

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING

February 9, 2022
Tallahassee Community College
Student Union Ballroom
444 Appleyard Dr.
Tallahassee, FL 32304

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, Marva Johnson, Ryan Petty, and Monesia Brown.

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Jim Murdaugh, President, Tallahassee Community College (TCC) to provide the board a brief welcome and update on TCC. President Murdaugh thanked the board for meeting at TCC and reminded them that TCC serves three surrounding districts including Leon, Gadsden, and Wakulla County and that TCC is the number one transfer institution to both Florida State University and Florida A&M University. Offering highly sought after workforce training in all 10 areas identified by the Department of Economic Opportunity. President Murdaugh added that the number of career and technical education graduates from TCC has increased by 275% over the past five years and that TCC has once again been selected to apply for the Aspen Prize.

Commissioner's Report

Chair Grady recognized Commissioner Corcoran for his report. Commissioner Corcoran started by thanking President Murdaugh for hosting the meeting. Commissioner Corcoran then recognized Joseph Bostic, a recent graduate of TCCs' Florida Offenders Transportation and Logistics Program in collaboration with the Florida Department of Corrections. Commissioner Corcoran then recognized Ricky Dixon, Secretary, Department of Corrections (DOC) for a brief update on the program. Secretary Dixon thanked President Murdaugh for partnering with the DOC, stating that TCC has been the longest standing partner in CTE training for inmates.

Commissioner Corcoran shared that this year's theme for the Black History Month Student Essay Art and Educator Contest, is celebrating African American contributions in Florida History. Stating that the winners of the contests will each receive a four-year Florida College Plan scholarship via the Florida College Prepaid Foundation.

Commissioner Corcoran recognized Bethany Swonson, Chief of Staff for an update on federal relief funding and legislative affairs. Ms. Swonson started by stating Florida has received \$10 billion from the federal government for elementary and secondary school relief from the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES), Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER), and American Rescue Plan acts. Adding that 90 percent of CARES has been spent, 50 percent of ESSER has been spent, and the remaining funds are with the legislature to get approval. Continuing, Ms. Swonson added that the main priority of the legislative session is the student K-12 Assessment and Accountability Bill, House Bill 1193. Which eliminates the Florida Standards Assessment and protects Florida's accountability system and ensures educators and parents receive information three times a year pertaining to accountability.

Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the Commissioners Report. Vice Chair Gibson made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Minutes from October 7, October 20, November 16 and January 19 meetings

Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 7, October 20, November 16 and January 19 meetings. Ms. Johnson made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATES

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. President Falconetti started by thanking the board, commissioner, and department for their leadership, support and advocacy for Florida state colleges.

President Falconetti then briefed the board on the Council of Presidents legislative priorities, starting with the first priority, to strengthen the Florida College System Program fund with an investment of 60 million dollars towards Rapid Credentialing, to renew the Florida College System infrastructure with a renewed PECO investment of \$39.8 million, and last to implement last years House Bill 1507 which seeks to expand nursing and additional health care programs as well as cybersecurity, drone manufacturing and other advanced technologies. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Johnson asked of the 60 million geared towards healthcare, how much was a onetime investment and how much is reoccurring. Chair Grady asked how rapid credentialing was going at Polk State College and at the other colleges around the state.

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

Chair Grady recognized Sandra Himmel, Superintendent, Citrus County for an update on behalf of the Council of Presidents. Superintendent Himmel thanked the board and briefed them on the districts number one concern this year, absences. Including double than average student absences when compared to the prior year and staff absences up two thirds from the prior year. Adding that there are not enough subs to cover the absent teacher positions making school districts throughout the state take their specialty teachers such as Art, Music, and P.E. to sub into other classes or adding classes together with one teacher. Superintendent Himmel added that in Citrus County they created the, Men Building Men, program targeting young men at risk of not graduating and since the program's inception 100 percent of those students graduated in 2021. Also, Citrus County partnered with the local colleges to take qualified teacher aids and assist them in getting their teaching degree. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Johnson asked for other examples of how the district is having to make accommodations in order to better support missing teachers and absences. Vice Chair Gibson asked if the Men Building Men program is specific to Citrus County or was it operating in multiple districts. Chair Grady asked the Commissioner what more can the department do to support districts.

Warrington Middle School, Escambia County School District

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Tim Smith, Superintendent, Escambia County for an update on the progress of Warrington Middle School. Superintendent Smith thanked the board and provided an update on the status of Warrington Middle. Stating that all the teaching positions have been filled in compliance with the school board requests, four experienced deans were hired to manage a discipline crisis at the school and a reorganization of structural approaches with Learning Systems Institute. Continuing Superintendent Smith said when comparing this year to last year FSA data, total points increased 55 points, leading to a climb of above 82 at the end of year. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Johnson asked if the district knows the root cause for why the change in civics and civics proficiency didn't match the other improvement areas. Vice Chair Gibson asked for an estimated school grade for this year. Mr. Petty asked when the next opportunity for progress monitoring is and if that data can be presented in a following meeting.

Jefferson County School District

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Paul Burns, Deputy Chancellor, Educator Quality for an update on Jefferson County. Dr. Burns thanked the board and provided an update on the status of Jefferson County School District and the work done to support the students of the county. Focusing on two major goals, providing the students of Jefferson County a world class education and transitioning quickly back a fully autonomous highly-effective school district. Stating that as of February 9, Commissioner Corcoran has officially released Jefferson County from their financial emergency. Contingent on the district providing certain assurances and reporting requirements. Dr. Burns then recognized Superintendent Tricquet to add a few words. Superintendent Tricquet thanked the board for all their help and leadership and added that Jackie Pons the Principal has lead many schools to better grades as well as herself. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Vice Chair Gibson requested the current end of fund balance.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09422, Statewide, Standardized Assessment Program Requirements

Chair Grady recognized Juan Copa, Deputy Commissioner, Accountability Research and Measurement for a brief overview of the next two items. Starting with the amendment to rule 6A-1.09422. Mr. Copa stated that the amendment does two things. First, it provides an alternative method for English Language Learners who have been enrolled in ESOL programs for less than two years to meet their grade 10 ELA English Language Arts assessment requirement. Mr. Copa added that this would impact about 500 students statewide. Second, the amendment seeks to protect Florida's accountability system while maintaining some flexibilities that prior graduating classes have had to meet. Such as delaying the implementation of the updated concordant scores adopted in May 2018. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-1.09422, Statewide, Standardized Assessment Program Requirements. Ms. Johnson made the motion with a second by Mr. Petty. Chair Grady then called for public comment with Dawn Stewart of the Florida PTA Legislative Committee speaking in favor of the rule amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for 2022-23

Continuing, Mr. Copa provided the board an update on the critical teacher shortage areas for 2022-23. Stating that this is an annual report that identifies which certification areas represent the greatest need among teachers statewide. Looking at the percent of positions filled by teachers not certified in the appropriate field, the annual supply of graduates from state-approved teacher preparation programs, and the number of vacancies reported by school district. Mr. Copa added that in comparison to last year's list only Technical Education and Earth Space Science have fallen off. Chair Grady then recognized Cathy Boehm, Florida Education Association for public comment. Chair Grady then called for a motion to approve the Critical Teacher Shortage Areas report for 2022-23. Vice Chair Gibson made the motion with a second by Ms. Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-4.0164, Specialization Requirements for the Civics Seal of Excellence (Endorsement)

Chair Grady recognized Jacob Oliva, Senior Chancellor for an overview of new rule 6A-4.0164. Sr. Chancellor Oliva started by reminding the board of the recent civics literacy excellence initiative and Governor DeSantis' creation of the civics seal of excellence and an accompanying \$3,000 stipend for teachers that complete the program. Sr. Chancellor Oliva added that this new rule will set the eligibility requirements for teachers to complete the program and earn the money, which is funded through ESSER federal funds and issued on a first-come-first-serve basis. With the program anticipated to go live by the summer of 2022. Chair Grady then called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-4.0164, Specialization Requirements for the Civics Seal of Excellence (Endorsement). Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

New Bachelor Degree Programs in the Florida College System

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Georgia Lorenz, President, Seminole State College to provide an overview of the proposed degree programs. Dr. Lorenz thanked the board and introduced the three degree programs that will help meet the needs in Seminole County: Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education, Bachelor of Science Degree in Exceptional Education, and Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Administration. Dr. Lorenz then recognized Jason Wysong, Deputy Superintendent, Seminole County Public Schools to provide some information on the first two proposals in education. Mr. Wysong added that these degrees have community need and will work towards teacher shortage, improvement and retention. Chair Grady then opened the board for questions pertaining to the first two proposals. Ms. Johnson asked how many teachers they hope to graduate in each field and if there are any incentives for participation.

Chair Grady then called for a motion to approve each of the two Bachelor's degrees in Education, starting with Elementary Education. Ms. Johnson made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Grady then called for a motion to approve the Bachelor degree in Exceptional Student Education. Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Lorenz continued, providing an overview of the Bachelor degree in Public Administration. Stating that this degree program was requested by Seminole County Sheriff, Dennis Lemma and based on input from local stakeholders there was overwhelming support for the degree program. Dr. Lorenz then

introduced Bob Cortez, Senior Administrator for Governmental and Community Affairs. Mr. Cortez added that it was important to the Seminole County Sheriffs Office that students have the opportunity to complete a Bachelors Degree in Public Safety Administration which will help prepare students for administrative, management level, law enforcement, and other public safety professions. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Brown asked if the Public Administration degree will include aspects of mental and behavioral health. Chair Grady then called for a motion to approve the Bachelors Degree in Public Administration. Ms. Johnson made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Own Your Success Academies, Inc. v. School Board of Hillsborough County

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Dakeyan Graham, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice for an overview of the next three items. Dr. Graham thanked the board and provided a brief overview of the timeline of Own Your Success Academies application and subsequent denial of charter services by Hillsborough County. And highlighted some of the reasons for the denial. Such as, a financial plan that lacked clarity, public transparency, and internal controls. Dr. Graham then introduced Thomas Sternberg, Board Chair, Own Your Success Academies to present their case.

Mr. Sternberg thanked the board and commissioner for taking the time to listen to his arguments and stated that the financial plan is for a non-traditional charter school meaning it will not have the same financials as a traditional charter and that he believes the district denied the application due to Hillsborough's own financial situation.

Chair Grady then recognized Thomas Ferrier, General Counsel, Hillsborough County to provide the board feedback from Hillsborough regarding Own Your Success Academies. Mr. Ferrier thanked the board and Own Your Success Academies for being present and noted that the issue is not with their program or mission but the budget, and business plan. Stating that the line item budget for Own Your Success did not account for ELL, ESE, required support staff, accounting for food and snacks, funding for a safe school officer, and transportation and transportation costs. Mr. Ferrier added that due to these reasons Hillsborough County and the Charter Appeal Commission upheld the denial.

Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Johnson asked if the Charter school updates their application can they resubmit for reconsideration. Vice Chair Gibson asked if Own Your Success Academies is operating another charter in Florida. Chair Grady then called for a motion to uphold the Charter School Appeal Commissions recommendation to deny the appeal. Ms. Johnson made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of A.A.A. Scholarship Foundation- Florida, LLC as a Scholarship Funding Organization for 2022-23

Dr. Graham continued, providing the board a brief update on the application packet for A.A.A. Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO). Dr. Graham noted we have been approving A.A.A. since 2014 and then introduced Patty Froebel on behalf of A.A.A. Ms. Froebel thanked the board and provided an overview of some of the scholarships they administer; Florida Tax Credit Scholarship, Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Opportunities, and the Unique Abilities Programs. Adding that these programs are growing at a rate of 8.8 percent year over year, and A.A.A. currently provides a little more than 33.2 million dollars in scholarships. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve A.A.A.

Scholarship Foundation as a Scholarship Funding Organization for 2022-23. Ms. Johnson made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Step Up for Students, Inc. as a Scholarship Funding Organization for 2022-23

Dr. Graham thanked the board and introduced Amy Graham, Vice President, Policy and Public Affairs for Step Up for Students (SUFS) to provide the board a brief overview of SUFS. Ms. Graham started by reminding the board that SUFS has been in Florida since 2001 and helps public education by empowering families to pursue the most appropriate learning options for their children. Emphasizing on families that lack financial resources. Adding that SUFS administers five scholarship programs; Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, Family Empowerment Scholarship, Unique-Abilities Scholarship, HOPE Scholarship Program, and the Reading Scholarship. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Johnson asked how many students are on a waitlist. Chair Grady then called for a motion to approve Step Up for Students as a Scholarship Funding Organization for 2022-23. Vice Chair Gibson made the motion with a second by Ms. Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS

Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the consent items. Ms. Johnson made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Grady opened the board for comments. Ms. Johnson thanked the board and commended the commissioner and Jefferson County for their hard work becoming financially independent. Vice Chair Gibson thanked the board for their leadership and noted how the entire country is taking note of what Florida does and is following suit. Mr. Petty thanked the Department for the hard work that has gone on throughout the pandemic and added that keeping parents involved in content and curriculum is vital to student success. Ms. Brown echoed the comments of her fellow members and added that more has to be done to hold Warrington Middle School accountable. Chair Grady thanked all the members for their service and members of the public for their participation.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Grady adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 11:08 A.M.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Tom Grady, Chair