

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING

August 18, 2021
Miami-Dade College
Wolfson Campus,
254 N.E. 4th St., Building 3
Chapman Conference Room 3210
Miami, FL 33132

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

WELCOME

Chair Grady thanked members and guests for attending the meeting and recognized Madeline Pumariega, President, Miami-Dade College, to welcome the board.

President Pumariega started by thanking the board for coming to Miami-Dade College and provided the board an overview of Miami-Dade College and some of the initiatives going on at the college. Such as, a \$10 million partnership with IBM in artificial intelligence and automation, launching Rising Black Scholars Program providing 130 student scholarships, a partnership with Bean Automotive for 30 apprentice scholarships in Automotive Technician Training, and a healthcare partnership with the local hospital in Doral. Continuing President Pumariega, briefed the board on enrollment at the college, stating that when she entered her presidency student enrollment was down 17% and through a series of new modalities that percentage had been cut in half by the spring and was trending upward through the fall and summer terms. Adding that, Miami-Dade College was number one in graduating Hispanics and number five in graduating African-Americans.

Commissioner's Report

Chair Grady recognized Commissioner Corcoran for his report. Commissioner Corcoran started by thanking President Pumariega for her hospitality and for all the work that she has done in education for the state. Commissioner Corcoran then recognized two students for their academic success and resiliency throughout COVID: Jayla Mack, a senior at Homestead Senior High School and Diana Gonzalez, a 2021 graduate from Miami-Dade College Honors Program. Chair Grady then called for a motion to approve the commissioner's report. Vice Chair Gibson made the motion with a second by Mr. Tuck. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Minutes from June 10, 2021 meeting

Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2021 meeting. Ms. Johnson made the motion with a second by Mr. Petty. The motion passed unanimously

UPDATES

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

Chair Grady recognized Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent, Miami-Dade County for an update on behalf of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. Superintendent Carvalho thanked and welcomed the board to Miami-Dade County and provided the board some of the demographics of the district: 70 percent of students live below the federal poverty level, 60,000 students are English Language Learners, and over 11 percent have one or more disabilities. Stating that many would believe that Miami-Dade County would not be a high performing district and to the contrary Miami-Dade County is outperforming in all grade levels at reading versus the rest of the state and country. Continuing, Superintendent Carvalho thanked the teachers, support staff, communities, and the business community for all the hard work they put in to make Miami-Dade so successful, stating that with their support, he will do the right thing for Miami-Dade.

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

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Angela Falconetti, President, Polk State College for an update on behalf of the Council of Presidents. Dr. Falconetti thanked the board and commissioner for their dedication to students in the State of Florida and briefed the board on the Council of Presidents strategic leadership to ensure the door of higher education not only remains open, but also leads to a path of completion and meaningful employment. Dr. Falconetti also thanked the Department of Education for proposing a budget that will carry forward the funding that was appropriated to the Florida College System during the 2021 legislative session and for keeping the system's funding whole. Continuing, Dr. Falconetti talked about the Florida College System program fund aligning with Governor DeSantis' and the state's workforce priorities, which will accelerate the provision of quality workforce education programs and services and support other key priorities such as dual-enrollment and transfer student articulation.

Florida's State Plan for the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Eric Hall, Senior Chancellor, Department of Education for an overview of the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. Dr. Hall started by briefing the board on the investments made using federal funds from the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, such as investments in early learning, reading initiatives, and postsecondary training programs. Following that, Dr. Hall shared information on the American Rescue Plan, stating that the fund was for more than 7 billion dollars and must be used before September 2024, giving the department time to be strategic in how they allocate funds. Funds will be used for summer enrichment programs, after-school and weekend programs to help accelerate learning and close the achievement gap, expanding the reading achievement initiative, student support services, and the expansion of the childcare development fund.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 2022-23 Education Operating and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Request

Chair Grady recognized Suzanne Pridgeon, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations for an update on the 2022-23 Education Operating and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Request. Ms. Pridgeon started by thanking the board and provided them an overview of the 2022-23 budget request, which has an increase of 340.3 million from the previous year's request and includes 20.5 billion for operations and 1.5 billion for fixed capital outlay. Ms. Pridgeon added that since the 2011-12 year funding per student has increased \$1,578. Ms. Pridgeon then briefed the board on funding for the following programs, 6 million dollars for the school district intensive reading initiative pilot, 5 million for the regional literacy directors, 4.1 million to enhance the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool, and \$500,000 for the Florida Debate Initiative. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Mr. Tuck asked how this year's anticipated increase in students compares to previous years. Vice Chair Gibson asked if the state has an increase in revenue should the Department of Education expect more money in the education budget. Ms. Johnson asked about the difference in appropriation for the Florida Association of the Agencies Serving the Blind (FAASB). Chair Grady then opened the board for public comment, after which, Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the 2022-23 Education Operating and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Request. Vice Chair Gibson made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.0952, Family Empowerment Scholarship Program

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Graham, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice for an overview of rule 6A-6.0952, Family Empowerment Scholarship Program. Dr. Graham started by providing the board an overview of the seven scholarship opportunities available to students. The Florida Empowerment Scholarship that is income-based; the Gardiner Scholarship that's a unique-abilities based; and the McKay Scholarship, which is also unique-abilities based; the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship, which is an income-based; the Hope Scholarship for incidents of bullying and harassment; the Reading Scholarship accounts for students who were identified as underperforming in elementary school; and then the Opportunity Scholarship for students attending persistently low-performing schools. Dr. Graham then provided the board with the amendment to the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program. Stating that the Gardiner Scholarship would be encumbered into the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, creating two different Florida Empowerment Scholarship options. The education option, which is income-based, adding the unique-abilities side of it that now incorporates what was formerly known as the Gardiner Scholarship. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Vice Chair Gibson asked if students have been losing the Hope Scholarship and Florida Tax credit scholarship due to the lack of funds. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-6.0952, Family Empowerment Scholarship Program. Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Mr. Tuck. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-10.0240, Minimum Standards for Out-of-state High School Equivalency Diplomas

Chair Grady then recognized Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System to brief the board on the next three action items. Chancellor Hebda thanked the board and briefed them on the new rule. Stating that this rule is going to help students who enter the college system from other states having earned a high school equivalency diploma in that other state. Setting standards for the acceptance of those out-

of-state high school equivalency diplomas. Chair Grady then called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-10.0240, Minimum Standards for Out-of-state High School Equivalency Diplomas. Ms. Johnson made the motion with a second by Mr. Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-20.045, Open Door Grant Program

Chancellor Hebda continued providing an overview of new rule 6A-20.045, Open Door Grant Program. Starting by briefing the board on the open-door grant program which authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement this grant program, allowing school districts, postsecondary technical and career centers, charter technical centers and Florida College System institutions to earn grant funds. Funding for the Open Door Grant Program falls in two categories, the Last Dollar Program, where students have already received some federal dollars towards their schooling and the grant will fill in the remaining gap owed to the college. Also the, student investment portion, where a student who does not have any other federal aid can provide the cost of one-third of the program cost up front and then receive scholarship dollars that fill in the other two-thirds. Chancellor Hebda then recognized Henry Mack, Chancellor, Career and Adult Education. Chancellor Mack added that the key component is that this grant has a particular focus on adult learners. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-20.045, Open Door Grant Program. Ms. Johnson made the motion with a second by Mr. Tuck. The motion passed unanimously.

New Bachelor Degree Program in the Florida College System

Continuing, Chancellor Hebda briefed the board on Hillsborough Community Colleges request for a new bachelor degree program. Stating that this would be Hillsborough Community Colleges first baccalaureate degree program and that the program is in a high demand field, nursing. Chancellor Hebda recognized Dr. Ken Atwater, President, Hillsborough Community College for an overview of the new baccalaureate program. Dr. Atwater, started by thanking the board and pointed out the high demand for this program in the Hillsborough area and the community support from healthcare providers and local institutions. Adding that graduates are expected to earn an annual income of about \$67,000. Chair Grady then called for a motion to approve the new bachelor degree program in the Florida College System. Ms. Johnson made the motion with a second by Mr. Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Grady opened the board for comments. Mr. Petty thanked the board and community for being at the meeting and spoke of his respect for Superintendent Carvalho and asked that when the superintendent and his local board make a decision they take into consideration the needs of all the families of Miami-Dade. Ms. Johnson thanked Senior Chancellor Eric Hall for his update on the American Rescue Plan dollars and asked to see how the department's recommendation aligns with the budget allocation, also thanking Superintendent Carvalho for his tremendous leadership skills. Vice Chair Gibson thanked President Pumariega and Superintendent Carvalho for welcoming the board to Miami and addressed the issue of masks in school and said that it is the parent's right to choose what is in the best

interest of their child. Adding that the Hope scholarship is designed and designated to combat bullying and that districts should not be engaging in that sort of behavior towards students. Ms. Brown highlighted some of the great work going on at the department such as, investments in early learning, and investments in career and technical education and thanked all the superintendents around the state for all their hard work. Mr. Tuck first thanked the Chair for running a smooth meeting and asked Chancellor Hebda if any districts have personnel on the local school board that are also on the local colleges Board of Trustees. Chair Grady thanked members for their comments and added that parents in the State of Florida should be empowered to make decisions regarding all aspects of raising their children, including healthcare and education.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Grady announced the next meeting will be on October 20th in conjunction with the Florida Charter School Conference in Orlando. Having no further business, Chair Grady adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 10:46 A.M.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Tom Grady, Chair