

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING**

July 19, 2023

Rosen Shingle Creek, 9939 Universal Blvd.
Gatlin E-1/E-2, Orlando, Florida 32819

Chair Ben Gibson called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., the following members were present: Vice Chair Ryan Petty, Esther Byrd, Kelly Garcia, MaryLynn Magar, and Monesia Brown via conference phone. Chair Gibson then recognized Father Derek, Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church to deliver an invocation.

Commissioners Report

Chair Gibson recognized Manny Diaz Jr., Commissioner, Department of Education to present the Commissioners Report. Commissioner Diaz thanked the board and began by acknowledging that it is Florida's Teacher of the Year week and highlighted the significance of this event for the profession and the professional development of teachers. Commissioner Diaz then discussed African American history standards, explaining that a work group of 13 individuals, from various backgrounds and political spectrums, developed these standards over several months. Adding, that they cover a wide range of topics related to African American history.

Commissioner Diaz discussed Florida's commitment to school choice, mentioning the recent legislation signed by Governor DeSantis to expand school choice options for Florida students. In addition, Commissioner Diaz briefed the board on rules related to pronoun usage in the classroom, emphasizing Florida's approach of not forcing students and teachers to recognize pronouns opposite to their biological sex and criticized Michigan legislation that could make mis-gendering a felony. The Commissioner addressed parental rights, stating that parents have the right to know what is happening in their child's classroom and criticized the New York Department of Education for implementing a policy that discouraged teachers from informing parents about a student's desire to change their gender identity.

Continuing, Commissioner Diaz recognized the winners of the Commissioner's Business Awards. Which recognizes Florida's business leaders and partners that have shown commitment in bringing positive change and implementing bold, innovative approaches to improve the academic performance of students in Florida's education system and communities. Stating that each winning school district will receive \$3,000 to continue their educational partnerships. Commissioner Diaz then recognized the winners: Gourmet Kitchen in Volusia County, which supports Seabreeze High School's vocational training program, providing on-the-job experiences for high school students and preparing them for future employment; Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) in Citrus County, which runs the Veterans in the Classroom Program, teaching students core values and involving them in community service projects; and the Doolittle Institute in Walton County, which inspires students through STEM activities like robotics, biotechnology, computer science, and engineering. 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.

Minutes

Minutes from April 19, May 16 and May 24 meetings

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 19, May 16 and May 24 meetings. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates

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

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Maria Vasquez, Superintendent, Orange County Public Schools for a brief update on behalf on the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. Superintendent Vasquez thanked the board and began by commending Commissioner Diaz for his efforts to support Florida's schools, including campus safety, progress monitoring, and reducing barriers to teacher recruitment. Superintendent Vasquez highlighted the importance of community engagement and support in education, mentioning voter-approved initiatives for school funding and the collaboration between elected officials.

Continuing, Superintendent Vasquez acknowledged the opening of a new Technical College in Apopka, showcasing the district's commitment to workforce training and outlined her first-year experiences, including town hall meetings and school visits, which informed her priorities for the upcoming school year, such as safety, teacher recruitment, and early literacy. Superintendent Vasquez emphasized transparency and the district's mission to lead children to diverse pathways for success, including magnet programs and career and technical education. Superintendent Vasquez concluded by pledging to continue improving and supporting students, parents, and employees in Orange County Public Schools.

College System – President Meadows on behalf of the Council of Presidents

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Ed Meadows, President, Pensacola State College for a brief update on behalf on the Council of Presidents. Dr. Meadows started by thanking the board and Commissioner Diaz for their leadership and support in securing increased funding for the Florida College System (FCS). He highlighted a 15.2 percent increase in base funding and additional non-program funding, stating that they are essential for achieving the FCS goal of educating over half a million students by 2025 through the Accelerate Florida initiative.

Dr. Meadows mentioned the significant importance of workforce development in Florida, especially as new residents join the state and require retraining. Dr. Meadows acknowledged the approval of an artificial intelligence baccalaureate degree, which would be the first of its kind among universities and colleges in Florida, demonstrating the system's commitment to meeting workforce needs. Dr. Meadows expressed appreciation for the focus on dual enrollment programs, highlighting that Florida offers it for free to students, allowing them to graduate high school as a junior in a four-year degree program and commended the state's leadership in this area and welcomed increased funding to expand dual enrollment opportunities.

Concluding, Dr. Meadows discussed the challenges of retaining quality faculty and staff due to the cost of health insurance and advocated for FCS inclusion in the state health insurance plan to make it more affordable, which would also help retain talent.

Florida Education Foundation Update on Initiatives

Chair Gibson recognized Lindsey Zander, Executive Director, Florida Education Foundation and Rebecca Matthews, Chair, Florida Education Foundation Board, to provide an update on Florida Education Foundation initiatives. Ms. Zander thanked the board and provided an update on the foundation's role as the direct support organization for the Department of Education. Stating that the foundation's mission is to ensure that every student has access to high-quality education and opportunities for postsecondary education. Ms. Zander outlined the foundation's key functions, which include serving as the fiscal agent for the Department, sharing success stories, and collaborating with corporate donors and family foundations to support the Department's priorities. Ms. Zander then recognized Rebecca Matthews, Chair, Florida Education Foundation Board.

Ms. Matthews thanked the board and highlighted the diversity of the foundation's board, which includes business leaders, philanthropists, educators, and the Teacher of the Year, who serves as an ex-officio member of the board. Ms. Matthews shared an overview of the foundation's activities, which include fundraising, stewardship of donor relationships, and supporting various educational programs. She emphasized the success of the civics debate program, involving 60 districts, 9,300 students, and 6,000 teachers who received certification in civics. Concluding, Ms. Matthews listed several educational programs facilitated by the foundation, including literacy initiatives, teacher recruitment campaigns, and Resiliency Florida efforts.

Warrington Preparatory Academy, Escambia County

Chair Gibson recognized Adam Emerson, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, for an update on Warrington Preparatory Academy in Escambia County. Mr. Emerson thanked the board and introduced Dr. David Christianson, Chief of Schools, Charter Schools USA, and Dr. Eddie Ruiz, Florida Superintendent, Charter Schools USA, to present further details. Dr. Christianson started by expressing his gratitude for the support from Commissioner Diaz and the board in improving Warrington Preparatory Academy. He emphasized their dedication to transforming the school and creating opportunities for students.

Dr. Ruiz thanked the board for its commitment to improving Warrington Preparatory Academy, the surrounding community and outlined key developments in the effort to transform the school including facility renovations, hiring efforts, community engagement, partnerships, and preparations for the school's opening day. Dr. Ruiz highlighted the vision of ensuring students are college and career-ready with a focus on workforce readiness and industry certifications. Stating that his team is committed to turning around Warrington Preparatory Academy and providing a high-quality education for its students. Chair Gibson opened the board for questions. Vice Chair Petty asked what happens, if Warrington cannot fill all its teaching positions before the school year starts and if the department can provide progress monitoring reports on Warrington prior to the next board meeting.

Action Items

Approval of Amendment to Rules 6A-1.09401, Student Performance Standards and 6A-1.09412, Course Requirements - Grades K-12 Basic and Adult Secondary Programs

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Paul O. Burns, Chancellor, Division of Public Schools to provide the board an update on the first nine agenda items. Dr. Burns thanked the board and presented rules 6A-1.09401 and

6A-1.09412 for consideration. Dr. Burns stated the first rule updates Student Performance Standards in social studies for African American history to align with changes from House Bill 7 during the 2022 legislative session. Adding that these standards were developed through a rigorous process that involved a work group of education stakeholders, including Florida teachers, who met regularly from February to May to create the new K-12 standalone strand of African American history standards.

Continuing, Dr. Burns stated the second rule updates the remaining health education standards to include three new strands that have been developed to outline important themes for protecting and improving students' health and the health of their community. Dr. Burns also discussed the newly proposed financial literacy courses aligned with the financial literacy standards adopted by the State Board of Education. Adding that these courses will implement Senate Bill 1054 from the 2022 legislative session, requiring students to earn a half credit in personal financial literacy, beginning with students entering high school in the 2023-2024 school year.

Chair Gibson opened the board for questions and asked if the department removed any standards in regards to African American History. Ms. Magar followed and asked if work on African American History was completed or if the workgroup will continue to make adjustments. Ms. Garcia commented stating that she read the comments sent to her and she could not find a common theme or specific issue related to the standards. Chair Gibson then opened the board for public comment. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rules 6A-1.09401, Student Performance Standards and 6A-1.09412, Course Requirements - Grades K-12 Basic and Adult Secondary Programs. Ms. Garcia made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gibson then amended the agenda, moving action items 18 and 17 to be presented next.

New Bachelor Degree Program – Miami Dade College Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Harrison, Executive Vice President and Provost, Miami-Dade College to provide the board an overview of Miami Dade Colleges' proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI). Dr. Harrison thanked the board and introduced Manny Perez, Dean of Engineering and Technology at Miami-Dade College, and industry partner, Mr. Ehren Burciaga. Dr. Harrison highlighted the growing demand for AI professionals in various industries and the need for skilled graduates to fill this gap. Stating that the degree program will offer a comprehensive curriculum covering AI fundamentals, ethics, computer vision, and more, including internships and access to AI centers. Stating that industry professionals were involved in designing the curriculum to ensure its relevance to the job market. They emphasized the interdisciplinary approach to teaching AI and its alignment with industry requirements. Adding that, the degree program aims to open doors to various career opportunities. Mr. Burciaga, an industry partner, expressed his commitment to hiring graduates from this program to address the talent shortage in AI. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the Bachelor's of Science in Artificial Intelligence for Miami-Dade College. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. Chair Gibson opened the board for questions and asked if there was any other higher education institution offering a similar Bachelor degree. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Turnaround Option Plan for Hillsborough County

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Peggy Aune, Vice Chancellor, Strategic Improvement for an overview of the proposed turnaround option plan for Hillsborough County. Dr. Aune thanked the board and introduced

Shay McRae, Chief of Transformation Network, Hillsborough County. Dr. Aune then discussed the performance and closure of Just Elementary Riverwalk STEM Academy for the '21-'22 school year. Stating that the school received an F grade and entered Tier 2 of turnaround and had a projected enrollment of 46 percent for the next five years. Adding that, Hillsborough County Public Schools is requesting to close the school with the current students reassigned to Tampa Bay Boulevard Elementary and Booker T. Washington Elementary School, with the option to attend three district magnet schools. Dr. Aune concluded by stating the closure aims to better utilize other schools in the district, with instructional personnel and administrators being reassigned to non-school improvement schools as required. Chair Gibson then asked for the commissioner's recommendation. Commissioner Diaz recommended the board approve the closure of, Just Elementary Riverwalk STEM Academy. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the commissioner's recommendation. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rules 6A-4.002, General Provisions and 6A-4.003, Degrees, Programs, and Credits

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Burns to provide the board an update on the amendment to rules 6A-4.002, General Provisions and 6A-4.003, Degrees, Programs, and Credits. Dr. Burns thanked the board and stated that these changes aim to provide educators with more options to obtain professional certificates and support teacher recruitment and retention efforts. Adding that the amendments align with House Bill 1, which became effective in March 2023 and allows educators to waive the general knowledge test if they have received support and have effective or highly-effective evaluations for three years. Additionally, educators can demonstrate subject area mastery by having a master's or higher degree in specific subjects listed in rule 6A-4.003, excluding majors related to critical race theory, social justice, and other areas that are considered unsuitable for preparing K-12 teachers. Concluding, Dr. Burns added that these changes aim to increase the number of educators eligible for professional certificates, supporting teacher recruitment and student outcomes. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rules 6A-4.002, General Provisions and 6A-4.003, Degrees, Programs, and Credits. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-1.094127, Special Magistrate for Teacher Empowerment and New Rule 6A-1.0957, Internet Safety Policy

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Burns to provide the board an overview on new rules 6A-1.0957, Internet Safety Policy and 6A-1.094127, Special Magistrate for Teacher Empowerment. Dr. Burns thanked the board and discussed the new rules. Stating that these rules are a result of Governor DeSantis' leadership and House Bills 379 and 1035. Adding that these amendments empower teachers to have more control in their classrooms and to focus on teaching standards, progress-monitoring, and adjusting instruction to meet standards effectively. Stating that the first rule implements the Teachers Bill of Rights, allowing teachers to request the appointment of a special magistrate by the Commissioner if they are instructed to violate the law or education rules. Continuing Dr. Burns added the second rule, 6A-1.0957, requires each school district and charter school governing board to adopt an Internet Safety Policy annually, that covers student use of devices owned or provided by the district or school, as well as privately owned devices connected to the school's internet. Dr. Burns added that the rule complements the adopted internet safety standards and policies, protecting teachers and preserving instructional time while also shielding students from harmful websites, software, apps, and social media platforms during class.

Chair Gibson opened the board for public comment. Chair Gibson asked if there are steps that can be taken to reconcile an issue before a teacher can request a special magistrate with a principal or the school district? Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-1.0957, Internet Safety Policy. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-1.094127, Special Magistrate for Teacher Empowerment. Ms. Garcia made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Burns to provide the board an overview on the amendment to rules 6A-10.081, Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida and 6A-5.065, The Florida Educator Accomplished Practices. Dr. Burns thanked the board and stated that the amendments are aimed at ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of Florida students and protecting parents' fundamental rights. With a focus on standards-based instruction, professional conduct, and alignment with recent legislative changes. Dr. Burns added that rule, 6A-5.065 outlines the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAPs) and serves as the foundation for educator evaluation, professional learning, educator preparation programs, and certification requirements.

Continuing, Dr. Burns discussed rule, 6A-10.081, stating that the proposed changes align with House Bill 1069 and 1521 from the 2023 legislative session. Which emphasize clarity in teaching standards, public transparency, and consistency across districts. Dr. Burns added the changes address instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity, making it age-appropriate and allowing parent opt-outs in lower grades while following state academic standards in grades 9-12. Additionally, the amendments ensure educators' compliance with Florida Statutes concerning preferred pronouns or titles in the classroom and protect students from unauthorized entry into restrooms or changing facilities.

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

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-10.086, School Board and Charter School Governing Board Policies or Procedures for Parental Notification Regarding Designation of Bathrooms, Locker Rooms, and Dressing Rooms

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Burns to present the amendment to rule 6A-10.086. Dr. Burns thanked the board and presented rule 6A-10.086, stating that the amendment aligns with House Bill 1521, which mandates compliance with new statutes on restroom and changing facility designation. With the goal to protect students' rights and privacy, ensuring restrooms are separated by biological sex at birth or provide a unisex option. Dr. Burns added that educational institutions must submit assurance forms by April 1, 2024, confirming compliance, update student conduct codes, and establish employee disciplinary procedures in line with Florida Statutes. The rule eliminates policies allowing individuals to use facilities not matching their biological sex at birth. Chair Gibson opened the board for public comment. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-10.086, School Board and Charter School Governing Board Policies or Procedures for Parental Notification Regarding

Designation of Bathrooms, Locker Rooms, and Dressing Rooms. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.0955, Education Records

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Burns to present rule 6A-1.0955. Dr. Burns thanked the board and stated that the amendment allows parents to specify any deviation from their child's legal name in schools. Adding that this change aims to address concerns from parents who are upset when educators use names other than the legal one without parental consent. With the rule requiring parents to complete a form to indicate any name variations. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-1.0955. Ms. Garcia made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty. Chair Gibson opened the board for public comment. Chair Gibson asked if nicknames are allowed, if the parents' consent. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-10.089, School-Sponsored Events and Activities

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Burns to present rule 6A-10.089. Dr. Burns thanked the board and presented new rule 6A-10.089. Stating that the rule's purpose is to prevent exposure to inappropriate school events by prohibiting the use of district property for certain adult live performances and requires districts to inform parents about event details and obtain parental consent. Dr. Burns added that the rule emphasizes protecting students' health, safety, and welfare while discouraging the insertion of personal views into the classroom. Chair Gibson opened the board for public comment. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-10.089, School-Sponsored Events and Activities. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-10.088, Florida McKinney-Vento Program Training and Identification

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Peggy Aune, Vice Chancellor, Strategic Improvement for provide the board an overview of new rule 6A-10.088. Dr. Aune thanked the board and stated that the goal of this rule is to address the challenges faced by homeless children in enrolling and succeeding in school while also ensuring they have equal access to education. Dr. Aune added that the rule was recommended following a study by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) and aims to establish statewide consistency in assisting homeless students and their families. With the rule emphasizing the need for additional support and training for educators to help homeless students and connect families with necessary resources. The rule includes provisions for professional learning for district staff and uniform expectations for student housing questionnaires to enhance support for homeless students and promote their success in education. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-10.088, Florida McKinney-Vento Program Training and Identification. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.0017, School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR)

Chair Gibson recognized Adam Miller, Senior Chancellor, Division of Public Schools for a brief update on the amendment to rule 6A-1.0017. Sr. Chancellor Miller thanked the board and presented the amendment to the rule, stating that the goal is to standardize incident reporting throughout the state, prioritize student safety by improving data collection, and implement recommendations from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) Commission. Adding that School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting System (SESIR) collects data on 26 types of incidents involving crime, violence, and disruptive

behaviors that occur on or off school campuses. With House Bill 543, mandating specific incidents be reported to law enforcement, replacing the previous district discretion. Sr. Chancellor Miller concluded by stating that the amendments have previously been adopted on April 19 at an emergency meeting and are now being made permanent in this rule. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-1.0017, School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR). Ms. Garcia made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.03315, Private School Scholarship Compliance; Rule 6A-6.0952, Family Empowerment Scholarship; and Rule 6A-6.0960, Florida Tax Credit Scholarship

Chair Gibson recognized Adam Emerson, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice to present the next three rules 6A-6.03315, 6A-6.0952, and 6A-6.0960. Mr. Emerson thanked the board and discussed the amendments related to private school scholarship programs in Florida and aligning them with House Bill 1. Mr. Emerson started with rule 6A-6.03315 stating that it primarily updates references and moves up deadlines for private schools to submit compliance reports. Adding that there has been a 50% increase in private schools interested in participating in scholarship programs since HB1. Continuing, Mr. Emerson discussed rule 6A-6.0952 stating that it focuses on educational options for the Family Empowerment Scholarship. Adding that HB1 expanded the number of allowable uses for this scholarship and opened eligibility to all Florida resident students, not just income-based applicants.

Concluding, Mr. Emerson briefed the board on rule 6A-6.0960 stating that the amendment provides a track for home education students to be able to participate in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program through a Personalized Education Program and introduces an additional application window for prospective scholarship funding organizations, per requirements set in HB1. These rule amendments aim to bring scholarship programs in line with the legislation and expand educational freedom for Florida students. Chair Gibson opened the board for public comment.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-6.03315, Private School Scholarship Compliance. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-6.0952, Family Empowerment Scholarship. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-6.0960, Florida Tax Credit Scholarship. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Gibson recognized Juan Copa, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Accountability Research and Measurement to provide the board a brief overview of the amendment to rule 6A-1.09422, Statewide, Standardized Assessment Program Requirements. Mr. Copa thanked the board and presented the amendment to rule 6A-1.09422, explaining that its main purpose is to implement a requirement from House Bill 1537. This requirement mandates the State Board of Education establish concordant scores for the Classic Learning Test (CLT) as a means for students to meet graduation assessment requirements.

Starting with the upcoming school year, students can use CLT scores, in addition to statewide assessments, ACT, or SAT scores, to fulfill these requirements. The amendment also aligns with other changes in House Bill 1537, which specified concordant scores for different student groups. Chair Gibson asked for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-1.09422, Statewide, Standardized Assessment Program Requirements. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-10.0315, Demonstration of Readiness for College-Level Communication and Computation

Chair Gibson recognized Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System for a brief update on the amendment to rule 6A-10.0315, Demonstration of Readiness for College-Level Communication and Computation. Ms. Hebda thanked the board and stated that the amendment adds the Classic Learning Test (CLT) to rule 6A-10.0315 as a way for students to demonstrate their readiness for college credit in English language arts and mathematics, both for dual-enrollment eligibility and for returning adult learners. Chair Gibson opened the board for public comment. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-10.0315, Demonstration of Readiness for College-Level Communication and Computation. Ms. Garcia made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-20.028, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Chair Gibson recognized Suzanne Pridgeon, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations to provide the board an update on the amendment to rule 6A-20.028, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Ms. Pridgeon thanked the board and discussed the amendment to rule 6A-20.028, which rewards high-achieving Florida high school students and encourages them to pursue post-secondary education in eligible Florida institutions. Ms. Pridgeon added that the proposed amendments serve three main purposes: allowing students to meet initial eligibility requirements by combining paid work and volunteer service hours, increasing access to post-secondary education, and offering flexibility in testing opportunities by adding the Classic Learning Test (CLT) as an option for satisfying test score requirements for Bright Future Scholarship awards. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-20.028, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Ms. Magar 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. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Comments

Chair Gibson opened the board for member comments starting with Ms. Magar. Ms. Magar thanked Dr. Burns and the Department for all the rigorous work that went into the creation of the black history standards. Ms. Garcia followed and thanked the Department for all the hard work put into drafting rules and standards and thanked all the teachers for participating in the teacher of the year event. Vice Chair Petty expressed his gratitude for the Teacher of the Year celebration and praised the dedication of the teachers and their focus on student education. Vice Chair Petty also highlighted the effort put into improving African American Studies curriculum and thanked the Department for their contributions and

mentioned the importance of reaffirming parents' rights to direct their children's education. Chair Gibson thanked the Department and commented on the positive outcomes of the meeting, including the protection of parents' rights, empowerment of teachers, and the restoration of common sense in school policies.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Gibson adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 4:36 P.M. EST.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Ben Gibson, Chair