

**MINUTES**  
**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MEETING**

March 30, 2022  
Collier County School Board Office  
5775 Osceola Trail  
Naples, FL 34109

Chair Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Presentation of Colors by the Naples High School Junior ROTC, the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Cadet Sarah Canow, and the National Anthem performed by the Barron Collier High School chorus. The following members were present: Monesia Brown, Esther Byrd, Ryan Petty, Grazie P. Christie, Joe York and Vice Chair Ben Gibson via telephone.

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Kamela Patton, Superintendent, Collier County District Schools to welcome the board. Dr. Patton thanked the board and provided an overview of her districts demographics stating that 54 percent of her students come from homes where English is not spoken and that Collier County has 107 different languages and dialects. Dr. Patton added that in 2011 Collier County had a 72.5 percent graduation rate and that in 2021 it had climbed to 92.7 percent. And, that graduation rates for migrant students increased from 54 percent to 86.6, the African-American population increased from 63 percent to 90, and students with disabilities increased from 50 percent to 87. Continuing, Dr. Patton discussed the Connect for Success Program in Collier County that is designed to assist students by adding an extra advocate that helps with mental health needs and life skills using the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. Lastly, Dr. Patton added that Collier County is building a new school that will be named in the coming year and will be debt free by 2026 saving the tax payers of Collier County \$41 million.

**Commissioner's Report**

Chair Grady recognized Commissioner Corcoran for his report. Commissioner Corcoran started by acknowledging his departure from the Department of Education and thanked Governor DeSantis, the board, and the Department. Commissioner Corcoran recognized Bethany Swonson, Chief of Staff for a brief overview of the 2022 legislative session. Ms. Swonson started by stating that for fiscal year 2022-2023 K-12 received \$23.4 billion, an increase of \$1.5 billion over the previous year and the per-student investment is \$8,142, an increase of \$384 from the previous year. Continuing, Ms. Swonson added that an additional \$20 million will go to mental health, \$30 million to safe schools, \$40 million for reading allocation, and an additional \$250 million for teacher salary allocation, bringing the total to \$800 million, with the goal of not only providing our teachers with a raise but some of our administrators as well. Ms. Swonson then briefed the board on some of the bills being signed in to law. Such as, Senate Bill 1048, which will create the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (F.A.S.T.) designed to align with the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) which will officially eliminate common core from all Florida classrooms. And bill SB 1054, known as the Financial Literacy Act, which ensures, starting in 2023-2024 that 9<sup>th</sup> graders and students from then on will have to take 8 credit hours of personal financial literacy and money management. Chair Grady then recognized Keith Flail for public comment. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the Commissioners Report. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Mr. Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

## Minutes

### **Minutes from February 9, 2022 meeting**

Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2022 meeting. Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

## UPDATES

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

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Kamela Patton, Superintendent, Collier County District Schools for a brief overview of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS). Dr. Patton thanked the board and provided a brief overview of FADSS for the new members, stating that FADSS meets three times a year to share ideas, experiences, and collaborate with partners. Dr. Patton added that Bill Montford is the Executive Director.

### **Florida College System – President Falconetti on behalf of the Council of Presidents**

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Angela Falconetti, President, Polk State College for an update on behalf of the Council of Presidents (COP). President Falconetti started by thanking the board and reminded them that the COP is made up of Florida's 28 colleges and that they meet each month to advance legislative priorities and best practices. This year's priorities were to strengthen the Florida College System (FCS) Program Fund, requesting \$60 million in additional funds; renew FCS infrastructure, with a request of \$39.8 million in deferred maintenance; and reinvestment in FCS Performance Funding, requesting \$25 million in performance funding for the Student Success Incentive Fund and workforce fund, and \$14 million for industry certification incentives. The legislature approved \$30 million for performance funding, which is \$5 million more than requested. Continuing, Dr. Falconetti outlined some of the initiatives COP will focus on in the coming year such as, expansion of health care science programs, the feasibility for FCS to join the state health care plan, and discussion of changing the funding formula.

Chair Grady then amended the agenda moving Consent Item 20, approval of amendment to rule 6A-6.0573 to Action Item 11.

### **Teacher Salary Increase Allocation**

Chair Grady recognized Jacob Oliva, Senior Chancellor for an overview of the item. Sr. Chancellor Oliva thanked the board and briefed them on where the state is in disbursing the \$550 million in funds received from the state for teacher pay. Sr. Chancellor Oliva stated that districts had till October 1 to submit a plan to the department outlining their board approved plan and a deadline of February 1 for the state to report to the Governor and legislature. Adding that currently, 5 districts have submitted late plans to the department that are under review, 13 school districts are still in negotiations with their local school board and teacher unions, and 3 district that are declaring an impasse. Mr. York requested what the board or legislature can do to set timelines or assist this process.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Approval of New Rule 6A-1.0999, Purple Star School of Distinction Designation**

Chair Grady recognized Sr. Chancellor Oliva, to present the next three action items. Sr. Chancellor Oliva thanked the board and provided some background of why this rule was created. Stating that military students move an average of 6-9 times from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Creating difficult transitions aligning academic credits. Adding this rule identifies schools that have an average of 5 percent of their seats reserved for military families to help with transition. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Mr. Petty asked if there is a point of contact at the department a family can reach out to if they believe a school or district is not living up to these standards. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-1.0999, Purple Star School of Distinction Designation. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Mr. Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of New Rule 6A-1.0450, Academically High-Performing School District Virtual Instruction Plan**

Continuing, Sr. Chancellor Oliva provided the board an overview of new rule 6A-1.0450, Academically High-Performing School District Virtual Instruction Plan. Stating that the academically high-performing school designation was established in statute in 2008. And in order to receive this designation the school district has to have a district grade of an A for two consecutive years, have zero F schools in their district, don't have any compliance issues with class size, and they don't have any findings in their most recent financial audit. Sr. Chancellor Oliva added that this current year there are 16 academically high-performing school districts. Chair Grady then called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-1.0450, Academically High-Performing School District Virtual Instruction Plan. Ms. Brown made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of New Rule 6A-4.0293, Specialization Requirements for Literacy Coach Endorsement – Academic Class**

Sr. Chancellor Oliva continued, briefing the board on new rule 6A-4.0293, Specialization Requirements for Literacy Coach Endorsement – Academic Class. Stating that this new rule would further enhance Florida literacy goals by improving teachers that are certified in reading by giving them additional skills to help coach and develop non-certified teachers and adults. Adding that the program is 100 hours to complete and the department partnered with two universities to help write and implement the program which is the Florida Center for Reading Research. Chair Grady asked if there is a way for non-certified and non-endorsed teachers to be admitted to the program. Chair Grady then called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-4.0293, Specialization Requirements for Literacy Coach Endorsement – Academic Class. Ms. Brown made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of New Rule 6A-10.084, Disqualification List**

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Paul O. Burns, Deputy Chancellor, Educator Quality to provide an overview of new rule 6A-10.084, Disqualification List. Dr. Burns thanked the board and briefed them on the background of the rule, stating that House Bill 131 required the department to develop and maintain a disqualification list barring employment for certain individuals in schools. Adding that an individual may be reported to the list in two main ways. One, schools will be required to report employees who engage in sexual misconduct with a student or who have a qualifying disposition for an offense listed in Florida

Statute 1012.315. The Commissioner will also be required to report individuals to the list if they have been ineligible to own or operate a private school. Being on the disqualification list means an individual may not be employed in a school or position that requires direct contact with students. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Dr. Christie asked what enforcement mechanism is in place to make sure schools are reporting.

Mr. Petty proposed an amendment to the rule in subsection (5) to include: Reporting entities must report a person to the disqualification list within 48 hours of the date when the final order or report referenced in Subsection (4) is final and filed with the reporting entity. Chair Grady then called for a motion to approve Mr. Petty's amendment. Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Grady then recognized Cheryl Dromgoole for public comment. After which, Chair Grady then called for a motion to approve the proposed new rule 6A-10.084, Disqualification List as amended. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Mr. Petty.

### **New Baccalaureate Degree in the Florida College System**

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Georgia Lorenz, President, Seminole State College to provide the board an overview of the new baccalaureate degree, Management and Organizational Leadership, at Seminole State College. Dr. Lorenz thanked the board and briefed the board on why the degree is needed. Stating that Seminole County is leading the nation in multiple sectors of business growth and after hearing from partners in the region Seminole State College concluded that the county needed an affordable four-year degree that specializes in leadership and management techniques without the requirement of advanced mathematics. Chair Grady then called for a motion to approve the Seminole State College Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Management and Organizational Leadership. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Mr. Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

### **New Baccalaureate Degree in the Florida College System**

Chair Gray recognized Dr. Carol Probstfeld, President, State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota for a brief overview of two new baccalaureate degrees. Dr. Probstfeld thanked the board and introduced Dr. Allison Foster, Executive Director, Human resources and Labor Relations, Sarasota County School District to provide the board an overview of both degrees. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the two Baccalaureate Degrees in the Florida College System, for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Exceptional Student Education and the Bachelor in Science Degree in Elementary Education. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.0573, Industry Certification Process**

Chair Grady recognized Dr. Henry Mack, Senior Chancellor to provide an overview of the amendment to rule 6A-6.0573, Industry Certification Process. Dr. Mack thanked the board and provided a brief overview of the rule. Stating that the rule annually adjusts the funding associated with the industry certification attainment at the K-12 level. Adding that the list is also reviewed by the Workforce Board, CareerSource Florida, which reviews the quality of the certifications on the list. In addition to updating the certifications on the list, the amount of funding was increased for districts that issue certifications, from \$400 to \$800 per certification. Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule

6A-6.0573, Industry Certification Process. Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

Chair Grady called for a motion to approve the consent items. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

### **MEMBER COMMENTS**

Chair Grady opened the board for comments. Mr. Petty started and thanked Commissioner Corcoran for his leadership, and dedication to students through difficult times. Mr. York echoed the comments of board member Petty thanking the commissioner and added that staff at the department under Commissioner Corcoran's leadership has been fantastic. Dr. Christie thanked the governor for the opportunity to serve on the board. Ms. Byrd also thanked the governor for the appointment to serve on the board and remised that she will not be able to work with Commissioner Corcoran. Vice Chair Gibson welcomed the two new board members and thanked former board member Marva Johnson for her work and dedication to the students of Florida also echoing the comments of member Petty. Ms. Brown thanked the Governor and Commissioner for all the hard work and great investments that are going into education and highlighted the work and partnership with the Department of Juvenile Justice and early learning. Chair Grady thanked those in attendance and wished Commissioner Corcoran and Bethany Swonson a bright future.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Chair Grady adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 11:10 A.M.

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Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

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Tom Grady, Chair