

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING**

April 19, 2023
The Capitol, Room LL03
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida

Vice Chair Ben Gibson called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., the following members were present: Esther Byrd, Ryan Petty, Kelly Garcia, and MaryLynn Magar with members Grazie Christie and Monesia Brown via conference phone. Vice Chair Gibson then asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice Chair Gibson recognized two new board members: Kelly Garcia and MaryLynn Magar. Adding that, Kelly Garcia was appointed by Governor DeSantis, served on the Board of Trustees of the Florida Virtual School, is a Florida certified teacher from Tampa-with a decade of experience, and a founding member of Transformational Charter School. MaryLynn Magar was also appointed to the State Board last month by Governor DeSantis, and is the vice president and general manager of Heartcare Imaging. Adding that her background brings extensive business experience to the board, along with considerable sales and marketing success. MaryLynn is also a former member of the Florida House of Representatives and has served in various leadership roles, including Chairman of the Health Care Appropriations Committee, and was also the highest-ranking woman in the legislature when she was elected as speaker pro tempore of the Florida House in 2018.

Commissioners Report

Vice Chair Gibson recognized Manny Diaz Jr., Commissioner, Department of Education to present the Commissioners Report. Commissioner Diaz thanked the board and welcomed the new members to the State Board of Education and recognized a group of civics teachers in the audience from Polk County. Commissioner Diaz highlighted the passing of HB 1, which solidifies Florida's position in school choice and addresses issues in teaching certification. The commissioner also highlighted the Florida Civics Debate Initiative, which aims to enhance civic knowledge and public debate in classrooms. Praising the students' ability to critically think, make arguments, and emphasized the importance of producing productive citizens.

Continuing, Commissioner Diaz briefed the board on The Sunshine State Scholars event that honored top 11th-grade STEM students with scholarships, connecting them to universities and employers. Commissioner Diaz urged scholars to pursue careers in Florida. Commissioner Diaz added that April was recognized as Florida College System Month, celebrating the contributions of public colleges to education and workforce development. The commissioner discussed a roundtable on resiliency and emphasized parental involvement and the adoption of new resiliency standards by the board. Commissioner Diaz then recognizing Ali Jones, Deputy Chief of Staff to provide an update on resiliency education efforts.

Ms. Jones thanked the board and stated the new resiliency standards were developed in collaboration with First Lady DeSantis and includes required instruction and resiliency resources. Adding that the revised standards encompass character, personal responsibility, mentorship, citizenship, critical thinking, and problem-solving. With the Department of Education allocating funds to develop a resiliency toolkit and implement training requirements for school personnel. Additionally, four pathways for student support and mentorship were announced, and a Florida-specific youth survey was designed

to measure resiliency characteristics and behaviors. Continuing, Ms. Jones added that the Department plans to evaluate the implemented components and gather feedback from stakeholders. With an aim to make recommendations for improvements in the fall, ensuring a comprehensive and lasting approach to resiliency education.

Commissioner Diaz then recognized Katie Davis, a dual-enrolled senior at Wakulla High School, for her dedication to the medical field and her passion to help those in need. Continuing, Commissioner Diaz gave special recognition to the 2023 Florida Principal of the Year, Brent Frazier, of Umatilla High School for his turnaround success and commitment to expanding opportunities for students. Assistant Principal Angela Patton of Mariposa Elementary School for her leadership and role in helping the school achieve an A-rating. And, James Busker, the building supervisor at Franklin Park Elementary School, for his outstanding maintenance work and his efforts in providing academic support and assistance to students.

Vice Chair Gibson recognized former Commissioner of Education, Pam Stewart. Vice Chair Gibson then opened the board for questions. Ms. Byrd thanked the board and called for a motion to approve Vice Chair Gibson as Chair of the State Board of Education. Ms. Magar made the second. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Gibson then called for a nomination to Vice Chair. Ms. Byrd nominated Ryan Petty. The nomination passed unanimously. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the commissioner's report. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates

K-12 Public Schools – Senator Montford on behalf of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents

Chair Gibson recognized Senator Bill Montford, Chief Executive Officer, Florida Association of District School Superintendents, and former superintendent of Leon County Public Schools for a brief update on behalf on the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS). Senator Montford thanked the board and congratulated Ben Gibson for his recent election to board Chair. Senator Montford started by emphasizing the importance of FADSS. Stating that FADSS has enjoyed a fruitful working relationship with the Department of Education and commended the collaboration on training superintendents, ensuring effective leadership in school districts. Continuing, Senator Montford underscored the concern for school safety among all superintendents, encompassing both physical and mental well-being. He praised Commissioner Diaz for initiating the formation of the Florida School Safety Specialists (FS3) association and announced the upcoming conference in June, where all school safety specialists will receive training provided by the Department of Education. Senator Montford invited members to attend the conference, which will feature Dr. Lisa Strohman, a well-known national expert in the field.

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

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Jim Murdaugh, President, Tallahassee Community College for a brief update on behalf on the Council of Presidents. President Murdaugh thanked the board and expressed his gratitude to Chair Gibson and Vice Chair Petty for their new leadership roles and welcomed Commissioner Diaz. President Murdaugh provided an update on the current funding situation, highlighting the Department of Education's legislative budget request, which included new funding for colleges and adoption of a new funding model. President Murdaugh praised Chancellor Hebda for her leadership in developing a funding formula that gained unanimous support from the college presidents.

Continuing, President Murdaugh expressed appreciation for the Governor's budget recommendation, which initially included almost \$50 million in new funding, and was further increased to \$100 million by the House and the Senate. He acknowledged the continued advocacy efforts of Commissioner Diaz and Chancellor Hebda and thanked them for their participation in the trustee fly-in event. President Murdaugh concluded by recognizing April as State Community College Month.

Warrington Middle School, Escambia County

Chair Gibson recognized Adam Miller, Senior Chancellor, for a brief update on behalf on Warrington Middle School. Chancellor Miller thanked the board and provided an overview of the turnaround plan for Warrington Middle School. Sr. Chancellor Miller started by emphasizing the school's consistent poor performance, noting its history of D and F grades and the significant achievement gaps among students. Continuing, Sr. Chancellor Miller spoke of the importance of schools taking ownership of student progress and implementing effective strategies to support their academic growth. Additionally, Chancellor Miller discussed the funding streams that had been allocated to the district to support the turnaround efforts, and the importance of utilizing these resources efficiently and effectively. Sr. Chancellor Miller then recognized Dr. Smith, Superintendent, Escambia County to provide an update on the negotiations with Charter Schools USA.

Superintendent Smith thanked the board and provided an update on the ongoing negotiations with Charter Schools USA. Expressing his confidence in Charter Schools USA's ability to make a positive difference and improve the school's performance. Continuing, Superintendent Smith raised several concerns regarding the negotiations. Highlighting issues such as the duration of the charter agreement, facility lease terms, the potential financial burden the district may face in case of termination, and potential rezoning of the school if closure were to occur. Superintendent Smith requested the assistance of Sr. Chancellor Miller and the Department of Education in reaching a satisfactory agreement with Charter Schools USA. Stressing the importance of addressing the concerns raised to ensure the best possible outcome for the students and the community. Chair Gibson opened the board for questions. Commissioner Diaz expressed his frustration with the ongoing "adult-focused" conversations regarding Warrington Middle School and emphasized the need to prioritize the students. Vice Chair Petty asked if Escambia School Board Chair Paul Fesko if he agreed with the statements made by the superintendent and who made the choice to select Charter Schools USA. Vice Chair Petty followed up and asked what specific help the department can provide. Commissioner Diaz then requested Sr. Chancellor Miller to comment on the charter application. Sr. Chancellor Miller stated that in this particular situation Escambia County does not need to fill out an application and added that the expectation is for Charter Schools USA to turnaround the school and if not then the contract will be terminated. Ms. Magar asked if Escambia County has had problems getting a contract completed with other charter school entities and if any of the other charter contacts have the dollar per year provision.

Action Items

Chair Gibson then amended the agenda. Moving Action Item 9, New Bachelor Degree Program - Daytona State College and recognized Dr. Tom LoBasso, President, Daytona State College.

New Bachelor Degree Program - Daytona State College

Dr. LoBasso thanked the board for the opportunity to present a proposal for a new Bachelor of Science Degree in Cardiopulmonary Science. Dr. LoBasso started by stating the program is designed as a 2+2

program building upon the existing AS degree in Respiratory Therapy. Highlighting that there are no other institutions in their service area offering a Degree in Cardiopulmonary Science. He emphasized the growing demand for respiratory therapists in the workforce, with an estimated job growth rate of 18.8 percent between 2021 and 2029 according to the Department of Economic Opportunity. Dr. LoBasso noted that many employment positions prefer candidates with bachelor's degrees and highlighted the specific job functions that are only available to those with a bachelor's degree, such as working with certain life support equipment and direct billing through Medicare and Medicaid. Dr. LoBasso added that the program is expected to cost \$10,000, making it affordable for students. Is projected to produce 50 graduates annually, with an average salary of almost \$57,000 per year and opportunities for advancement into administrative and leadership roles within hospitals and organizations. Dr. LoBasso then recognized Dr. Jamie Brasero, Director, Clinical Operations at Halifax Health and a Daytona State College graduate. Dr. Brasero emphasized the importance of respiratory therapists, particularly with a projected shortage of physicians by 2030. Highlighting the role of respiratory therapists as an integrated part of the healthcare team and advocates for higher education and autonomy in their profession. Dr. Brasero discussed the specific needs of their hospital system and how a bachelor's degree program would benefit their hiring process and alleviate the burden of vacancies. He also mentioned the administrative requirements and competencies that require a bachelor's degree, emphasizing the need to increase the number of qualified individuals in their organization. Dr. Brasero concluded by stating that all schools are expected to transition to BA programs in respiratory therapy by 2030. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the New Cardiopulmonary Science Degree Program at Daytona State College. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Emergency Rule 6AER23-01, Required Reporting of SESIR Incidents to Law Enforcement

Chair Gibson recognized Tim Hay, Executive Director, Office of Safe Schools to provide the board an overview of Emergency Rule 6AER23-01, Required Reporting of SESIR Incidents to Law Enforcement. Mr. Hay thanked the board and stated that the purpose of the emergency rule is to establish consistent reporting requirements for School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) incidents to law enforcement across all schools and districts in the state. Mr. Hay highlighted that the emergency rule aligns with the recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission's SESIR workgroup and the 20th statewide grand jury. He informed the board that House Bill 543, which expands the State Board's rulemaking authority related to SESIR, was passed during the legislative session and signed by Governor DeSantis. Adding that the bill grants emergency rulemaking authority to implement changes to SESIR reporting for the '23-'24 school year. Continuing, Mr. Hay added that the emergency rule has 22 specific SESIR incidents that must be reported to law enforcement, who will then determine the appropriate course of action, such as arrest, diversion, involuntary examination, or referring the incident back to the school for handling based on their district's code of student conduct. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve Emergency Rule 6AER23-01, Required Reporting of SESIR Incidents to Law Enforcement. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09401, Student Performance Standards; 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 Gibson recognized Dr. Paul Burns, Chancellor, Division of Public Schools to provide the board a brief overview of the next three rules: 6A-1.09401, Student Performance Standards; 6A-5.065, The

Florida Educator Accomplished Practices; and 6A-10.081, Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida. Chancellor Burns thanked the board for the opportunity to present the amendments to these rules and emphasized that the amendments aim to prioritize the health, safety, and welfare of Florida students while safeguarding the fundamental rights of parents. Chancellor Burns added that the rules also ensure that educators engage in standards-based instruction that is appropriate for students' age and development. Including the requirement to teach health education in accordance with state standards and the expectations and evaluation criteria for effective educators outlined in the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAP), and the ethical guidelines for Florida educators in the Principles of Professional Conduct. Continuing, Chancellor Burns added that the proposed amendment to the social studies standards aims to make them more precise and age-appropriate for teachers to provide clear instruction. Chair Gibson opened the board for public comment with 59 speakers roughly half for the rule and half in opposition. Chair Gibson opened the board for questions and asked, where the age appropriate standard comes from. Ms. Garcia asked for Chancellor Burns to provide an example of when sensitive conversations can occur with students.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-1.09401, Student Performance Standards. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-5.065, The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-10.081, Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-25.020, Florida Endowment for Vocational Rehabilitation (Direct-Support Organization for Vocational Rehabilitation)

Chair Gibson recognized Nicole Saunders, Deputy General Counsel to provide the board a brief overview of rule 6A-25.020, Florida Endowment for Vocational Rehabilitation (Direct-Support Organization for Vocational Rehabilitation). Ms. Saunders thanked the board and provided an overview of the amendment to Rule 6A-25.020. Stating that Abel Trust serves as a Direct Support Organization (DSO) for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and supports individuals with disabilities in achieving successful employment outcomes. Adding that the purpose of the amendment is to ensure compliance with statutory requirements regarding administrative costs and provide clarity on the use of trust funds for staffing and operational expenses. The amendment limits administrative costs to 15% of total actual expenditures in a fiscal year. It also defines officer salaries as the salaries of individuals designated as officers of the DSO on the most recent Form 990, encompassing all those involved in managing the affairs of the DSO. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-25.020, Florida Endowment for Vocational Rehabilitation (Direct-Support Organization for Vocational Rehabilitation). Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.0571, Career and Technical Education and Adult General Education Standards and Industry-Driven Benchmarks and Rule 6A-6.0576, CAPE Industry Certification Funding List

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Kevin O'Farrell, Chancellor, Career and Adult Education to provide the board a brief overview of the next two rules: 6A-6.0571, Career and Technical Education and Adult General Education Standards and Industry-Driven Benchmarks; and 6A-6.0576, CAPE Industry Certification Funding List. Chancellor O'Farrell thanked the board and started with rule 6A-6.0571 stating that the rule pertains to program standards and industry benchmarks for Career and Technical Education (CTE) and adult education programs. Adding that the Department of Education is responsible for developing these standards, which must be relevant, aligned with emerging occupations, and meet industry standards. With local educational agencies (LEAs) having the opportunity to submit new frameworks for review and approval, ensuring they are not duplicative and align with the appropriate educational level. Continuing, Chancellor O'Farrell added that the proposed updates include 13 new curriculum frameworks for the '23-'24 academic year, comprising seven new college credit certificates, three secondary programs for high school students to earn CTE credits, one career certificate for control tower operators, one associate degree in artificial intelligence, and one adult education program for high school equivalency completion.

Chancellor O'Farrell then presented rule 6A-6.0576 stating that it is related to the CAPE (Career and Professional Education) Industry Funding Certification List and aligns with the CAPE Act, established in 2007, which promotes collaboration between the business and education communities to attract and retain talent within the state. The rule outlines procedures and timelines for certification implementation. Chancellor O'Farrell added that certifications must be included on the Master's Credential List (MCL) and undergo a review process by the Credential Review Committee (CRC) to ensure demand, wage levels, and industry relevance. The update to this rule clarifies that instructors may hold higher-level certifications in the same pathway to meet industry certification requirements. It also adds 17 new certifications in emerging fields such as cybersecurity, information technology, web development, and removes three certifications that are no longer available.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-6.0571, Student Performance Standards. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-6.0576, Student Performance Standards. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Items

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the Consent Items. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Comments

Chair Gibson opened the board for member comments starting with Ms. Brown. Ms. Brown expressed her excitement about the board's new members, the ambitious board agenda, and highlighted her enthusiasm for the 17 new career certifications. Ms. Byrd welcomed the new board members and expressed her gratitude to the Department for their extensive work, highlighting the thorough preparation and behind-the-scenes efforts that often go unnoticed by the public. Ms. Garcia thanked Governor DeSantis for the opportunity to serve and shared her commitment to providing the best education for all children, acknowledging the importance of parents as their first teachers. Ms. Magar thanked Governor DeSantis for the opportunity to serve and emphasized the importance of education

for the success of students, businesses, and the state's economy. Adding that she looks forward to implementing legislation and working collaboratively with the board members to provide a world-class education in a safe and caring environment. Vice Chair Petty welcomed the new board members and commended the professionalism and preparation the department staff take before meetings and acknowledged the challenges faced in conducting meetings, particularly when contentious issues arise. Vice Chair Petty thanked the Chair for his leadership in ensuring all voices are heard and for facilitating the smooth operation of the meeting. Chair Gibson echoed the comments of his fellow members and thanked Governor DeSantis for his leadership and acknowledged the significant impact of the recent legislative session.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Gibson adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 12:26 P.M. EST.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Ben Gibson, Chair