

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING**

November 18, 2020

Tallahassee Community College

Student Union Ballroom, 444 Appleyard Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32304

Chair Andy Tuck called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. and asked everyone to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members were present: Vice Chair Marva Johnson; Ben Gibson, Ryan Petty, Joe York with members Tom Grady and Michael Olenick, via telephone.

WELCOME

Chair Tuck thanked members and guests for adhering to the Leon County ordinance regarding the wearing of face mask coverings indoors, and requested that everyone continue to do so throughout the meeting. Chair Tuck then recognized Casey DeSantis, First Lady of Florida, for opening comments.

First Lady DeSantis started by addressing the crucial need for in-person learning and how invaluable it is to student development and well-being. Center for Disease Control data shows a 57% increase in suicide rate among children ages 10 to 24 since the pandemic began. She expressed the need for more support for preventative strategies to mitigate the mental health pandemic. First Lady DeSantis then introduced Phillip Adams.

Mr. Adams opened by thanking the Board and First Lady DeSantis for inviting him to speak on child abuse and how mentorship influenced his life. Mr. Adams began by telling his own story of child abuse and the teacher that noticed and mentored him. Going on to become a member of the advisory board for the Child Protection Center (CPC) in Sarasota as well as a member of the fundraising board for the CPC as well. Mr. Adams continued stating that there is a victim of child abuse in Florida every 14.3 minutes, breaking down to 101 children every day before the pandemic began. Suggesting that all schools be open with mask requirements so that students of abuse can have a safe haven. First Lady DeSantis then awarded Mr. Adams with the Hope for Healing Courage Commitment Compassion Award and thanked the board for the time.

Chair Tuck then recognized Jim Murdaugh, President, Tallahassee Community College (TCC) to welcome the board. President Murdaugh started by thanking Commissioner Corcoran for the executive order that suspended entry-level testing. Stating that TCC created a program called Jump Start, to target high school students to enroll in summer courses. President Murdaugh also talked about student support services and how they will be embedded in courses, giving students an in-course librarian. As well as how TCC has become a beta test site for a new iteration of Zoom called Class for Zoom.

Commissioner's Report

Chair Tuck recognized Commissioner Corcoran for his report. Commissioner Corcoran thanked President Murdaugh for hosting the State Board of Education and recognized Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System and Vice Chair Marva Johnson for a check presentation. Chancellor Hebda started by providing some background on the foundation and how long it has been providing scholarships to students at Florida college's. Chancellor Hebda then announced the foundation would be awarding \$1,121,619 to Florida's 28

colleges for students to support their learning and continuation to higher learning. Chancellor Hebda then recognized Vice Chair Johnson. Vice Chair Johnson thanked Chancellor Hebda and Judy Green for leading the way and recognized Braulio Colon, Vice President, Student Success Initiatives, Helios Education Foundation; Velma Monterio-tribble, Director, Florida Blue Foundation; and Karen Moore, Chair, Florida College System Foundation for all their work and service.

Commissioner Corcoran started by recognizing two outstanding students: Zara Ross, George T. Baker Aviation Technical College, a first generation college student; and Anthony Valenzuela, Miami-Dade College. Commissioner Corcoran then provided an update on the upcoming spring executive order stating that districts have until February 1st to complete their opening plan. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve the Commissioners Report. Vice Chair Johnson made the motion with a second by Mr. York. Chair Tuck opened the board for questions. Mr. Olenick asked about giving the district the option to be completely remote without any sort of penalties from the executive order and about when the executive order would be coming out. Mr. Gibson commented on how much teacher's actually do and thanked First Lady DeSantis and Mr. Adams for speaking. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Minutes from September 23, 2020 meeting

Chair Tuck called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2020 meeting. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Mr. Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATES

Required Reporting Instruction

Chair Tuck recognized Jacob Oliva, Chancellor, Division of Public Schools, for an update on the next two items. Chancellor Oliva started by providing the board a brief overview on the two main items of required reporting: making sure students have access to mental health services; and mental health education. Chancellor Oliva also provided the board an overview on the annual report required from each district on how they are teaching the required instructional materials.

Standards Development and Implementation

Chancellor Oliva continued and briefed the board on the work that has been going on with standards development. Stating that stakeholder input has all been received and reviewed and that the department is still on its timeline for implementation. Chair Tuck opened the board for questions. Mr. Gibson asked how is the department receiving stakeholder input and how are we working with them. Vice Chair Johnson asked how engaged the textbook manufacturers and content producers are in the process.

Progress Monitoring Initiatives

Chair Tuck recognized Juan Copa, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Accountability Research and Measurement for an update on Progress Monitoring Initiatives. Mr. Copa started by briefing the board on the cancellation of the statewide assessments and how the progress monitoring tools are used locally to gauge student's progress and guide instruction. Mr.

Copa also provided the board an update on what the department is doing to build better capacity to collect and analyze data and make that data actionable. Mr. Copa also briefed the board on a new pilot program in VPK to implement a kindergarten readiness screener called STAR early literacy assessment, which would provide insight on the progress of students at an early age. Chair Tuck opened the board for questions. Vice Chair Johnson asked what areas will the VPK pilot program be in and where in Florida are we lacking VPK programs. Mr. York asked about the number of VPK providers that will be participating in the trial and what is the goal. Mr. Petty requested an update on what are the leading indicators that a school may be beginning to fail.

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

Chair Tuck recognized Robert Pearce, Superintendent, Wakulla County for an update on reopening schools. Superintendent Pearce started by thanking Governor DeSantis and Commissioner Corcoran for their support throughout COVID. Superintendent Pearce then provided an update on distance learning, House Bill 969 which helps small and rural districts with internet connectivity, teacher stress and responsibilities, and mental health. Chair Tuck then opened the board for questions. Vice Chair Johnson started and asked about what teachers have been saying.

AAA Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

Chair Tuck then recognized Dr. Dakeyan Graham, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice for a brief update on the AAA scholarship foundation renewal application. Dr. Graham provided the board a brief update on the application process for a Scholarship Funding Origination (SFO), and the renewal process for SFOs. Chair Tuck then opened the board for questions. Mr. Gibson asked about the students that get denied, what happens to them. Vice Chair Johnson asked if a family has a chance to correct an application if they make a mistake.

Presentation

Rigor Gap

Chair Tuck then recognized Steven Birnholz, Executive Vice President and Director of Research for the Florida Council of 100 and Eric Frey, Economist, Florida Council of 100 for a presentation on the rigor gap. Mr. Birnholz started and outlined the two main points of the councils report: expectations of students and accountability of students. Mr. Birnholz then introduced Mr. Frey. Mr. Frey opened by comparing class grades to end-of-course (EOC) exams. Stating that the number of students that pass the class but not the EOC is exceedingly high.

ACTION ITEMS

Review of Turnaround Option Plan for School District of Duval County

Chair Tuck recognized Melissa Ramsey, Vice Chancellor, Strategic Improvement for a brief overview of Duval Counties, Carter G. Woodson Elementary School. Ms. Ramsey briefed the board on Carter G. Woodson Elementary school and the requirements to close a school, move students and teachers and collect student level data. Chair Tuck opened the board for questions. Commissioner Corcoran recommended closing the school. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to the Commissioners recommendation to approve the Turnaround Option Plan

Closure for School District of Duval County. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Mr. Olenick. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-1.099813, Education Program Improvement Process for Department of Juvenile Justice Programs

Chair Tuck recognized Melissa Ramsey, Vice Chancellor, Strategic Improvement for a brief overview of new rule 6A-1.099813, Education Program Improvement Process for Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Programs. Ms. Ramsey stated that the rule will provide the department the opportunity to work with DJJ to ensure their programs have an evaluation and determination period for how they are doing and consequences if they are low-performing. Chair Tuck then opened the board for questions. Mr. Gibson proposed an amendment to the rule, that DJJ programs can have an extension if they meet their rating or be granted additional time to get within an acceptable level. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve the amendment to the rule. Vice Chair Johnson made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve the amended new rule 6A-1.099813, Education Program Improvement Process for Department of Juvenile Justice Programs. Mr. Gibson made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.094124, Required Instruction Reporting and Repeal of Rules 6A-1.094121, Mental and Emotional Health Education; 6A-1.094122, Substance Use and Abuse Health Education; and 6A-1.094123, Child Trafficking Prevention Education

Chair Tuck recognized Chancellor Oliva for a brief overview of rule 6A-1.094124, F.A.C. Chancellor Oliva started by providing some information on the three rule repeals and how they would be consolidated into one rule and the online portal used by districts to aggregate and segregate the data. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-1.094124, Required Instruction Reporting and Repeal of Rules 6A-1.094121, Mental and Emotional Health Education; 6A-1.094122, Substance Use and Abuse Health Education; and 6A-1.094123, Child Trafficking Prevention Education. Mr. York 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. Vice Chair Johnson made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Tuck opened the board for comments. Vice Chair Johnson started and thanked teachers for their resilience, compassion, and persistence to students every day. Mr. Gibson echoed the comments made by Vice Chair Johnson. Mr. York commented on the fear that people are living with today and thanked First Lady DeSantis and Phillip Adams for coming to speak. Mr. Petty echoed his fellow member comments. Mr. Grady thanked the governor, commissioner, and the department for the work on the executive order giving districts, teachers and parents the option to choose the best schooling choice for them. Chair Tuck thanked First Lady DeSantis and Phillip Adams for taking the time to come and speak to the board. Mr. Olenick thanked the board members and the commissioner for the opportunity to work with such a great team. Members thanked Mr. Olenick for his service on the board.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Tuck adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 12:33 P.M.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Andy Tuck, Chair