

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING**

August 17, 2022
Pensacola State College
Jean & Paul Amos Performance Studio (Bldg. 23)
1000 College Boulevard
Pensacola, FL 32504

Acting Chair Joe York called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Central Time and asked everyone to stand for the Presentation of Colors by Booker T. Washington High School ROTC and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem performed by Dasha Teelin, an Adjust Professor in Performing Arts at Pensacola State College. The following members were present: Ryan Petty and Esther Byrd with the remaining members via conference phone: Chair Tom Grady, Vice Chair Ben Gibson, Monesia Brown, and Grazie Christie.

Amending the agenda, Chair York moved the Commissioner's Report, update on Warrington Middle School, and Action Item 5 until called upon.

UPDATES

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

Chair York recognized Dr. Ed Meadows, President, Pensacola State College to welcome the board and provide an update on behalf on the Council of Presidents. Dr. Meadows thanked the board and recognized Dr. Troy Tippet, Chair, Pensacola State College-Board of Trustees to say a few words and welcome the board. Dr. Tippet thanked the board for coming to Pensacola State College and asked the board to help get equity for his employees in the Florida College System by adding that college system employees be included in the state health care system. Continuing, Dr. Meadows briefed the board on workforce education, stating that his college has a focus on teacher education and nursing; program accreditation; institutional accreditation; and retention of employees. Adding that through the Accelerate Florida Legislative Initiative the Council of Presidents will be working towards getting state funded health care for all their employees and families.

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

Chair York recognized William Husfelt, Superintendent, Bay County Schools to provide an update on behalf on the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. Mr. Husfelt thanked the board and stated that he believed that Florida was a national leader in both school safety and mental health initiatives, praising both the Governor and the Florida Legislature for their work. Adding that mental health and school safety are inextricably linked and it is imperative that these areas continue to be supported. Continuing, Mr. Husfelt echoed the comments of Dr. Tippet, asking for more support for workers in his district through state provided health insurance. The superintendent further commented on the main problem of his county and the state, qualified teacher shortage. Chair York opened the board for questions. Ms. Byrd asked about the teacher shortage and why teachers are resigning from their positions.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.0018, School Safety Requirements and Monitoring

Chair York recognized Bob Kochen, Vice Chancellor, Office of Safe Schools for an overview of the amendment to rule 6A-1.0018. Mr. Kochen thanked the board and explained that the proposed amendment to the rule includes a provision for safe school officers to complete crisis intervention training and undergo de-escalation training. As well as, requiring law enforcement presence for active assailant emergency drills, requirements for districts to use Fortify Florida, and clarifies that all members of a school-based threat assessment team must be involved in the threat assessment process and final decision making. Chair York called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-1.0018, School Safety Requirements and Monitoring. Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-1.094125, Special Magistrate for Unresolved Student Welfare Complaints

Chair York recognized Dr. Paul Burns, Deputy Chancellor, Educator Quality for an overview of new rule 6A-1.094125. Dr. Burns thanked the board and briefed them on the new rule stating that this rule is required by House Bill 1557 and will provide parents with a more expedient route for them to resolve certain disputes. Continuing, Dr. Burns added that prior to this rule, parents who believed their school or their district was in violation of the law could not seek administrative remedies beyond petitioning their principal or their local school board. Adding that this rule would address this limitation and would allow parents the opportunity to pursue a resolution from a special magistrate. Chair York opened the board for questions. Mr. Petty asked, once a special magistrate is appointed is someone assigned to advocate on behalf of the parent. Vice Chair Gibson asked how the department is communicating this rule out to parents. Chair York called for a motion to approve the Amendment to new rule 6A-1.094125, Special Magistrate for Unresolved Student Welfare Complaints. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-10.085, Field Trips, Extracurricular Activities, and Other Supplemental Programs and Activities

Chair York recognized Jacob Oliva, Senior Chancellor, Division of Public Schools to provide the board an overview of new rule 6A-10.085. Sr. Chancellor Oliva thanked the board and provided an overview of the new rule stating that the rule will set guidelines to keep parents fully informed of the details involving their children's school trips, extracurricular activities, and supplemental activities. Adding that this rule establishes requirements for permission slips to include: date of the trip, time, location of the trip, how students will be transported/ supervised and parental permission if a schools overnight lodging will not be separated by biological sex at birth. Chair York opened the board for questions. Dr. Christie asked if a parent opts not to have their child stay in a mixed sex setting what happens. Mr. Petty requested the Department of Education to collect any LGBTQ support guides given to students, teachers and staff including the Title II plans for each district. Chair York called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-10.085, Field Trips, Extracurricular Activities, and Other Supplemental Programs and Activities. Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Institutional Accrediting Agencies Research, Report and Recommendations for Florida College System Institutions

Chair York recognized Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System to provide an overview of the recommendations for accrediting agencies. Chancellor Hebda thanked the board and provided some background on the recommendation list. Stating that in 2020 the U.S. Department of Education changed the federal regulations, allowing institutions to be accredited outside of their normal geographic region. With the Florida legislature passing Senate Bill 7044 which implemented those provisions by providing flexibility in the number of accrediting agencies. Adding that a team was put together to research and report on accrediting agencies and comprised of Executive Vice Chancellor, Dr. Carrie Henderson and Vice Chancellor, Dr. Christie England from the Board of Governors along with a small team from the Florida College System and State University System that were tasked with looking at accrediting agencies procedures, with a focus on acceleration, Florida's 2+2 System, and student outcomes. Continuing, Chancellor Hebda stated that after the review the state decided on three accrediting agencies that are recommended and a guide for institution's to use when selecting their own agency. Chair York opened the board for public comment. Dr. Angela Falconetti, President, Polk State College thanked the board and addressed the new opportunities for colleges and universities to receive valuable feedback from peers, via authorized accreditation agencies regarding institutional integrity, teaching and learning process, programs and services. Mr. Stephenson, President, Northwest Florida State College thanked the board and the Department of Education for their diligence in vetting numerous accrediting agencies. Chair York called for a motion to approve the Institutional Accrediting Agencies Research, Report and Recommendations for Florida College System Institutions. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Amending the agenda Chair York recognized Manny Diaz Jr., Commissioner, Department of Education to provide the Commissioner's Report.

Commissioners Report

Commissioner Diaz thanked the board and provided a brief update on summer and the opening of schools. Stating that 1500 teachers took advantage of the Summer Literacy Institute, which helps prepare educators to implement literacy instruction as well as 3000 educators that attended the Summer of Civics Professional Learning Series, a voluntary three-day civics development course held in 10 locations across the state. Commissioner Diaz shared information regarding progress monitoring and teacher vacancies, adding that the department had 13,000 pending teacher applications and as of July 29 the department had cleared 11,000. Continuing Commissioner Diaz announced a teacher apprenticeship program, where individuals with 60 credits, will be able to be teach with a mentor-teacher in the class as well as bonuses for first responders and military personnel.

Commissioner Diaz then recognized Sam Ferguson, Executive Director, Commission for Independent Education for his years of service. Stating that Mr. Ferguson has served Florida since 1979, and in 1984, he was appointed to the State Board of Vocational Technical Trade Business Schools the predecessor to the Commission for Independent Education. Continuing, Commissioner Diaz recognized the 2023 Florida Teacher of the Year, Mellissa Matz, a 7th grade teacher at Lakeside Junior High School in Clay County.

Chair York called for a motion to approve the commissioner's report. Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair York then amended the agenda recognizing Dr. Burns to brief the board on the approval of amendment to Rules 6A-4.002, 6A-4.004 and 6A-4.0012.

Approval of Amendment to Rules 6A-4.002, General Provisions; 6A-4.004, Florida Educator's Certificates with Academic, Administrative, Degreed Career and Technical, and Specialty Class Coverages; and 6A-4.0012, Application Information

Dr. Burns thanked the board and provided a brief overview of the three rules regarding implementation of a new temporary teacher certification pathway for military veterans. Stating that in 2022 the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 896 which created the pathway for military veterans to earn a temporary educator certificate. Adding that there will be 12 certification pathways for veterans to obtain a professional certificate in Florida and that these temporary certificates are valid for five-years and may only be used once. Continuing, Dr. Burns outlined some of the additional changes made in the rules; such as, removing the requirement for a reservist to document active duty to be eligible and updating the STEM course list. With additional criteria being a minimum of 60 college credits, a 2.5 GPA, obtain a passing score on the subject area examination they will teach and have a cleared background screening. Dr. Burns added that to date, 215 veterans have applied for the certificate. Chair York opened the board for public comment, receiving three in support of the amendment to the rules. Chair York called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rules 6A-4.002, General Provisions; 6A-4.004, Florida Educator's Certificates with Academic, Administrative, Degreed Career and Technical, and Specialty Class Coverages; and 6A-4.0012, Application Information. Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-10.024, Articulation Between and Among Universities, Florida Colleges, and School Districts

Chair York recognized Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System to provide an overview of the amendment to Rule 6A-10.024, Articulation Between and Among Universities, Florida Colleges, and School Districts. Chancellor Hebda thanked the board and provided an update on the implementation of this rule stating the Articulation Coordinating Committee convened discipline committees in several occupational areas so our veterans can get credit without having to repeat classes. Chair York then called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule 6A-10.024, Articulation Between and Among Universities, Florida Colleges, and School Districts. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-10.0351, Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund

Chair York then recognized Kevin O'Farrell, Chancellor, Career and Adult Education for a brief overview of the next two rules, 6A-10.0351 and 6A-10.0352. Chancellor O'Farrell thanked the board and reminded them of the state's current nursing shortage. Stating that PIPELINE is designed to create a new incentive program for our postsecondary technical centers and Florida College System institutions. By providing performance funding for those particular institutions based on several criteria. Such as, the number of nursing program completers, those that have both the Practical Nurse and the Registered Nurse programs, as well as the first time National Council on State Boards of Nursing Licensing Exam (NCLEX) passage rate for nursing programs. Adding that in 2020 the legislature awarded \$20 million to districts for those programs and \$40 million to the Florida College System. Chair York called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-10.0351, Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund. Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-10.0352, Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund

Continuing, Chancellor O'Farrell stated that this rule was developed out of Senate Bill 2524, which creates an incentive for collaboration between our nursing education providers and health care partners. With the Florida Legislature appropriating \$19 million for LINE. Adding that funding can go to Florida College System institutions, school district career centers, independent nonprofit colleges or universities that meet the funding criteria. Which is if they have had a Certified Nursing Assistant Program (CNA), they have to have a 70 percent passage rate for the previous year. And if they have a PN or an RN program, their NCLEX passage rate for the last year has to be above 70 percent. Chair York called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-10.0352, Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund. Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6M-8.621, Program Assessment Requirements for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program

Chair York recognized Matt Mears, Chancellor, Division of Early Learning for an overview of new rule 6M-8.621, Program Assessment Requirements for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program. Chancellor Mears thanked the board and provided an overview of the new rule. Stating that this rule creates a class assessment for VPK which will provide teachers feedback on the quality of their classroom annually. Adding that VPK providers will get individual results from the assessment and will be supported by their early learning coalition and training resources; allowing the program to meet a minimum base of quality. Chair York called for a motion to approve new rule 6M-8.621, Program Assessment Requirements for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Mr. Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair York amended the agenda moving consent item 25, approval of amendment to Rule 6M-8.620, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring Program to action and recognized Matt Mears.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6M-8.620, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring Program

Continuing, Chancellor Mears provided an overview of the VPK Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring Program. Stating that this progress monitoring tool allows parents, providers, and coalition stakeholders, real time feedback on how each child is progressing. This program will begin at VPK level and continue through coordinated screening progress monitoring. Chair York opened the board for public comment. Mr. Fetsko thanked the board for the opportunity to speak and commented on the quality of VPK providers to prevent schools from going into turnaround. Chair York called for a motion to approve amendment to Rule 6M-8.620, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring Program. Mr. Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair York then amended the agenda calling for the update on Warrington Middle School.

Warrington Middle School

Chair York recognized Dr. Tim Smith, Superintendent, Escambia County Schools to brief the board on Warrington Middle School. Superintendent Smith thanked the board for coming to Escambia County and began by stating that Warrington Middle School is due to be converted to a Charter K-8 school in the

coming school year run by Charter Schools USA. With a district goal of developing a strong partnership with Charter Schools USA, to be interactive, and to support them, while they provide excellent educational opportunities for students in the Warrington zone. Continuing, Superintendent Smith thanked the board for allowing the district to operate the school for another year which will allow for comprehensive management talks with Charter Schools USA. Chair York opened the board for questions. Mr. Petty asked with Warrington Middle being changed to a K-8 school, how that will impact the feeder schools in the same area. Mr. Petty asked how far into negotiations is the district with Charter Schools USA and if the school's principal was changed from the prior year. Ms. Byrd asked if the district has had a chance to discuss its conversion plans with the new commissioner. Chair Grady asked if there are any teacher prep programs in the area that can provide additional overlap and assistance. Ms. Brown commented on her excitement for the plan. Chair York asked if the number of feeder schools surrounding Warrington Middle School was comparable to other areas.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair York opened the board for member comments. Dr. Christie thanked the board and commented on her excitement over the outreach to military veterans and the increasing parental rights in education. Ms. Brown thanked the board for asking questions about the process of rules, helping the public to understand what those rules do and their intent. Vice Chair Gibson thanked the board and echoed the comments of his fellow members. Chair Grady thanked the board and reminded them that they are having a real impact on kids' lives. Mr. Petty thanked Chair York for his great work throughout the meeting and reiterated his request for LGBTQ and Title II plan documents. Ms. Byrd thanked the board and department staff for all the hard work in preparing rules and meetings. Chair York thanked Escambia County and Pensacola State College for hosting the meeting and remarked on the transparency of parental rights in school.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Grady adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 12:07 P.M. CST.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Joe York, Chair