

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING**

July 15, 2020

Strawberry Crest High School
4691 Gallagher Rd., Dover, FL 33527

Chair Andy Tuck called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked everyone to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members were present: Vice Chair Marva Johnson; Ben Gibson, Ryan Petty and members Tom Grady, Michael Olenick, and Joe York via telephone.

WELCOME

Chair Tuck thanked members and guests for adhering to the Hillsborough County ordinance regarding wearing face mask coverings indoors, and requested that everyone continue to do so throughout the meeting. Chair Tuck then recognized Commissioner Corcoran for an introduction of a special guest. Commissioner Corcoran thanked Chair Tuck and introduced Governor Ron DeSantis for a brief opening remark on educating our kids, getting our schools open, getting our economy back on track and keeping everybody safe.

Governor DeSantis thanked the Commissioner, the board members, and education stakeholders over the state for their hard work through extenuating circumstances. He then shared some of the key priorities from the 2020 legislative session: minimum teacher pay, the Gardiner Scholarship, and the Family Empowerment Scholarship. He also discussed what's going to happen for the next school year, how to give parents schooling options, keeping students safe when schools reopen, and distribution of funds from the CARES Act.

Chair Tuck thanked Governor DeSantis and introduced Hillsborough County Superintendent, Addison Davis to welcome the Board. Superintendent Davis thanked the board for choosing Hillsborough County to be the face-to-face demonstration giving parents and students the initiative to begin moving forward in a safe and respectful manner. Superintendent Davis also thanked the commissioner for the emergency order that provided clear direction for reopening schools and gave leeway for districts to be innovative along the way.

Commissioner's Report

Chair Tuck recognized Commissioner Corcoran for his report. Commissioner Corcoran started by introducing three outstanding students that have stepped up during the pandemic: Tim and Bill Baptiste, from St. Petersburg College, for their work at a local community health center and Isabella Berger, from Newsome High School, for her local community work. Commissioner Corcoran also briefed the board on keeping our communities safe, giving parents choices, the benefits of having in class teaching, and closing the achievement gap.

Chair Tuck then introduced Alex Kelly, Chief of Staff, for an update on the reopening plan. Chief Kelly highlighted some of the key components, making sure we are improving educational outcomes, recognizing the total healthcare picture, and supporting student's rights to an equitable education. He also provided a quick summary of the CARES Act and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds that is due to be distributed to districts as well as the rapid credentialing for CTE. Chair Tuck opened the

board for questions. Mr. Gibson asked about the flexibility that each district has to innovate their education. Vice Chair Johnson commented on getting the public the information in a more clear conscience way. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve the Commissioners Report. Mr. Gibson made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Minutes from May 13, 2020 meeting

Chair Tuck called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2020 meeting. Mr. Gibson made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATES

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

Chair Tuck recognized Joe Pickens, President, St. Johns State College on behalf of the Council of Presidents. President Pickens started by thanking education board members all over the state and then briefed the board on the difficulties facing the college system, the improvements made to online instruction, college preparedness, offering more remedial classes at the college level and budget cuts. Chair Tuck opened the board for questions. Mr. Gibson asked about what his college's plan is going forward for reopening. Vice Chair Johnson asked about students' college preparedness and how it's different now than four years ago.

Legislative Update

Chair Tuck recognized Bethany Swanson, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Education for a legislative update. Ms. Swanson briefed the board on an increase of money for early learners in VPK, the increase in Base Student Allocation, teacher salary increase, the Florida Empowerment Scholarship, expanding Florida's workforce, and Alyssa Law. Chair Tuck opened the board for questions. Mr. Gibson commented on how the legislature kept the teacher pay increase despite COVID.

Budget Update

Chair Tuck recognized Suzanne Pridgeon, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Education for an update on the department's budget. Ms. Pridgeon briefed the board on the overall education budget including the increases to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) and Early Learning, funding for the Florida College System, Fixed Capital Outlay, the upcoming budget estimating conferences, and Legislative Budget Request. Chair Tuck opened the board for questions. Mr. Olenick commented that the upcoming budget may want to include money appropriated for distance learning.

Chair tuck then amended the agenda moving Consent Items 13, 14, and 17 to Action.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Request from Eastern Florida State College for a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Science Education

Chair Tuck recognized, Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System to provide an overview for a proposed BS in Science Education. Chancellor Hebda briefed the board on the critical teacher shortage in secondary science, annual job openings in the field, the partnership between the district and the college, and the cost to add the BS. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve the request from Eastern Florida State College for a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Science Education. Vice Chair Johnson made the motion with a second by Mr. Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Request from Miami Dade College for a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Cybersecurity

Chancellor Hebda provided an overview for a proposed BS in Cybersecurity. Chancellor Hebda briefed the board on annual job openings in the field, and how the program will be self-sustaining after the first year. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve the request from Miami Dade College for a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Cybersecurity. Vice Chair Johnson made the motion with a second by Mr. Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of Turnaround Option Plan for School District of Duval County

Chair Tuck recognized, Jacob Oliva, Chancellor, Division of Public Schools for an overview of the next three Action Items. Chancellor Oliva briefed the board on the turnaround plan that was approved the prior year for Northwestern Middle School in Duval County; for the school to remain open for a year to help with transition of students and close in the 2020-2021 school year.

Review of Turnaround Option Plans and Annual External Operator Contracts for School Districts of Hillsborough and Volusia County

Chancellor Oliva continued and briefed the board on Palm Terrace Elementary School, Volusia County, which has requested a change in external operator and a brief explanation on why Hillsborough wanted to change external operators from Phalen to MGT. He stated that the district had not seen the progress they desired from Phalen and that MGT already had contracts with Hillsborough which made the transition easier.

Review of Annual External Operator Contracts for School District of Duval, Escambia, Hillsborough, Marion, Pinellas and Polk Counties

Chancellor Oliva then provided an overview of the turnaround plans for Duval, Escambia, Hillsborough, Marion, Pinellas and Polk Counties asking the board to extend the turnaround plans as written.

Chancellor Oliva then recognized Superintendent Davis for a brief update on the turnaround plans for Hillsborough. Superintendent Davis thanked Chancellor Oliva and briefed the board on why Phalen was not working for Hillsborough and why MGT is the right external operator.

Chair Tuck then opened the board for questions. Vice Chair Johnson asked Superintendent Davis how many times the principals had been replaced at each of his turnaround schools. Mr. Gibson asked about how MGT has made sure students don't fall behind during the

pandemic. Mr. Grady asked with new leadership and new principals in the school does the district still need an external operator.

Commissioner Corcoran made the recommendation to approve Action Item 8, closure of Northwestern Middle School. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve the commissioner's recommendation. Vice Chair Johnson made the motion with a second by Mr. Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Corcoran made the recommendation to approve Action Item 9, changing external operators in Hillsborough and Volusia County. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve the commissioner's recommendation. Mr. Gibson made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Corcoran made the recommendation to approve Action Item 10, extending the turnaround plan another year. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve the commissioner's recommendation to Mr. Gibson made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Application for Hope Operator Designation for Mater Academy

Chair Tuck recognized Dr. Graham, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice for an overview of the application for Mater Academy to become a Hope Operator. Dr. Graham provided an overview of the Schools of Hope Program, current Hope operators, and criteria for applying. Chair Tuck opened the board for questions. Chair Tuck called for a motion to approve the application for Hope Operator designation for Mater Academy. Vice Chair Johnson made the motion with a second by Mr. Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-7.0710, Instructional Materials Evaluation Procedures

Chair Tuck recognized Chancellor Oliva for an overview of the next couple items. Chancellor Oliva provided an overview of Executive Order 1932 to conduct a full review and rewrite of our English Language Arts and Mathematics standards. Chair Tuck opened the board for questions. Vice Chair Johnson asked if teachers will get the level of instruction necessary for them to carry the knowledge forward. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule 6A-7.0710, Instructional Materials Evaluation Procedures. Mr. Gibson made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chancellor Oliva continued and briefed the board on what assessments are required for graduation from High School, what assessments have been waived, meeting exit criteria through ACT or SAT, and requested the board add the Geometry End-of-Course Exam to the concordant opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery of mathematics. Chair Tuck recognized for public comment Jessica Harrington, teacher, Smith Middle School, Hillsborough County. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve amendment to Rule 6A-1.09422, Statewide, Standardized Assessment Program Requirements. Mr. Gibson made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09401, Student Performance Standards

Chancellor Oliva continued, briefing the board on changes to the ELA standards and mathematics progression. Chair Tuck opened the board for questions. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve amendment to Rule 6A-1.09401, Student Performance Standards. Mr. Gibson made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-14.0306, Death Benefits for Survivors of First Responders and Military Members

Chair Tuck recognized Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System for a brief overview of the new rule. Chancellor Hebda provided an overview of Senate Bill 7098 that provided tuition waivers to spouses and dependents of deceased law enforcement, correctional officers, and firefighters. The new rule adds: first responders, and members of the Florida National Guard. Chair Tuck then called for a motion to approve new Rule 6A-14.0306, Death Benefits for Survivors of First Responders and Military Members. Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Mr. Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Tuck opened the board for comments. Mr. Olenick started and thanked everyone for their hard work and asked all to stay safe. Mr. Grady commented on all the things the state has done for rewarding teachers, providing parent's choice, accountability, and getting students back in school safely, and thanked the Governor and Commissioner for their leadership. This was echoed by all the other board members.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Tuck adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 12:24 P.M.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Andy Tuck, Chair