

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Action Item**  
February 25, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2015, Meeting

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

N/A

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The minutes of the January 14, 2015, Meeting is presented for approval.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Minutes, January 14, 2015

**Facilitator/Presenter:** Chair Gary Chartrand

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING**

January 14, 2015  
Highlands County School Board Office  
426 School Street  
Sebring, Florida 33870

Chair Gary Chartrand called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed members and guests to the State Board of Education meeting. The following members were present: Vice Chair John Padget, John Colón, Marva Johnson, Rebecca Fishman Lipsey and Andy Tuck.

**Welcome**

Chair Chartrand thanked Wally Cox, Superintendent, Highlands County Public Schools, for hosting the Board.

**MEMBER COMMENTS**

The Board thanked former member Ada Armas for her service on the State Board of Education.

Mr. Tuck thanked Sam Foerster, Deputy Chancellor of Student Achievement and School Improvement, for a great workshop on Differentiated Accountability and Governor Scott for his budget proposal which is the highest education funding in the history of Florida. Mr. Tuck also thanked Chair Chartrand for having the meeting in Highlands County and he looks forward to meeting in more rural areas in Florida. Mr. Tuck recognized Glades County Superintendent Scott Bass and provided information on a project to establish a logistics and manufacturing training center in the Heartland Region of Florida.

Ms. Fishman Lipsey stated that she was thankful for the Board having the meeting in Sebring, Florida and for taking the time to meet in a rural area. Ms. Fishman Lipsey echoed the comments by Mr. Tuck regarding the budget. Ms. Fishman Lipsey informed the Board that January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month and encouraged teachers to be cognizant of the signs. She also thanked Mr. Foerster for a fantastic workshop on Differentiated Accountability. Ms. Fishman Lipsey ended her comments by suggesting a change to the class size amendment to allow more flexibility.

Ms. Johnson thanked Superintendent Cox for hosting the Board. She also thanked Governor Scott for his budget proposal. She stated that she recently visited the First Academy in Orlando where 24 out of 28 students are on McKay Scholarships and now that the Personal Learning Accounts have been implemented more families will have that opportunity.

Mr. Colón also thanked Superintendent Cox for hosting the meeting and Ms. Fishman Lipsey for her comments regarding human trafficking. He also suggested teachers be made aware of the signs and recommended holding workshops to bring it to the forefront. Mr. Colón announced that the UNCF, the United Negro College Fund will be holding a scholarship event on January 30<sup>th</sup> in Sarasota in Manatee County and invited Commissioner Stewart to be the keynote speaker.

Vice Chair Padget echoed everyone's comments regarding the budget proposal and pointed out the clear connection between children's education and preparation for jobs made by Governor Scott. He recommended some of the additional funds be put towards results-based certificates, both at the high school level and postsecondary level. Vice Chair Padget also recommended revisiting the class size amendment.

Chair Chartrand agreed with comments regarding flexibility for the class size amendment and that it should be based on the school average instead of the class average. He stated that Florida is significantly better today than 15 years ago due largely to accountability and with the implementation of new standards and assessment we need to make sure that we have a trusted accountability system that everybody believes in.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Stewart recognized Nardi Routten, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Frances K. Sweet Elementary School in St. Lucie County, as the 2014 Milken Educator Award Winner and Sandra Himmel, Superintendent, Citrus County Public Schools, as the 2014 Lavan Duke's District Data Leader of the year.

Commissioner Stewart shared Governor Scott's announcement of a new funding stream of \$20 million for technical centers as part of his 2015-2016 Keep Florida Working Budget and his proposal to increase per pupil funding in the 2015-2016 fiscal year to a historic level. She shared the following three accomplishments: seventh in the nation in K-12 student achievement; 4<sup>th</sup> graders are among the best in the world in reading; and Florida students from low income homes outperform all other low income students in the nation. And this historic investment in education by Governor Scott will ensure that Florida has the necessary resources to continue doing well and thriving.

Commissioner Stewart shared Governor Scott's proclamation that Celebrate Literacy Week is January 26<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>, an annual event by Just Read Florida, and this is the fifth consecutive year that First Lady Scott will participate. Celebrate Literacy Week consists of a kickoff event in Orange County, Million Minute Marathon, a public service announcement contest award presentation at the Kennedy Space Center, and a number of school visits throughout the state. This year's theme is Reading Accelerates Success.

Commissioner Stewart shared the 2013-2014 high school graduation rates; 76.1 percent of students graduated and which is nearly an increase of 17 percentage points since 2003-2004.

Commissioner Stewart provided an update on the comprehensive investigation of standardized testing in Florida public schools and when complete a final report will be provided to policy makers, district administrators, parents, teachers and members of the public. It will include information about the number of standardized tests and how each of the test results are used by the state, school boards and teachers.

Commissioner Stewart provided an update on the Keep Florida Learning Committee. The application deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup> and more than 1,600 have applied. Members will be announced in February and an organizational conference call will be held in March.

Commissioner Stewart shared Governor Rick Scott and First Lady Ann Scott's announcement of the 2015 Black History Month contest in which winners will be selected in grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup>, as well as an educator from an elementary school, middle school, and high school for the Black History Month excellence in education award on February 16<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is a celebration of African-American innovation and innovators.

Commissioner Stewart shared that the U.S. Department of Education has approved Governor Rick Scott and the Department of Education's request that test scores of our English Language Learners would only be included after they have been enrolled in a U.S. school for two years.

Commissioner Stewart provided an update on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) and encouraged the Board and audience to go to the FSA portal and try some of the sample items. Vice Chair Padgett congratulated Commissioner Stewart and the Department for the work on the new assessment.

Commissioner Stewart thanked Dr. Armas for her service on the Board and Mr. Foerster, his staff, the experts and the district personnel for all their work and participation in the workshop.

Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve the Commissioner's Report. The motion was made by Vice Chair Padgett with a second by Ms. Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

## **MINUTES**

Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The motion was made by Vice Chair Padgett with a second by Ms. Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

## **UPDATE**

### **Communications Plan**

Commissioner Stewart recognized Meghan Collins as the new Communications Director. Ms. Collins shared the mission, goals, online presence, recent news, upcoming news, and outreach tactics of the Communications Office. Ms. Fishman Lipsey suggested posting the most frequent information searched for on the main page and to survey the districts to determine if they have the information they need. Chair Chartrand stated that in Duval County Public Schools a survey was done by the University of North Florida with 500 parents and there were two questions on it, how informed do you feel about the new assessment and how informed are you about how new grades are going to be calculated? Sixty-four percent said they felt uninformed on new assessments and seventy-two percent felt uninformed on school grades. Chair Chartrand reiterated his point that we can't over communicate the major changes this year. Ms. Johnson recommended public service announcements to increase overall awareness about the Department's website and how to sign up to receive information.

### **K-12 Public Schools – Wally Cox, Superintendent Highlands County Public Schools on behalf of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents**

Chair Chartrand recognized Superintendent Cox to present on behalf of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS). Superintendent Cox recognized the following Highlands County School Board Members and area Superintendents: Jill Compton, Donna Howerton, Charlene Edwards, Bill Brantley, Jan Shoop, Superintendent Karyn Gary, Superintendent Scott Bass, and Superintendent Sam Himmel. Superintendent Cox also recognized Dr. Leitzel, President, South Florida State College.

Superintendent Cox shared comments from the superintendents association and provided information on how the new standards are impacting teachers in Highlands County. He also agreed with the Board that there should be more flexibility with class size. Ms. Johnson requested ideas on how the Board could help in attracting qualified teachers to Highlands County. Mr. Tuck recognized Marty Mielke, Chief Legislative Aide for Senator Grimsley.

## **Florida College System – President Jim Henningsen, on behalf of the Council of Presidents**

Chair Chartrand recognized Dr. Jim Henningsen, President, College of Central Florida, on behalf of the Council of Presidents. President Henningsen provided an update from the recent Florida College System Council Presidents meeting on articulation policy, maintaining affordability, and performance funding. He also shared that the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee has asked the Council of Presidents to present an update on the funding model on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Vice Chair Padgett requested an update on the unified Learning Management System. Ms. Fishman Lipsey requested an update on how students performed who would have previously been advised to take remedial courses. President Henningsen agreed to provide the data in March when it's expected to be complete. Mr. Colón requested an update on increasing the staffing levels of counselors at the colleges.

Chair Chartrand stated that the Carnegie Foundation research shows that 50 percent of the STEM jobs don't require a four-year degree and those that earn an Associate's Degree in the STEM field actually earn more than people that earn a Bachelor's Degree at a four-year college. He also pointed out that the colleges only receive a third of the funding and recommended emphasizing STEM when educating legislators on a request for more funding.

### **Digital Learning**

Chair Chartrand recognized Ron Nieto, Deputy Commissioner of Technology, to provide the update. Mr. Nieto provided an overview of the Digital Classroom Allocation, Digital Classroom Plan, and the five areas of emphasis used in approving the plans: measurable student performance outcomes, digital learning technology infrastructure, professional development, digital tools and online support. Mr. Nieto stated that 70 digital classroom plans have been submitted and approved, and \$37 million of the \$40 million has already been allocated to the districts; 397 charter schools out of 654 have participated to date.

Ms. Fishman Lipsey requested an update on how much improvement is needed for bandwidth across the state and if there are requirements to implement maintenance and professional development. Mr. Nieto provided that the Technology Readiness Inventory will now be done twice a year to better track the incremental movements and the Digital Classroom Plan does cover maintenance and professional development. Chair Chartrand recommended making sure that the American Institutes for Research (AIR) is prepared to test 2.6 million students in Florida.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09422, Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test and End-of-Course Assessment Requirements**

Chair Chartrand recognized Juan Copa, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Accountability, Research, and Measurement, to provide an overview of the amendment. Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve rule 6A-1.09422, as presented. Vice Chair Padgett made the motion with a second by Mr. Tuck. Chair Chartrand recognized Jeri Wilson, Glades County School Board Member, for comments on the rule. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-5.066, Approval of Teacher Preparation Programs**

Chair Chartrand recognized Brian Dassler, Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality, to provide an overview of the amendment. Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve rule 6A-5.066, as presented. Vice Chair Padgett made the motion with a second by Ms. Fishman Lipsey. Chair Chartrand recognized Dr. Gloria M. Pelaez, University of Miami and Darran Town, Florida Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, for comments on the rule. Due

to travel constraints Mr. Colón departed. Mr. Dassler clarified for the Board that a program has 45 days following the Department's release of the program data in order to provide justification or documentation to correct anything that may have in translation been misappropriated in some way. Vice Chair Padgett thanked Mr. Dassler for his work as this is one more step in the right direction. Ms. Fishman Lipsey also thanked the Department for listening to everybody's questions and taking them into account. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-10.0342, Career and Technical Education Program Performance Reporting**

Chair Chartrand recognized Chancellor Rod Duckworth, Career and Adult Education, to provide an overview of the amendment. Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve rule 6A-10.0342, as presented. Vice Chair Padgett made the motion with a second by Mr. Tuck. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of AAA Scholarship Foundation – Florida, LLC as Scholarship Funding Organization for 2015-16**

Chair Chartrand recognized Adam Miller, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, to present the next two action items. Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve AAA Scholarship Foundation – Florida, LLC as Scholarship Funding Organization for 2015-16. Vice Chair Padgett made the motion with a second by Ms. Johnson. Mr. Miller provided an overview of both items and recognized Kim Dyson, President, on behalf of AAA Scholarship Foundation – Florida, LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Step Up For Students, Inc. as Scholarship Funding Organization for 2015-16**

Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve Step Up For Students, Inc. as Scholarship Funding Organization for 2015-16. Vice Chair Padgett made the motion with a second by Mr. Tuck. Chair Chartrand recognized Anne Mackey, CFO and Ann White, Senior VP, on behalf of Step Up For Students, Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve items one through five. Vice Chair Padgett made the motion with a second by Mr. Tuck. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Chartrand announced that the next meeting would be on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Chair Chartrand adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 12:40 p.m.

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Cathy Schroeder, Corporate Secretary

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Gary Chartrand, Chair