

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Action Item**

March 19, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Minutes of the December 17, 2018 and January 16, 2019 Meetings

---

**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

N/A

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The minutes of the December 17, 2018 and January 16, 2019, meetings are presented for approval.

---

**Supporting Documentation Included:** Minutes, December 17, 2018 and January 16, 2019

**Facilitator/Presenter:** Chair Marva Johnson



**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING**

December 17, 2018  
The Capitol, LL03  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida

Chair Marva Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The following members were present: Vice Chair Tuck; Gary Chartrand; Ben Gibson; Tom Grady; Michael Olenick and Joe York.

**WELCOME**

Chair Johnson welcomed members and guests to the State Board of Education meeting. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, she called for a moment of silence in honor of Former Speaker of the House and FSU President, T.K. Wetherell. After which, she recognized Commissioner Stewart for remarks.

Commissioner Stewart recognized two staff members in the Department for outstanding service to Florida. Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Operations, Ms. Linda Champion who is retiring after 25 years in the Department and Division of Public Schools Chancellor, Mr. Hershel Lyons who is retiring after 40 years of service in education. Chair Johnson then opened for Board comments. Chair Johnson then recognized Chancellor Lyons to present the first two action items on the agenda.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Request for Approval of an Additional Year of District-Managed Turnaround – Broward County, Larkdale Elementary School**

Chancellor Lyons provided a brief overview of the request from Broward County School District to be granted an additional year of district-managed turnaround for Larkdale Elementary School for the 2019-20 school year. He indicated the district has met all four of the conditions outlined in rule to be granted the extended time, and that the Board may grant the request based on evidence that more likely than not the school can achieve a grade of "C" or better during the extended time. Commissioner Stewart added that the school is already only one point from achieving a "C" grade and made a recommendation to approve the request for the additional year.

Chair Johnson opened for questions. After which, she called for a motion to approve the recommendation to grant an additional year of district-managed turnaround for Larkdale Elementary School. Mr. Olenick made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of District Turnaround Option Plans for Schools Implementing Cycle 1, Year 1 in 2018-19**

Chancellor Lyons then provided a brief overview of the Turnaround Option Plans (TOPs) submitted for three schools in two districts; Reddick Collier Elementary School in Marion County, and Jackson Elementary and Greco Middle Schools in Hillsborough County. He indicated each of the schools earned a grade D or F for at least two consecutive years and therefore, must immediately implement a TOP. After which, he asked the Commissioner to provide her comments and recommendations for each of the schools to the Board.

**Marion County – Reddick-Collier Elementary School**

Commissioner Stewart stated that there was a leadership change at Reddick-Collier Elementary School, indicating the new principal has previous experience turning around low-performing schools. She then made a recommendation to approve the TOP for Marion County – Reddick-Collier Elementary School.

Chair Johnson called for a motion to approve the recommendation for Marion County – Reddick-Collier Elementary School. Vice Chair Tuck made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

**Hillsborough County – Jackson Elementary School**

Commissioner Stewart recommended approval for Jackson Elementary School on the condition that the district moves all unsatisfactory teachers and replaces them with effective or highly-effective teachers (according to VAM) by January 7, 2019. The district is aware of this condition and have agreed to make those changes. Commissioner Stewart indicated that it was important to wait until the district provided evidence of those teacher changes prior to finalizing full approval for this school's TOP.

Chair Johnson opened for questions. After which, she called for motion to approve Commissioner Stewart's recommendation for Jackson Elementary School. Mr. Gibson made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

**Hillsborough County – Greco Middle School**

Commissioner Stewart recommended approval for Greco Middle School on the same condition that the district moves all unsatisfactory teachers and replaces them with effective or highly-effective teachers (according to VAM) by January 7, 2019. The district is aware of this condition and have agreed to make those changes. Commissioner Stewart reiterated that it was important to wait until the district provided evidence of those teacher changes prior to finalizing full approval for this school's TOP.

Chair Johnson called for motion to approve Commissioner Stewart's recommendation for Greco Middle Elementary School. Vice Chair Tuck made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

**Consideration of the Appointment of Commissioner of Education**

Chair Johnson recognized General Counsel, Matthew Mears. Mr. Mears indicated that the constitution of the State of Florida places the responsibility of the selection of the Commissioner of Education with the State Board of Education, but that it does not provide a process for the selection. Therefore, it falls to the discretion of the Board to determine its own process. After which, Chair Johnson outlined the divisions and offices that fall under the responsibility of the commissioner of education and reminded the Board of the importance of its role.

Chair Johnson called for a motion to consider Richard Corcoran as the next commissioner of education. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Mr. Chartrand. After which, Chair Johnson opened for public comment, indicating each speaker would be allotted two minutes to provide remarks. Thirteen (13) individuals were recognized for comments; three (3) offered comments in opposition, and ten (10) provided comments in support of the candidate. Chair Johnson then invited the candidate to provide comments and opened for Board questions.

Mr. Richard Corcoran first thanked Commissioner Stewart and commended her for her work, for her leadership and for the great strides that have been made in Florida education under her guidance. He then provided an overview of his thoughts and ideas about education and ensuring the upward trend doesn't stop. Chair Johnson then opened for Board questions to Mr. Corcoran.

Chair Johnson called for a motion to appoint Richard Corcoran as the next Commissioner of Education. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Mr. Chartrand. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Johnson then asked the Board to authorize her, by vote of the Board, to finalize the details of Mr. Corcoran's employment. Vice Chair Tuck made the motion with a second by Mr. Chartrand. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Johnson reminded the members that the first meeting of 2019 would be on January 16<sup>th</sup> at Pensacola State College.

Having no further business, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 12:19 P.M.

---

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

---

Marva Johnson, Chair

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING**

January 16, 2019  
Pensacola State College  
Switzer Center for Visual Arts  
Charles W. Lamar Studio  
1000 College Boulevard  
Pensacola, Florida

Chair Marva Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. The following members were present: Vice Chair Tuck; Ben Gibson; Michael Olenick; Andrew Pollack and Joe York. Tom Grady joined by phone.

**WELCOME**

Chair Johnson welcomed members and guests to the State Board of Education meeting, offering a special welcome to Commissioner Corcoran and Andrew Pollack, both participating at their first State Board of Education meeting since taking their respective roles. After which she recognized the Booker T. Washington NJROTC Color Guard to present the colors for the Pledge of Allegiance. She then recognized Pensacola State College Performing Arts student, Tucker O'Conner to sing the national anthem. After which, she recognized Dr. Charles E. Meadows, President, Pensacola State College for remarks.

Dr. Meadows welcomed the Board to Pensacola state college and invited Pensacola Mayor Robinson to the podium to welcome the Board to the city. After which, Ms. Jennifer Grove, Vice President of External Relations, Baptist Health Care, was invited to provide an overview of Achieve Escambia program. Dr. Meadows then provided an overview and status of Pensacola State College and the partnerships and programs offered.

Chair Johnson opened for Board questions, after which, she recognized Commissioner Corcoran for his report.

Commissioner Corcoran recognized nine (9) students for outstanding academic success in the face of hardships. These students are enrolled in K-12 public schools, the Florida College System (FCS), Career and Adult Education, Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services. Following these awards, he recognized Superintendent of the Year Honoree, Mr. Malcolm Thomas, Escambia County Superintendent.

Chair Johnson called for a motion to approve Commissioner Corcoran's report. Mr. York made the motion with a second from Mr. Olenick. The motion passed unanimously.

**MINUTES**

**Minutes from the September 14 and October 25, 2018 meetings.**

Chair Johnson called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 14 and October 25, 2018 meetings. Mr. Olenick made the motion with a second from Vice Chair Tuck. The motion passed unanimously.

**UPDATES**

**K-12 Public Schools**

Chair Johnson recognized Superintendent Malcolm Thomas, who provided an overview of issues, initiatives, K-12 system-wide accomplishments and legislative priorities for the Florida Association of School District Superintendents. Chair Johnson then opened for Board questions.

### **Florida College System**

Chair Johnson recognized Dr. Ava L. Parker, President, Palm Beach State College who provided an overview of issues, initiatives, system-wide accomplishments and legislative priorities for the Florida College System. Chair Johnson then opened for Board questions.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Approval of A.A.A. Scholarship Foundation- Florida, LLC as a Scholarship Funding Organization for 2019-20**

Chair Johnson recognized Mr. Adam Miller, Executive Director, Officer of Independent Education and Parental Choice to introduce the next two items.

Mr. Miller provided a short overview of the application process and statutory requirements of the Board. He then introduced Ms. Kimberly Dyson, President, A.A.A. Scholarship Foundation. Ms. Dyson outlined the mission and goals of the Foundation and gave a brief overview of the students and communities served by A.A.A. Scholarship Foundation. Chair Johnson then opened for Board questions.

Chair Johnson called for a motion to approve the A.A.A. Scholarship Foundation application. Mr. Olenick made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Tuck. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Johnson recognized Mr. Miller for the next item.

#### **Approval of Step Up for Students, Inc. as a Scholarship Funding Organization for 2019-20**

Mr. Miller provided a short overview of the application. He then introduced Mr. Joe Pfountz, Chief Financial Officer, Step Up for Students, Inc. Mr. Pfountz outlined the mission and goals of Step Up for Students and gave a brief overview of the students and communities they serve. After which, Chair Johnson opened for Board questions.

Chair Johnson called for a motion to approve the Step Up for Students, Inc., application. Mr. Gibson made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Tuck. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Johnson recognized Ms. Melissa Ramsey, Executive Director, Bureau of School Improvement to introduce the next item.

#### **Request for Approval of an Additional Year of District-Managed Plan**

Ms. Ramsey provided an overview of specifications in rule that determine criteria in which schools may be considered for an additional year of district-managed turnaround. She indicated that four districts had submitted a request for one school in each district for a total of four schools. These include: Duval County – Ramona Boulevard Elementary School; Lee County – East Lee County High School; Broward County – North Side Elementary School; and Volusia County – Palm Terrace Elementary School. After which, she referred the item to Commissioner Corcoran to present his recommendation to the Board.

Commissioner Corcoran indicated that two districts had met criteria outlined in rule for these schools to be granted an additional year of district-managed turnaround and both reported positive trends in many of the school grade cells. Based on this and the likelihood of these schools to achieve a school grade of "C" or higher within the extended time period, Commissioner Corcoran recommended the Board approve the additional year of district-managed turnaround for both Duval – Ramona Boulevard Elementary School and Lee – East Lee County High School. After which, Chair Johnson opened for Board questions.

Chair Johnson called for a motion to approve the recommendation made by Commissioner Corcoran to grant an additional year of district-managed turnaround for Duval – Ramona Boulevard Elementary School and Lee – East Lee County High School. Mr. Olenick made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Corcoran then indicated that the remaining two districts had not met criteria outlined in rule for these schools to be granted an additional year of district-managed turnaround, additionally citing a negative school grade trajectory for both schools. He then recommended the Board deny the request for an additional year of district-managed turnaround for both Broward – North Side Elementary School; and Volusia – Palm Terrace Elementary School. After which, Chair Johnson opened for Board questions.

Chair Johnson called for a motion to approve the recommendation made by Commissioner Corcoran to deny an additional year of district-managed turnaround for Broward – North Side Elementary School and Volusia – Palm Terrace Elementary School. Mr. Gibson made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Tuck. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Johnson then amended the agenda, moving Consent Item 7, Approval of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for 2019-20 to Action. She then recognized Mr. Juan Copa, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement.

### **Approval of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for 2019-20**

Mr. Copa provided a brief overview of the purpose and intent of the Critical Teacher Shortage Areas report, indicating the report is produced as part of a requirement in statute. Further, he indicated the report was used in the past to inform decisions in loan-forgiveness programs that have since gone away.

Chair Johnson then recognized Ms. Cathy Boehme, Florida Education Association, allowing two minutes for public comment. After which, Chair Johnson opened for Board questions.

Chair Johnson called for a motion to approve the Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for 2019-20 report. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Tuck. The motion passed unanimously.

### **CONSENT**

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

### **MEMBER COMMENTS**

Prior to opening for Board comments, Chair Johnson recognized former Speaker Designate, Mr. Buzz Ritchie in the audience and invited him to offer comments. Mr. Ritchie provided a brief overview of Capstone Adaptive Learning and its mission to advance the independence for children and adults with a spectrum of abilities and disabilities, indicating once size does not fit all when seeking solutions to educational issues.



Chair Johnson then opened for Board comments. All members joined the Chair in welcoming new Commissioner of Education, Richard Corcoran and new member Andy Pollack.

Vice Chair Tuck reiterated an earlier comment to see entrepreneur programs offered in each of the 28 Florida College System institutions. Additionally, Mr. Tuck requested information related to differentiated teacher pay, specifically in those critical shortage areas compared to non-critical areas be provided to the Board to assist in meaningful discussions about teacher salary.

Mr. Grady emphasized the need for leadership accountability in the districts and in the schools. He suggested that future items that come before the Board regarding school turnaround include a report on leadership as part of the presentation.

Mr. Olenick indicated he had identified four issues that he wanted the Board to consider for a discussion item at the next meeting and perhaps move forward. He asked that, where appropriate, they be added to the Department's legislative budget request. Issues include additional funds for mental health assistance programs; increased funding and funding flexibility for school safety and security, particularly for Guardian funds; teacher shortage issues including teacher salary; and increase funding and/or change in calculations for funding of construction and cost per school stations in public schools. Commissioner Corcoran indicated that many of these items were identified by Governor DeSantis as part of his vision for education and was already moving quickly on many issues. Commissioner Corcoran stated that all of the items discussed here today would be explored with Department staff and either brought back to the Board for further discussion if needed, or addressed directly. Mr. Gibson and Mr. York both echoed Commissioner Corcoran's comments about the alacrity with which Governor DeSantis is moving and his accomplishments in just two weeks.

Mr. Pollack expressed his appreciation for being appointed to the Board. He indicated that he has worked on several safety commissions to develop criteria for accountability in the districts that will help keep students safe. He stressed that districts must be held accountable for failure. He echoed earlier comments by other Board members that teacher pay needs to be addressed, adding that administrators may be seeing increases in pay but teachers are not seeing commensurate increases.

Chair Johnson thanked the members for their thoughts and wrapped up Board comments, reiterating her welcome to Commissioner Corcoran. She indicated that she looks forward to working with him and will look for updates on education related items as the Department moves into and through the legislative session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Johnson reminded the members that the next meeting would be on March 19<sup>th</sup> in Tallahassee.

Having no further business, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 12:20 P.M.

---

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

---

Marva Johnson, Chair

