

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING

July 13, 2022

School District Administrative Complex
817 Bill Beck Blvd.
Kissimmee, FL 34744

Chair Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem performed by Kimbra Cortez from St. Cloud High School, Isabel Jimenez from St. Cloud Middle School, and Catherine Walther from Osceola County School for the Arts. The following members were present: Vice Chair Ben Gibson, Esther Byrd, Ryan Petty, Joe York, and Grazie P. Christie via conference phone.

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Deborah Pace, Superintendent, Osceola County to welcome the board. Dr. Pace thanked the board and Commissioner Diaz and provided an overview of Osceola County, stating that Osceola has a district grade of B and that 96 percent of the district managed schools are performing at a C or higher. Adding that in the past year 70 percent of schools demonstrated an increase in ELA, 90 percent of schools showed an increase in math learning gains, and an increase of 86 percent for students in the lowest quartile for math. Continuing, Dr. Pace briefed the board on teacher salary, stating that an agreement had been reached with their union and ratification was expected in August. Concluding, Dr. Pace stated that Osceola's main challenge is staffing, with 281 instructional vacancies and 35 openings for bus drivers.

Commissioner's Report

Chair Grady recognized Manny Diaz Jr., Commissioner, Department of Education for his report. Commissioner Diaz thanked the board and shared that this meeting coincides with the Florida Teacher of the Year week and that the 2023 Teacher of the Year will receive \$20,000 with all the finalists receiving \$15,000 and a surprise \$10,000 from Governor DeSantis for all the teachers that were voted as district finalist. Continuing, Commissioner Diaz recognized the tremendous work the state has put into school safety with \$396 million in the budget for school safety and mental health. Adding that 45 districts currently implement the Aaron Feis Guardian program with a goal to have all districts implementing the program as soon as possible. Commissioner Diaz then provided the board a brief overview of assessment results, expenditures of federal COVID relief funds, learning loss and achievement gaps, schools in turnaround, and teacher recruitment and retention.

Commissioner Diaz then recognized, Myra Marquez, a licensed large family childcare center owner with a 15-year track record of serving Florida's early learners for her outstanding work and commitment to Florida's children. Continuing, Commissioner Diaz recognized the Florida Principal of the Year-Caroline Davis of Rutledge Pearson Elementary School in Duval County, Assistant Principal of the Year-Stacy Warner of Beverly Shores Elementary School in Lake County, and the School Related Employee of the Year-Gregory Lyon of Highland Park Elementary School in Bay County. Vice Chair Gibson asked how Florida's achievement gap compares to states that closed schools during COVID. Mr. Petty asked if there was anything the board can do to assist students in making up any potential learning loss. Ms. Byrd requested information on the changes coming to the Bright Futures Scholarship. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the Commissioners Report. Vice Chair Gibson made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Minutes from April 29 and May 11 Meetings

Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 29 and May 11 meetings. Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATES

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

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Tonjua Williams, President, St. Petersburg College for an update on the Florida College System. Dr. Williams thanked the board and noted that Dr. Tim Baird is the Vice Chair for the Council of Presidents and will be a great asset in the future. Dr. Williams then briefed the board on some of the metrics from the previous years. Including that over 119,000 students graduated with a degree or certificate in 2020-21 from the Florida College System; in 2020-21 the college system served 76,000 secondary or high school students in dual-enrollment, with students completing 801,000 credit hours and saving 81.3 million dollars in tuition. Continuing, Dr. Williams briefed the board on the development of a strategic multi-year plan to accelerate the Florida College Systems production of graduates and workers. Stating that this multi-year plan is aligned with Governor DeSantis' 2030 goal of Florida being the number one workforce state in the nation.

Office of Safe Schools

Chair Grady recognized Tim Hay, Executive Director, Office of Safe Schools for an update on school safety in Florida. Mr. Hay thanked the board and provided an overview of school safety starting from 2018 with Senate Bill (SB) 7026. Stating that this bill laid the foundation for school safety and created the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission, established the Office of Safe Schools, requirements for school safety specialists in every district, and a requirement for a school safety officer in every school. Continuing, Mr. Hay added that in 2019 SB730 implemented the behavioral threat assessment process using evidence-based field tested instruments developed at the University of Virginia; in 2020 SB70 was passed which added Alyssa's Law, which requires that all Florida traditional and public charter schools implement a mobile panic alert system; and in 2021, Governor DeSantis signed SB590 focused on strengthening oversight and compliance in school safety with an emphasis on student mental health. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Byrd asked if there are any districts that are not in compliance with the Office of Safe Schools' rules. Vice Chair Gibson asked what obstacles are in place that prevent a district from signing up for the Guardian Program. Chair Grady asked what can be done to encourage districts to sign up for the program.

Warrington Middle School

Chair Grady recognized Jacob Oliva, Senior Chancellor to provide the board an update on Warrington Middle School. Chancellor Oliva thanked the board and reminded them that Warrington Middle School has been a priority for the board since 2012 earning a grade of D or F every year since. Adding that school grades in the academic years of 2019-20 and 2020-2021 were not issued due to suspended assessments. With the resumption of school grades in the academic year of 2021-22 Warrington Middle School earned a grade of D. Continuing, Chancellor Oliva briefed the board on the transition this school will make to be a charter conversion. Chair Grady asked what more can be done by the board and

department to expedite schools in turnaround. Ms. Byrd asked what happens when a school is not performing the way it should be. Mr. Petty asked if the department knows what the problem is at Warrington Middle School, and if feeder schools surrounding Warrington Middle School are helping to perpetuate the problem.

Florida Education Foundation Update on Initiatives

Chair Grady recognized Kristin Piccolo, Executive Director, Florida Education Foundation (FEF) and Charles Hokanson, Chair, Florida Education Foundation for a brief update on FEF initiatives. Ms. Piccolo thanked the board and provided an overview of the FEF mission. Stating that the foundation has been around for 30 years in support of the department. Adding that FEF wants to ensure that every student has access to top-quality education and has every opportunity to achieve postsecondary education. Ms. Piccolo then recognized Charles Hokanson. Mr. Hokanson thanked the board and explained how the board is put together. With the private sector board members appointed by the commissioner with the shared purpose of ensuring every student has access to quality education in Florida. Mr. Hokanson added that each year the current teacher of the year is provided a seat on the board to provide valuable insight into teaching. Mr. Hokanson added that to support the work of the department the FEF board has to foster the development of community and private sector resources. This past years highlight includes work on reimagining teacher professional development, innovative professional development for leaders, and the launch of a new civics and debate website.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of New Rule 6A-6.0790, Florida College and University Charter School Sponsors

Chair Grady recognized Adam Emerson, Director, Office of independent Education and Parental Choice for an overview of the new rule. Mr. Emerson thanked the board and provided a brief overview of the rule. Stating that the new rule sets the procedures and standards of review for a Florida College System institution or a state university to act as a charter school sponsor. Adding that the rule implements a bill that was passed last legislative session that empowered our state colleges and universities to act as a charter school sponsor, or authorizer. Continuing, Mr. Emerson explained that the role of an authorizer is to be the publicly accountable entity that approves a charter school to operate and enters into a performance based contract with the charter school to monitor performance over the length of the contract ensuring quality of the program. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-6.0790, Florida College and University Charter School Sponsors. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Mr. Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-6.0532, New Worlds Reading Initiative

Chair Grady recognized Carrie Miller, Vice Chancellor, Literacy Achievement for an overview of new rule 6A-6.0532. Ms. Miller thanked the board and briefed them on what the rule establishes; that the administrator of the program is the, UF Lastinger Center and it is the districts responsibility for effective implementation of the program. Continuing, Ms. Miller described the program as a major book distribution initiative to create at home libraries for eligible students, which would extend literacy learning outside of the school day for the most vulnerable students. Describing eligible students as, students in K-5 that identify with a substantial efficiency in reading, and students in grades 3 through 5 that are scoring below level three on the FSA. Adding that books are distributed between October and June with students receiving books in their mailbox until the student exits 6th grade. Chair Grady opened

the board for questions. Ms. Byrd asked if the books sent to students will comply with the standards the department has set and if there is a place where parents can review the list of books. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-6.0532, New Worlds Reading Initiative. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6M-9.120, Early Learning Coalition Performance Standards

Chair Grady recognized Matt Mears, Chancellor, Division of Early Learning to brief the board on new rule 6M-9.120. Mr. Mears thanked the board and provided an overview of the new rule stating that this rule provides a common statewide tool for review of early learning coalitions with two feedback loops which allows for continuous improvement. One being the review of the early learning coalitions CEO, where if an issue is found, the department, through the Division of Early Learning can implement a corrective action plan. The second feedback loop is a customer satisfaction survey administered by the University of Florida which will allow for a valid scientific survey to truly measure how early learning coalitions are performing in the field. Chair Grady asked if the metrics that have been selected for feedback will provide sufficient measurements for review of the coalition. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve new rule 6M-9.120, Early Learning Coalition Performance Standards. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Guidelines for Development of 2023-24 Legislative Budget Request

Chair Grady recognized Suzanne Pridgeon, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations for an overview of the legislative budget request. Ms. Pridgeon thanked the board and stated that the 2023-24 budget guidelines are produced to guide the department in our legislative budget process. Adding that over the next month the department will be monitoring estimating conferences, lottery and general revenue to aid in decision making for the budget. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the Guidelines for Development of 2023-24 Legislative Budget Request. Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Grady opened the board for comments. Ms. Byrd started and thanked the board and commissioner for their commitment and courage to uphold our values. Mr. Petty followed and echoed Ms. Byrd's comments and added his gratitude for the commitment of the legislature and the governor, for keeping our kids safe with 1.8 billion invested in school safety since 2018. Mr. York thanked Mr. Petty for his comments and asked if there could be a formalized process where our top level educators can sit on an advisory panel and help to troubleshoot schools in turnaround. Vice Chair Gibson noted the importance of Bright Futures and its ability to help students go to college, as well as, asking for an update on litigation against the department and commenting on not underestimating a child's ability to learn. Dr. Christie welcomed the commissioner and shared her enthusiasm for the emphasis on mental health in Florida. Chair Grady shared his approval for the passing of the Responsible Fatherhood legislation adding that he believes having a stable family and father in a child's life improves their overall well-being.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Grady adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 11:26 A.M.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Tom Grady, Chair