**

**Action Items:**

Commissioner White will contact Commissioner Campos regarding facilitating a meeting between her and C. Leech to discuss Read 180.

Administration will provide more comparative data on the Read 180 program.

Administration will provide clarification on which department the Scholastic resolution should be included in.

Administration will provide a list of schools in NYS that are participating in the NES's Assessment Services.

**Next meeting date:** June 12th @ 5:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** made by Commissioner Williams at 8:17 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner White. **Adopted 2-0**

Prepared by H. Washington