

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING**

March 17, 2021
Tallahassee Community College
Student Union Ballroom
444 Appleyard Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Chair Andy Tuck called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members were present: Vice Chair Marva Johnson, Ben Gibson, Ryan Petty, Tom Grady, with members Monesia Brown and Joe York via telephone.

WELCOME

Chair Tuck thanked members and guests for adhering to the ordinance regarding the wearing of face coverings indoors, and requested that everyone continue to do so throughout the meeting.

Chair Tuck then recognized Kim Moore, Vice President, Workforce Innovation to welcome the board. Ms. Moore started by thanking the Board and Commissioner for coming to Tallahassee Community College (TCC) and explained the colleges' new student-first approach, CARE. Which stands for Connections, Academics, Resources and Engagement. Explaining that the new model has led to record increases in success rates among students at TCC. Continuing, Ms. Moore briefed the board on the Be Essential Initiative, a program that allows people to get back to work in one of 50 in demand programs in 90 days; a new career pathway grant, which is the first pre-apprenticeship program for students aged 16-24; a program for electrical pre-apprenticeship designed in partnership with the Department of Corrections; and an entrepreneurship grant in partnership with Gadsden County, helping to certify teachers from elementary to high school in entrepreneurial curriculum.

Commissioner's Report

Chair Tuck recognized Commissioner Corcoran for his report. Commissioner Corcoran started by thanking President Murdaugh and TCC for allowing the State Board of Education to meet and recognized six finalist for the 2020 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Noting that the National Science Foundation will convene to choose two finalist per state that will be announced later this year. Commissioner Corcoran then recognized the math finalist: Megan Crombie, a middle school math teacher from Florida State University School; Lauren Tyson, a first-grade, dual-language teacher from Jupiter Elementary School; and Lori Price, a first-grade teacher from St. Johns County. Continuing, Commissioner Corcoran recognized the science finalist: Kaye Ebelt, a fifth-grade teacher from the Green School; Katrina Madok, an elementary science and gifted teacher from Monroe County; and Shadreka Smith, a fifth-grade science teacher from Clay County. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve the Commissioners Report. Mr. Grady made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Minutes from January 13, 2021 meeting

Chair Tuck called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2021 meeting. Mr. Gibson made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Tuck then amended the agenda adding an update on Monroe County Public Schools to be heard after the Progress monitoring Update.

UPDATES

Update on 2020-2021 School Year

Chair Tuck recognized Alex Kelly, Chief of Staff, Department of Education for a brief update on the 2020-2021 school year. Chief Kelly started with an update on VPK and the accessibility of early learning. Stating that in April of the prior year almost 60 percent of Florida early learning programs had closed and that today 99.2 percent of these programs are open. Chief Kelly continued with emergency order 7, which gave families the ability to choose their learning model; provided financial certainty and operational flexibility to schools and districts. Chief Kelly then briefed the board on in-person instruction, which currently stands at 80 percent of students with 67 percent at full-time; and on the USDOE waiver application, which waive certain federal accountability requirements. Still requiring the state to inform schools, districts, and families of their academic success only waiving federal reporting requirements. Chair Tuck opened the board for questions. Mr. Gibson asked what should be the department's goal for full-time in-person learning for the next academic year and what can be done about at-risk students not attending in-person. Mr. Grady followed asking if there is commonality between districts that have high percentages of in-person learning versus low percentages. Mr. Petty asked for a breakdown of the current in-person learning. Vice Chair Johnson asked what the department is planning to get students back in to VPK programs.

Progress Monitoring and Early Learning Deserts Update

Chair Tuck recognized Eric Hall, Senior Chancellor, Department of Education for an update on progress monitoring and early learning deserts. Chancellor Hall began with an update on progress monitoring and how the state uses local assessments to make informed decisions about the strategies and interventions used at local levels to help close the achievement gap. Stating that ELA assessment went down 2 percentage points from the 2020 year, and math went down 8 percentage points. Chancellor Hall continued, briefing the board on early learning deserts and how the department identified counties across the state that are in need of more VPK programs. Chair Tuck opened the board for questions. Vice Chair Johnson asked how does the department incentivize and encourage more people to invest in VPK.

Monroe County Public Schools

Chair Tuck recognized Jacob Oliva, Chancellor, Division of Public Schools for an update on Monroe County Public Schools. Chancellor Oliva then recognized Patrick Lefere, Executive Director, Operations and Planning for Monroe County to brief the board. Mr. Lefere started by thanking the board and provided information pertaining to the opening of schools in Monroe County, stating that 67 percent of all students in the county are attending five-days a week in-person instruction and that grades Pre-K through 5 are attending full-time. Chair

Tuck opened the board for questions. Vice Chair Johnson asked what will the percentages be once the district opens full time. Commissioner Corcoran asked if there was any frustration from parents on the time-frame for opening full time.

K-12 Public Schools – Superintendent Smith on behalf of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents

Chair Tuck recognized Dr. Tim Smith, Superintendent, Escambia County for a brief update on behalf of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. Superintendent Smith started by thanking the Commissioner and Board for the emergency order allowing school districts to continue their innovative learning model while also emphasizing the importance of progress monitoring and timely interventions of students. Superintendent Smith continued, talking about the governors budget, the increase in base student allocation, instructional materials allocation, student mental health, and accountability.

Florida College System – President Falconetti on behalf of the Council of Presidents

Chair Tuck recognized Dr. Angela Falconetti, President, Polk State College (PSC) to provide an update on behalf of the Council of Presidents. President Falconetti thanked the board and commissioner for their leadership during COVID and briefed the board on the Florida College System budget, legislative priorities, advocated for the restoration of the six-percent holdback fund, and maintaining funding for the Complete Florida Plus Program. President Falconetti also highlighted a couple programs at PSC; Establishing Teachers and Leaders of Education, a program to help high school students accelerate through the teacher program; and a grant from the Metallica Scholars Initiative, All Within My Hands Foundation to support, a Computer Numeric Control Machining program.

Teacher Salary Increase Allocation

Chair Tuck then recognized Chancellor Oliva for an update on teacher salary. Chancellor Oliva started with an update on how the implementation was progressing, explaining the categories established for teacher salary increase and how those funds are distributed to districts for allocation. Continuing, Chancellor Oliva provided an update on the timeline of distribution, submitting that 71 of Florida's 75 districts have submitted plans and are paying their teachers accordingly and that four districts are at an impasse; Polk County, FAMU Lab School, Martin County, and Florida School for the Deaf and Blind.

Chancellor Oliva then recognized Michael Johnson, Superintendent, FAMU Lab School for an update on their next steps. Superintendent Johnson provided the board an update on why the district has not yet submitted a teacher salary increase plan and that a remediation hearing is scheduled for March 28. Mr. Gibson asked if FAMU Lab School is communicating with the teachers about why their pay has not increased.

Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve a resolution, expressing the boards disappointment in the districts that have not completed the teacher salary increase and encourage them to settle. Mr. Grady made the motion with a second by Mr. Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Chancellor Oliva then recognized Dr. John Millay, Superintendent, Martin County. Superintendent Millay briefed the board on the impasse and the special magistrate judge that was assigned to help mediate. Mr. Grady asked what does the Martin County Union want to pay teachers versus what the governor wants to pay.

Chancellor Oliva then recognized Tracy Snow, Director, Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. Ms. Snow briefed the board on why Florida School for the Deaf and Blind had not distributed the allocation, noting that they submitted allocation plans however, the plan was not in line with how the legislators had intended.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval to Adopt the Governor's Florida Leads Budget as the State Board's 2021-22 Amended Education Operating and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Request

Chair Tuck recognized Suzanne Pridgeon, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations for an update on the 2021-22 Amended Education Operating and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Request. Ms. Pridgeon briefed the board on the Florida Leads Budget including; an increase to the base students allocation to nearly \$8,000 per student; expanded investments in career and technical education; and the establishment of Title I School Recognition program, providing financial awards to teachers and staff based on students' performance. Chair Tuck opened the board for questions. Mr. Gibson asked what are the plans for the new federal funds that Florida is due to receive. Vice Chair Johnson asked if Florida's universities are managing and adjusting to make the most of their budgets. Mr. Petty asked about funding for the Office of Safe School's and the Guardian Program. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to adopt the governor's Florida Leads Budget as the State Board's 2021-22 amended education operating and fixed capital outlay budget request. Vice Chair Johnson made the motion with a second by Mr. Grady. The motion passed unanimously.

Request for Approval of Revised Turnaround Plans

Chair Tuck recognized Chancellor Oliva for a brief overview of items related to turnaround. Chancellor Oliva started by briefing the board on the pause the state took in relation to accountability, and standardized testing used to monitor school performance. Chair Tuck opened the board for questions. Mr. Grady asked if each contract with an external operator has a performance clause.

Chancellor Oliva then recognized Dr. Mike Grego, Superintendent, Pinellas County for a brief update on turnaround at Lakewood Elementary School. Dr. Grego then introduced Ms. Woodford, Principal, Lakewood Elementary to provide the update. Ms. Woodford started by thanking the board and provided an overview of student attendance, stating that 92 percent of students are face-to-face learning; and that from January 2020 to January 2021 the school has improved its school grade and Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) proficiency in Math and ELA. Commissioner Corcoran then made a recommendation to approve the turnaround plan for Lakewood Elementary School. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve the commissioners recommendation. Mr. Grady made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Chancellor Oliva then introduced Dr. Tim Smith, Superintendent, Escambia County for an update on Warrington Middle School. Dr. Smith thanked the board for the opportunity to provide an update and started by discussing Warrington's demographics and past school grades. Dr. Smith also updated the board on the possibility of having to convert the school to a charter school or close the school. Requesting a turnaround extension for Warrington Middle School to continue using an external operator. Commissioner Corcoran then made a recommendation to hire a new principal, and a new External Operator to assist the school in the next year as well as having 80 percent of teachers with at least 3 years of experience and to come back before the Board at the June meeting. Chair Tuck then called for a motion

to approve the commissioner recommendation. Mr. Gibson made the motion with a second by Mr. Grady. The motion passed unanimously.

Chancellor Oliva recognized Addison Davis, Superintendent, Hillsborough County for an update on Foster and Oak Park Elementary School's. Superintendent Davis started by updating the board on the initiatives to assist these schools, such as hiring a new External Operator, and hiring new instructional support staff. Commissioner Corcoran then made a recommendation to have these schools back before the Board in June. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve the commissioner's recommendation. Mr. Gibson made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS

Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve the consent items. Mr. Gibson made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Tuck opened the board for comments. Vice Chair Johnson commented on the Florida Leads Budget and how well aligned it was with the department's strategic plans. Mr. Gibson thanked the board, commissioner and department for all the work done during the pandemic. Mr. Grady commented on the importance of getting and keeping kids in school in front of great teachers. Ms. Brown thanked the commissioner and team for the help in getting her up to speed with the department's educational initiatives. Mr. Petty commented on making opportunities for our great teachers to collaborate and share best practices. Chair Tuck commented on turnaround and how rewarding it is to be on a board that takes the issue of failing schools seriously.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Tuck adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 2:11 P.M.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Andy Tuck, Chair