

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING

January 18, 2023
Nassau County School Board Office
Fernandina Beach, Florida

Chair Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., the following members were present: Vice Chair Ben Gibson, Monesia Brown, Esther Byrd, Joe York with members Grazie Christie and Ryan Petty via conference phone. Chair Grady then asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and Presentation of Colors by the West Nassau High School Air Force JROTC and remain standing for the National Anthem performed by Fernandina Beach High School senior, Reyna Beckwith.

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Kathy Burns, Superintendent, Nassau County to welcome the board and provide an update on behalf of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS). Dr. Burns thanked the board for coming to Nassau County and pointed out that Nassau is an academically high-achieving, A-rated school district, currently ranked number two in the state, with a graduation rate of 93.3 percent. Continuing, Dr. Burns stated that FADSS is committed to ensuring students have the most qualified teachers in their classrooms for students. FADSS members meet regularly to collaborate and ensure students are graduating on time with the skills that they need to be productive members of society. Concluding, Dr. Burns thanked Senior Chancellor Jacob Oliva for his leadership, commitment, and wished him the best in his new opportunity.

Commissioners Report

Chair Grady recognized Manny Diaz Jr., Commissioner, Department of Education to present the Commissioners Report. Commissioner Diaz thanked Dr. Burns and Nassau County for hosting the State Board of Education and added that Florida's 2021-22 graduation rates exceeded the pre-pandemic level which stood at 87.3 percent. With the 2022-23 year being the first year in which Florida's standardized assessment requirements for graduation were in place without exemption since the pandemic. With thirty-one percent of Florida students performing on grade level and above, compared to only 14 percent at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year and 36 percent of students in grade two reading are meeting or exceeding grade level expectations compared to 20 percent at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year. Continuing, Commissioner Diaz added that the Parent Power Index, announced the Heritage Foundation ranked Florida as the number one state in the country for educational freedom and school choice. With Florida now ranked the top state in the nation for Parent Power by the Center for Educational Reform. Commissioner Diaz also briefed the board on the first meeting between Florida College Presidents and Florida University Presidents. Discussing matters such as keeping higher education tuition rates low, articulation between colleges and universities, future meetings between the Florida College System and the Florida University System, and the \$79 million investment by Governor DeSantis in nursing education. Adding that the investment money will go towards public postsecondary nursing programs that have gone above and beyond to train Floridians and provides matching funds for scholarship awards, faculty recruitment, equipment, and additional educational supports. Commissioner Diaz then acknowledged President Murdaugh of Tallahassee Community College (TCC) for leading TCC to become the first Florida College System institution to be a charter school authorizer.

Commissioner Diaz recognized two students for academic excellence: William Darst, for completing the Transition Adults Program and the Project SEARCH program to gain craft and trade skills and additional

work experience through internship opportunities, and Elizabeth Merritt, who is currently participating in the Take Stock in Children Mentorship Program and is eligible for a Bright Futures Medallion Scholarship.

Commissioner Diaz then requested Jacob Oliva, Senior Chancellor, Division of Public Schools come to the podium for recognition of the outstanding work he has done for Florida and the Department of Education. Commissioner Diaz stated that he couldn't be more proud to have a Floridian going to the state of Arkansas to join Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders as the new Secretary of Education in Arkansas. Adding that the promotion is a rightful recognition of Senior Chancellor Olivas talent and hard work over the years. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Byrd asked for an update on the Adams decision related to St. Johns County. Following, Ms. Byrd made a motion to adopt the Departments comment that it filed with the U.S. Department of Education on September 12th. Ms. Brown made the second. Chair Grady asked if Title Nine was adopted in order to allow sex discrimination in sports, specifically providing for equal funding for women's sports, recognizing women separate from men. Chair Grady followed up asking if Florida law already protects women's sports by preventing men from competing with women. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the commissioner's report. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Minutes from October 19 and 20 meetings

Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 19 and 20, 2023 SBE meetings. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates

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

Chair Grady recognized Dr. John Avendano, President, Florida State College Jacksonville for a brief update on behalf on the Council of Presidents. President Avendano thanked Governor DeSantis, the State Board of Education, and Commissioner Diaz for their hard work and continued support of education in Florida at all levels. Continuing, Dr. Avendano submitted a statement on behalf of the COP to the State Board for Education. Stating that, Florida College System institutions will not fund or support any institutional practice, policy or academic requirement that compels belief in critical race theory or related concepts such as intersectionality, or the idea of the systems that oppression should be the primary lens through which teaching and learning are analyzed and/or improved upon.

Ms. Byrd then recognized Congressman Aaron Bean and thanked him for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Diaz then added that, the Florida College System presidents publicly supported the Governor's vision of higher education, one free from indoctrination and environment open to the pursuit of truth and the cultivation of the intellectual autonomy of our students. Their joint statement is an outright repudiation of the progressivist higher education agenda. It commits to removing all woke positions and ideologies and it stands squarely in the camp of educational freedom and education for democratic citizenship.

Teacher Salary Increase Allocation

Chair Grady recognized Senior Chancellor Oliva, for an update on Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA). Senior Chancellor Oliva thanked the board and provided some background information, stating that legislation passed raised the minimum base teacher salary to \$47,500 or the maximum the district can achieve. With the school district required to submit an allocation plan by October 1 for approval. Adding that to date, 52 districts have completed and approved their plans.

Senior Chancellor Oliva recognized Dr. Vickie Cartwright, Superintendent, Broward County to provide the board an overview of where Broward is in regards to teacher salary increase allocation. Dr. Cartwright thanked the board and stated that, their board has come to an agreement and will be voted on shortly. Adding that Broward County will have one of the most competitive starting teacher salaries at, \$48,925. With a 4 percent increase for highly-effective teachers, and a five percent increase in teacher salary. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Chair Grady asked why the proposal wasn't completed earlier in the year. Vice Chair Gibson asked for copies of the correspondence between the Broward Teachers Union and their members.

Senior Chancellor Oliva recognized Dr. Carmen Balgobin, Superintendent, Volusia County to provide the board an overview of where Volusia is in regards to teacher salary increase allocation. Dr. Balgobin thanked the board for the opportunity to present and briefed the board on their current teacher salary increase allocation situation. Stating that as of November 15th the district and union had come to a tentative agreement with the union ultimately backing out of the agreement. Dr. Balgobin added that the district has declared an impasse, retained counsel, and are waiting assignment of a special magistrate. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Byrd asked if Dr. Balgobin could disclose what it was the union wanted in the contract. Ms. Byrd asked if the legislature could enact a law that would require TSIA funds to be negotiated separately from other funds. Ms. Brown asked if the collective bargaining includes employees other than teachers. Commissioner Diaz directed the departments, General Counsel to research and provide insight into authority of the board to adopt a rule pertaining to TSIA and collective bargaining.

Senior Chancellor Oliva recognized Elijah Key, Superintendent, Gadsden County to provide the board an overview of where Gadsden is in regards to teacher salary increase allocation. Superintendent Key thanked the board and provided a brief overview of the current situation. Stating that when he arrived in Gadsden County the starting teacher pay was \$38,115 and with TSIA funds they were able to raise the starting pay to \$45,000. Adding that in negotiations with the union the district asked to move salaries from \$45,000 to \$46,500 which will allow the district to move all salaries to \$47,500 the following year while continuing to move veteran teachers to higher salaries. With the teachers union rejecting the districts offer. Superintendent Key added that if the Union and district cannot come to an agreement at the next meeting his district will declare, impasse. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Byrd asked if the legislature could add to the statute by stating that districts that do not have an agreement in place by October 1 must immediately declare impasse. Mr. York commented that we are hearing only from districts that are unsuccessful and that it may be good practice to listen to the districts that have successfully negotiated with their unions.

Senior Chancellor Oliva recognized Addison Davis, Superintendent, Hillsborough County to provide the board an overview of where Volusia is in regards to teacher salary increase allocation. Superintendent Davis thanked the board and provided a brief overview of their current situation. Stating that on July 6,

2022 the district and union declared impasse and was assigned a special magistrate with the meeting set to be held in November. Due to unforeseen circumstances the magistrate was unable to take the case which lead the district to look for a new magistrate with the new hearing set for December 8th. Continuing, Superintendent Davis added that the magistrate has heard the case and will be declaring their final resolution at the end of February.

Senior Chancellor Oliva recognized Dr. Tim Smith, Superintendent, Escambia County to provide the board an overview of where Escambia is in regards to teacher salary increase allocation. Dr. Smith thanked the board and provided a brief overview of their current situation. Stating that as of the previous night the board and union have agreed and the school board will vote on the plan at the next board meeting in February. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Byrd asked why negotiations took so long with the union and what can be done the following year to expedite the process. Ms. Brown asked why the district is waiting till February to ratify the agreement.

Senior Chancellor Oliva recognized Cathy Mittelstadt, Superintendent, Flagler County to provide the board an overview of where Flagler is in regards to teacher salary increase allocation. Superintendent Mittelstadt thanked the board and provided a brief overview of their current situation. Stating that as of the previous night the board and union have agreed and the school board will vote on the plan at the next board meeting in February. Adding that Flagler will be increasing teacher starting pay to \$49,200. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Brown asked why the district is waiting till February to ratify the agreement.

Senior Chancellor Oliva recognized Sarita Beamon, Superintendent, Seminole County to provide the board an overview of where Seminole is in regards to teacher salary increase allocation. Superintendent Beamon thanked the board and provided a brief overview of their current situation. Stating that Seminole County began negotiation in May and was unsuccessful, with an impasse declared shortly after. Superintendent Beamon added that on the 11th of January the district and union met their special magistrate to begin briefs. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Byrd asked what the union wants that is holding up negotiations. Vice Chair Gibson asked for communications between the union and its members.

Senior Chancellor Oliva recognized Tim Forson, Superintendent, St. Johns County to provide the board an overview of where St. Johns is in regards to teacher salary increase allocation. Superintendent Forson thanked the board and provided a brief overview of their current situation. Stating that on October 19 the district and union had come to a tentative agreement. With the agreement failing ratification when it was sent to the teachers. Continuing, Superintendent Forson requested the union move forward on just starting teacher pay with the union declining to negotiate. Superintendent Forson and the district declared impasse in December. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Mr. York asked for communications between the union and its members.

Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Brown asked Senior Chancellor Oliva why Jackson and Santa Rosa counties were not at the meeting to provide updates on TSIA. Chair Grady asked for an update on TSIA at the July meeting.

Action Items

Approval of Revised Turnaround Option Plan (TOP)-Warrington Middle School (Escambia County Schools)

Chair Grady recognized Senior Chancellor Oliva for an update on Warrington Middle School. Senior Chancellor Oliva thanked the board and provided an overview of Warrington Middle Schools revised turnaround plan. Stating that Escambia's-Warrington Middle has entered into a formal agreement with Charter Schools USA to be a consultant throughout the remainder of the year, and then transition Warrington Middle into a charter school the following year. Chair Grady then asked for the commissioner's recommendation. Commissioner Diaz recommended approval of Warrington's Turnaround Option Plan. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the commissioner's recommendation. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendments to Rule 6A-5.065, The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices and Rule 6A-10.081, Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Paul O. Burns, Deputy Chancellor, Educator Quality for a brief overview of the amendments to rules 6A-5.065 and 6A-10.081. Dr. Burns thanked the board and stated that the two rules being amended protect the fundamental rights of parents and ensure the health, safety and welfare of Florida students. Adding that rule 6A-5.065 sets the expectations of what educators should teach in Florida and rule 6A-10.081 provides ethical guidelines for Florida educators while also holding the educator accountable for ethical violations. Continuing, Dr. Burns added that some additional language has been included to add resiliency to rule 6A-5.065 so educators understand how to promote critical thinking and demonstrate resiliency. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-5.065. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Grady opened the board for two public comments, from JJ Holmes and Allison Holmes, both against the rules. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-10.081. Vice Chair Gibson made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-7.0715, Certification and Plans for Instructional Materials and Library Media

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Burns to provide the board an overview of new rule 6A-7.0715, Certification and Plans for Instructional Materials and Library Media. Dr. Burns stated that the new rule lists in one place all of the required plans and certifications that must be submitted to the Department regarding instructional materials and library media. Adding that the new rule will also incorporate new library media training required by House Bill 1467. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Vice Chair Gibson asked if a teacher is involved in maintaining a classroom library, would they be required to undergo library media training. Chair Grady opened the board for public comment, with most comments submitted concerning slide 10 of the library media training. Chair Grady asked Dr. Burns what specifically on slide 10 is giving the public angst. Ms. Christie asked if the department could recommend the legislature look at the statute to fix any loopholes. Ms. Byrd asked if Florida laws restrict content in school that are provided via third party. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-7.0715, Certification and Plans for Instructional Materials and Library Media. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.0951, The Hope Scholarship Program

Chair Grady recognized Adam Emerson, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice for a brief overview of the amendment to rule 6A-6.0951. Mr. Emerson thanked the board and provided a brief overview of the amendment stating that in the 2021-22 school year the board adopted an emergency rule to implement emergency order 6AER21-02 pertaining to masking in schools. Continuing, Mr. Emerson outlined how the board approved the transfer of a child to another school under the Hope Scholarship if they were being harassed due to COVID. Mr. Emerson added that the amendment being made simply returns the rule to its original form, before COVID. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-6.0951, The Hope Scholarship Program. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendments to Rule 6A-10.024, Articulation Between and Among Universities, Florida Colleges, and School Districts; Rule 6A-10.030, Other Assessment Procedures for College-Level Communication and Computation Skills; and Rule 6A-14.0303, General Education Core Course Options

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Henry Mack, Senior Chancellor, for a brief overview of the amendments to rules 6A-10.024, Articulation Between and Among Universities, Florida Colleges, and School Districts; 6A-10.030, Other Assessment Procedures for College-Level Communication and Computation Skills; and 6A-14.0303, General Education Core Course Options. Dr. Mack thanked the board and stated that these rules aim to remove barriers to college completion for students in Florida, particularly in relation to mathematics courses. Adding that in 2018, over 100 faculty members and university leaders came together to identify math as a barrier to retention and completion, with misalignment between the math courses students were taking and their intended degree or career. Continuing, Dr. Mack added that as a result, the legislature adopted Senate Bill 366, which required the Department of Education to develop three math pathways that contextualize math for students' intended degree or career. The pathways are algebra through calculus, statistical reasoning, and mathematical thinking and context, and are designed to be no less rigorous than traditional math courses.

Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-10.024, Articulation Between and Among Universities, Florida Colleges, and School Districts. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-10.030, Other Assessment Procedures for College-Level Communication and Computation Skills. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-14.0303, General Education Core Course Options. Vice Chair Gibson made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-14.095, Site Determined Baccalaureate Access

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Mack to provide the board an overview of the amendment to rule 6A-14.095, Site Determined Baccalaureate Access. Dr. Mack thanked the board and stated that the rule implements legislation from House Bill 7044, which allows Florida colleges to enter the marketplace for accreditation. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-14.095, Site

Determined Baccalaureate Access. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Grady thanked Ms. Byrd for attending the meeting as she left for a prior appointment.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.053, District K-12 Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan

Chair Grady recognized Cari Miller, Vice Chancellor, Literacy Achievement for a brief overview of the amendment to rule 6A-6.053, District K-12 Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan. Ms. Miller thanked the board and provided a brief overview of the rule. Stating that revisions to the K-12 reading plan in Florida, are driven by Senate Bill 2524. With changes including removal of the requirement for the Florida Department of Education to review and approve each plan, allowing districts to use their own template, changing the submission deadline, removing the lowest 300 additional hour requirement, and providing more flexibility on how reading allocations can be used. Continuing, Ms. Miller added that the revision allows educators who earn the literacy micro-credential to provide intensive reading intervention, supervised by someone with an endorsement or certification in reading. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-6.053, District K-12 Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.099811, School Improvement State System of Support for Deficient and Failing Schools

Chair Grady recognized Senior Chancellor Oliva to provide the board a brief update on the amendment to rule 6A-1.099811, School Improvement State System of Support for Deficient and Failing Schools. Senior Chancellor Oliva thanked the board and stated that this amendment reflects recent updates in statutes that would allow an established charter network company to also serve in the capacity of an external operator. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Brown asked what kind of flexibility the department is adding to this rule. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-1.099811, School Improvement State System of Support for Deficient and Failing Schools. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of High Demand Teacher Needs Areas for 2023-24

Chair Grady recognized Juan Copa, Deputy Commissioner, Accountability Research and Measurement and Dr. Paul Burns for a brief overview of High Demand Teacher Needs Areas for 2023-24. Mr. Copa thanked the board and provided a brief update on the report. Stating that the report is used to identify teacher certification areas of greatest need based on supply and demand data; adding that this year's report contains the same as the previous year with the addition of technical education. Dr. Burns then provided the board an update on the teacher preparation program audit. Stating that Florida continues to have a robust and strong approval process for teacher preparation programs. With the legislature adding metrics to how the department rates teacher preparation program, such as the candidate readiness metric, workforce contribution metric, and the impact of teaching and learning of the teachers as they graduate. Dr. Burns then recognized Dr. Kevin O'Farrell to brief the board on teacher apprenticeships. Dr. O'Farrell thanked the board and added that the Department is currently working on a post-baccalaureate and a pre-baccalaureate apprenticeship pathway to teacher certification. Chair Grady opened the board for public comment from Kathy Boehm. Chair Grady called for a motion to

approve the report of High Demand Teacher Needs Areas for 2023-24. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Grady moved consent item 25, Approval of Amendment to Rules 6M-10.001, Gold Seal Quality Care Program and 6M-10.002, Gold Seal Quality Care Accrediting Associations to Action.

Approval of A.A.A. Scholarship Foundation- Florida, LLC and Step Up for Students, Inc. as a Scholarship Funding Organizations for 2023-24

Chair Grady recognized Adam Emerson for a brief overview of the A.A.A. Scholarship Foundation-Florida, LLC and Step Up for Students, Inc. applications to be Scholarship Funding Organizations for 2023-24 as a Scholarship Funding Organization for 2023-24. Mr. Emerson thanked the board and provided a brief overview. Stating that this is the annual renewal of the scholarship funding organization's authority to be authorized to do the work of administering the scholarship program. Mr. Emerson recognized Kim Dyson, President, A.A.A. Scholarship Foundation to provide the board a brief overview of the work that goes on at A.A.A. Ms. Dyson thanked the board and added that A.A.A. is a charitable organization that promotes relief to the poor and underprivileged through the advancement of education. Adding that A.A.A. scholarship programs economically empower families, by helping them afford to place their children in the educational setting that best fits their learning needs. Mr. Emerson recognized Doug Tuthill, president, Step Up for Students to provide the board a brief update on behalf of Step Up for Students. Mr. Tuthill thanked the board and stated that Step Up for Students is on track to fund 310,000 kids in Florida and that the scholarship foundation would not be able to do its great work without the support of the Department of Education.

Chair Grady called for a motion to approve A.A.A. Scholarship Foundation- Florida, LLC as a Scholarship Funding Organization for 2023-24. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Grady called for a motion to approve Step Up for Students, Inc. as a Scholarship Funding Organization for 2023-24. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rules 6M-10.001, Gold Seal Quality Care Program and 6M-10.002, Gold Seal Quality Care Accrediting Associations.

Chair Grady recognized Senior Chancellor Oliva to provide the board a brief overview of the amendments to rules 6M-10.001 and 6M-10.002. Senior Chancellor Oliva thanked the board and stated that amendments made reflect statutory updates and provides definitions for what constitutes the Gold Seal Quality Program. Including definitions for violations of non-compliance with the leasing standards, or what the standards are for meeting this requirement, it also clarifies the requirements for obtaining and maintaining the designation, as well as the U.S. Department of Defense as an entity that can regulate and determine violations. Sr. Chancellor Oliva presented an amendment to the amendment, to add the appropriate Department of Children and Families forms to the rule. Vice Chair Gibson requested clarification on the changes. Chris Emerson then read the amendment to the amendment. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the amendment to the amendment. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Grady then called for a motion to approve the amendment to rules 6M-10.001, Gold Seal Quality Care Program and 6M-10.002, Gold Seal Quality Care Accrediting Associations. Ms. Brown 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. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Comments

Chair Grady opened the board for member comments and started by thanking Senior Chancellor Oliva for all his help, compassion, and dedication to Florida students and commented on the meaning of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Chair Grady then handed the meeting to Vice Chair Gibson as Chair Grady had to depart.

Vice Chair Gibson thanked the Chair and recognized Mr. York. Mr. York thanked the public for attending the meeting and thanked Senior Chancellor Oliva for his respect and dignity. Ms. Brown followed and thanked Commissioner Diaz and the Department for organizing the first of its kind meeting between the Florida College System and the State University System and echoed the comments from fellow members about Senior Chancellor Jacob Oliva. Mr. Petty echoed the comments of his fellow members. Vice Chair Gibson thanked everyone in attendance and remarked on his excitement for the upcoming legislative session.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Vice Chair Gibson adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 1:08 P.M. EST.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Tom Grady, Chair