

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING**

October 18, 2023
Caribe Royale Orlando
8101 World Center Drive
Grand Sierra Ballroom D
Orlando, FL 32821

Chair Ben Gibson called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., the following members were present: Vice Chair Ryan Petty, Monesia Brown, Grazie P. Christie, Kelly Garcia, and MaryLynn Magar. Chair Gibson recognized Haley Malone, Managing Director of Adult Groups at First Baptist Church Orlando 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 mentioned that Florida recently received the number one ranking for education under Governor DeSantis' leadership, particularly in terms of educational freedom. Commissioner Diaz discussed the Teacher Apprenticeship Program, a new pathway for individuals with an associate degree to enter the teaching profession and highlighted the significant growth in apprenticeship programs and the increasing need for workforce education, especially in industries like broadband. Adding that House Bill 1, aims to expand educational choice for every student in Florida including private schools. Continuing, Commissioner Diaz stated that the Department is finalizing recommendations to reduce regulations in public schools, focusing on those that do not directly support student learning, adding that in accountability, the State Board is considering cut scores for achievement levels in English Language Arts and mathematics assessments, as well as end-of-course assessments in Algebra and Geometry. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the Commissioner's Report. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to delegate the State Board's authority to the Commissioner to develop and report to the Governor and legislature regarding repeals and revisions to the Florida Early Learning Education Code, Chapters 1000 to 1013, to reduce regulation of public schools. Vice Chair Petty requested the report be sent to the members. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Minutes from July 19 and August 23 meetings

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 19 and August 23 meetings. Ms. Brown made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates

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

Chair Gibson recognized Frederick Heid, Superintendent, Polk County, to brief the board on behalf of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. Superintendent Heid thanked the board and acknowledged the crucial role of superintendents and district staff in supporting students and families during hurricanes. Stating that hurricane support and recovery, such as the decision to close schools and the challenges of mobilizing staff from neighboring counties can be quite complex. Continuing, Superintendent Heid also commended the district's efforts to provide support to other counties after the storm and the state's role in prioritizing power restoration for schools. He shared plans to purchase large-scale generators to assist other counties post-storm. Concluding, Superintendent Heid mentioned ongoing initiatives, such as, improving student safety, expanding magnet programs, and implementing walk-through metal detectors in 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 of the Council of Presidents. Dr. Meadows thanked the board and introduced Heather Bigard, President, Lake Sumter State College who assisted in writing the update. Continuing, President Meadows provided an overview of the Florida College System's accomplishments and ongoing initiatives. He began by emphasizing the system's strong return on investment, detailing how it has trained over 7,000 nurses annually and offers over 200 career certificates. Dr. Meadows highlighted the substantial financial benefit the system offers to the state's economy, with a return of \$15.42 for every dollar invested. Pointing out that 90 percent of students who receive workforce certificates are either employed or continuing their education, underscoring the value the Florida College System brings to the state. He expressed gratitude for Commissioner Diaz's support and urged the adoption of the Florida College System budget by the legislature.

Additionally, Dr. Meadows detailed the system's active partnerships with businesses, industries, technical colleges, and higher education institutions, showcasing examples like the collaboration between Valencia College, Lockheed Martin, and the American Center for Optics Manufacturing. He also mentioned the importance of expanding access to the state health insurance plan for college employees to improve retention. Dr. Meadows concluded by highlighting the system's achievements and qualitative aspects, such as North Florida College's ranking as the second top public school overall. He praised the colleges' resilience during crises, like the recent storm, where they served as a pivotal community hub for those affected.

Warrington Preparatory Academy, Escambia County

Chair Gibson recognized Adam Emerson, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, to introduce the next item. Mr. Emerson thanked the board and recognized Eddie Ruiz, State Superintendent, Charter Schools USA, to provide the board an update on Warrington Preparatory Academy. Mr. Ruiz thanked the board and introduced two colleagues that have been working with Warrington Preparatory Academy: Rita Weaver, Senior Director, Board Governance and Tracy Sachs, Director, School Support. Mr. Ruiz then discussed the progress made in the 118 days since assuming operations, highlighting the focus on creating a culture of high expectations, facility renovations, human resources and staffing, student enrollment, career readiness initiatives, community events, and partnerships. Mr. Ruiz added that facility improvements included a \$1.8 million renovation and reported a 92 percent fill rate for staffing positions. Mr. Ruiz described the enrollment at Warrington, stating that it serves 584 students, having 205 sixth graders, 189 seventh graders and 190 eighth graders. Adding

that 75 percent of students at Warrington have free or reduced lunch, and 28 percent of students identified as ESE.

Continuing, Mr. Ruiz briefed the board on career readiness at Warrington stating that a strong emphasis is placed on preparing students for future careers through comprehensive career readiness initiatives. Adding that the school has introduced two MagLabs and expects students to complete two career certifications by the end of the year, focusing on digital literacy, cyber responsibility, and proficiency in key software applications. Mr. Ruiz added that the school plans to expand its career readiness program, incorporating certifications in aerial and underwater drone piloting in the upcoming year. Community events, such as student orientation, Parent University, and Star Student Celebration, aim to involve parents. Partnerships with the U.S. Navy and Department of Defense along with efforts to secure a Purple Star designation. Chair Gibson opened the board for questions. Dr. Christie asked about Parent University and what will the parents be learning in the coming sessions. Ms. Garcia asked when will the first achievement results be available and if they can be reported to the board.

Action Items

Chair Gibson then amended the agenda, moving Action Item 15, Approval of New Rule 6A-6.0792, Charter School Review Commission to be the first action item.

Approval of New Rule 6A-6.0792, Charter School Review Commission

Chair Gibson recognized Adam Emerson, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, to brief the board on new rule 6A-6.0792, Charter School Review Commission. Mr. Emerson thanked the board and presented an amendment to the amendment. Continuing, Mr. Emerson discussed the rule, stating that it was established by the legislature within the Department of Education. Mr. Emerson added that the Charter School Review Commission has powers similar to a charter school sponsor and consists of seven members appointed by the State Board of Education and confirmed by the Senate. Its sole responsibility is to review and approve charter school applications. The rule outlines the application review process, workflow, and timeline for the Commission's work. If an application is approved, it is then handed over to a school district for sponsorship, negotiation of a charter contract, and ongoing monitoring.

Commissioner Diaz then provided some legislative background, stating that the aim is to streamline the process for successful charter operators, including national ones, to enter the state. Adding that the Review Commission facilitates applications from operators across multiple counties, reducing bureaucracy and attracting operators to areas with high needs. With the goal to maintain high-quality charter schools while increasing accessibility and choice in areas requiring more educational options. Chair Gibson opened the board for questions. Ms. Magar asked if an operator wanted to enter multiple school districts, would the application be uniform across all the different district. Ms. Brown asked if the State Board of Education receives reports from the commission on their work. Vice Chair Petty asked if there was a legislative review already in place in the rule. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-6.0792, Charter School Review Commission. Ms. Christie made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to the new rule 6A-6.0792, Charter School Review Commission. Ms. Brown made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Gibson recognized Juan Copa, Deputy Commissioner, Accountability Research and Measurement, to present rule 6A-1.09422, Statewide, Standardized Assessment Program Requirements. Mr. Copa thanked the board and provided a brief update on the rule. Stating that the purpose of the rule is to establish the performance standards for new assessments that were implemented during the 2022-2023 school year. The assessments include the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), in English Language Arts and Mathematics, as well as end-of-course assessments in Algebra one and Geometry to align with BEST standards. Mr. Copa explained that Commissioner Diaz submitted the recommended cut scores to the legislature 45 days prior to the State Board's scheduled adoption, complying with statutory requirements. Mr. Copa added that cut scores provide students and families with a clear picture of academic readiness and considers the input of educators and stakeholders. Continuing, Mr. Copa detailed the timeline of the amendment, starting with the passage of Senate Bill 1048 in March 2022, which replaced traditional assessments with the FAST progress-monitoring system. Followed by the educator panel and reactor panel, consisting of stakeholders that contributed to setting the cut scores.

Concluding, Mr. Copa compared the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results to the updated cut scores and highlighted the more rigorous nature of Florida's proficiency level compared to NAEP's. Adding that the new cut scores, if approved, will be reported during the FAST Progress Monitoring System window (PM2), with existing scores unaffected. Only students taking the assessments for the first time after the adoption of cut scores will be subject to the new standards. Chair Gibson opened the board for questions. Ms. Brown asked if there is a difference in scores between districts that test before winter break verses after winter break. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-1.09422, Statewide, Standardized Assessment Program Requirements. Ms. Brown made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09981, School and District Accountability

Chair Gibson recognized Juan Copa to provide the board a brief update on the amendment to rule 6A-1.09981, School and District Accountability. Mr. Copa thanked the board and stated that the amendment incorporates changes from the 2022 and 2023 legislative sessions. Adding that the first change, from 2022, outlines a transition schedule for school grades, with the 22-23 school year serving as an informational baseline. The second change, from 2023, adds a component to school grades focusing on English Language Arts performance for Grade-3 students starting in the current school year. Mr. Copa added the amendment emphasizes the importance of third-grade English Language Arts performance due to its impact on long-term academic outcomes. Chair Gibson call for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-1.09981, School and District Accountability. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.0571, Career and Technical Education and Adult General Education Standards and Industry-Driven Benchmarks

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Kevin O'Farrell, Chancellor, Career and Adult Education to provide the board an overview of the amendment to rule 6A-6.0571, Career and Technical Education and Adult General Education Standards and Industry-Driven Benchmarks. Chancellor O'Farrell thanked the board and provided an update on rule 6A-6.0571, emphasizing its role in advancing Florida as the leading state in

workforce education by 2030. Chancellor O'Farrell stated the focus is on the semiconductor industry, crucial for microchip production used in various devices. Adding that the adoption of new frameworks, including an AS degree in Semiconductor Engineering Technology and a college credit certificate in Semiconductor Cleanroom Operator, aims to meet industry demand and offer opportunities for in-demand, high-wage occupations. The frameworks allow educational agencies to implement these programs, fostering educational pathways, including potential progression to a baccalaureate degree. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-6.0571, Career and Technical Education and Adult General Education Standards and Industry-Driven Benchmarks. Ms. Garcia made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6E-7.001, Designation of Restrooms and Changing Facilities in Private Post Secondary Educational Facilities

Chair Gibson recognized Tiffany Hurst, Executive Director, Commission for Independent Education, to provide an overview of new rule 6E-7.001, Designation of Restrooms and Changing Facilities in Private Post Secondary Educational Facilities. Ms. Hurst thanked the board and stated that new rule 6E-7.001 was established in accordance with House Bill 1521, passed by the Florida Legislature in the 2023 session. Adding that this rule, specific to the Commission for Independent Education, updates regulations regarding the designation of restrooms and changing facilities for males, females, or unisex use. Colleges and universities under the commission must verify compliance by April 1, 2024, using a specified form. Institutions established after July 1, 2023, have one year to comply. Continuing, Ms. Hurst added that the rule also mandates updates to handbooks, disciplinary procedures, and codes of conduct to align with the statute. Additionally, institutions must establish disciplinary policies for personnel violating the statutes. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new rule 6E-7.001, Designation of Restrooms and Changing Facilities in Private Post Secondary Educational Facilities. Dr. Christie made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

New Bachelor Degree Program - Palm Beach State College Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Chair Gibson recognized Ava Parker, President, Palm Beach State College, for an overview of the proposed Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging. Edward Wiley, Dean, Health Sciences - Palm Beach State College, thanked the board and explained that President Parker is away and unable to make the meeting. Continuing, Mr. Wiley proposed the Bachelor of Science Degree in Medical Imaging, stating that the program has been in development for years and will build upon existing Associate in Science (AS) degree programs in fields like nuclear medicine, radiology, sonography, radiation therapy, and interventional radiology. Mr. Wiley added that the AS programs have a longstanding history at Palm Beach State College and the proposed program has received support from clinical partners and features input from advisory councils, as well as a letter of support from Florida Atlantic University's Medical School. Concluding Mr. Wiley, added the program aims to address shortages in various medical imaging career paths and provide opportunities for advancement in practice, supervision, management, hospital administration, and education. Chair Gibson opened the board for comments. Dr. Christie and Ms. Magar both expressed their excitement for the new degree program. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the Bachelor of Science degree program at Palm Beach State College in Medical Imaging. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

New Bachelor Degree Program – St. Johns River State College Proposal for a Bachelor of Applied Science in Information Systems Technology

Chair Gibson recognized Joe Pickens, President, St. Johns River State College, for an overview of the proposed Bachelor of Applied Science in Information Systems Technology. Melanie Brown, Senior Vice President and Provost, St. Johns River State College thanked the board and explained the President Pickens couldn't attend due to a Board of Trustees meeting. Continuing, Ms. Brown stated that the aim of the new degree program is to responsibly expand its program offerings in response to community needs for graduates skilled in computer networking, cybersecurity, and applications and programming. Ms. Brown added the program has concentrations in cybersecurity and software application development and consists of 120 semester credits, offers articulation pathways for both AA and AS students and accommodates non-traditional students through a combination of online and face-to-face courses. Concluding Ms. Brown added that the program addresses challenges faced by employers in hiring qualified information systems professionals. With job growth in related occupations projected to exceed 27 percent by 2029, with an average salary of \$48 per hour. The proposal is backed by research, collaboration with business partners, advisory board members, and neighboring institutions. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the Bachelor of Applied Science degree program at St. Johns River State College in Information Systems Technology. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-7.0714, Library and Instructional Materials Objection Report

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Paul O. Burns, Chancellor, Division of Public Schools for a brief update on the amendment to rule 6A-7.0714, Library and Instructional Materials Objection Report. Chancellor Burns thanked the board and stated that the rule was originally adopted in May 2023, the rule aimed to guide school districts in reporting materials objected to by parents or residents, facilitating the Department of Education's annual objection report. The amendment aligns the rule with changes from House Bill 1069 in the 2023 legislative session. It introduces a statewide material objection template, updating the existing form to include additional bases for objections, thus enhancing protection against inappropriate materials. Dr. Burns added that the template can be used by parents or residents in accordance with district policies, ensuring transparency and maintaining parental involvement in their child's education. The amendment aims to balance the protection of students from inappropriate content while keeping parents engaged in their children's education. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the Amendment to Rule 6A-7.0714, Library and Instructional Materials Objection Report. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. Chair Gibson opened the board for questions. Dr. Christie asked if parents are taking advantage of this rule and if it is what the department expected. Chair Gibson asked if there was any feedback during rulemaking from parents or stakeholders. Ms. Garcia asked if the form is identical statewide and if the Department receives a report on materials being disputed. Vice Chair Petty asked if the Department provides guidance to districts on where to place the form on their websites. Chair Gibson asked if there was anything that would prevent the Department from compiling all the district forms and adding them to the Department's website. Commissioner Diaz then instructed Chancellor Burns to work with General Counsel to research the feasibility of adding the district forms. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.0791, Special Magistrate for Unresolved Student Welfare Complaints at Charter Schools

Chair Gibson recognized Adam Emerson, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, to provide an overview of the amendment to rule 6A-6.0791, Special Magistrate for Unresolved Student Welfare Complaints at Charter Schools. Mr. Emerson thanked the board and stated

that the focus of the rule is on amending the language in the form used by parents to request a special magistrate, reflecting the prohibition of classroom instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in grades Pre-K through 8 and specifying standards for grades 9 through 12, in line with the changes in House Bill 1069. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-6.0791, Special Magistrate for Unresolved Student Welfare Complaints at Charter Schools. Ms. Brown made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rules 6A-4.0012, Application Information 6A-4.004, Florida Educator's Certificates with Academic, Administrative, Degreed Career and Technical, and Specialty Class Coverages and New Rule 6A-5.067, Teacher Apprenticeship Program

Chair Gibson recognized Chancellor Burns to provide the board an overview of the amendment to rules 6A-4.0012, Application Information 6A-4.004, Florida Educator's Certificates with Academic, Administrative, Degreed Career and Technical, and Specialty Class Coverages and new rule 6A-5.067, Teacher Apprenticeship Program. Chancellor Burns thanked the board and stated that the amendments are aimed at supporting teacher recruitment and retention. With new rule 6A-5.067 outlining the requirements for the Teacher Apprenticeship Program, established in House Bill 1035 during the 2023 legislative session. Continuing Chancellor Burns added the program seeks to address teacher vacancies and provides a pathway for individuals to pursue teaching while gaining on-the-job experience under the guidance of a qualified mentor. Adding that institutions of higher education apply for state funding, and approved districts or charter schools partner with them to build the apprenticeship program. The apprentices, meeting specific criteria, undergo on-the-job training with a mentor-teacher, aiming to complete the program with a bachelor's degree and obtain a professional certificate. The program includes bonuses for mentors and aims to offer a tuition-free baccalaureate degree for apprentices working in the classroom. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rules 6A-4.0012, Application Information and 6A-4.004, Florida Educator's Certificates with Academic, Administrative, Degreed Career and Technical, and Specialty Class Coverages. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-5.067, Teacher Apprenticeship Program. Dr. Christie made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rules 6M-8.620, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring Program and 6M-8.621, Program Assessment Requirements for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program

Chair Gibson recognized Cari Miller, Chancellor, Division of Early Learning, to brief the board on the amendment to rules 6M-8.620, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring Program and 6M-8.621, Program Assessment Requirements for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program. Chancellor Miller thanked the board and discussed the proposed amendment to rule 6M-8.620 stating that it addresses the coordinated screening and progress-monitoring system (FAST) and proposes changes based on lessons learned from the initial year of administration, such as, adjusting test administration time frames for non-traditional and summer VPK programs, requiring annual training for test administrators, allowing flexibility in device use for responses, and clarifying Early Learning Coalition responsibilities. Continuing, Chancellor Miller stated that rule 6M-8.621 focuses on program assessment using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) observation tool for teacher-child interactions. Adding that the proposed changes aim to enhance the administration of CLASS by clarifying who must be present during assessments, extending the time for entering scores and notes, allowing the sharing of results with observed personnel, and

streamlining procedures for providers offering both VPK and School Readiness programs. Concluding, Chancellor Miller stated that the overarching goal is to ensure high-quality childcare, improve emergent literacy and math skills, and prepare children for kindergarten. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6M-8.620, Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring Program. Dr. Christie made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6M-8.621, Program Assessment Requirements for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program. Dr. Garcia made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. 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. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Comments

Chair Gibson opened the board for member comments and recognized Ms. Garcia. Ms. Garcia expressed her appreciation to the Department for coordinating the meeting and commended the approval of two workforce education programs, the establishment of 14 pathways for teacher certification, and progress in monitoring students using real-time data. Dr. Christie highlighted the significant strides made in advancing Florida's education system, particularly in maintaining a focus on school choice and raising expectations for students. Noting the positive impact of increased school choice options. Ms. Magar expressed her gratitude to the staff and chancellors for their thorough preparation for the meeting and briefly shared her experience visiting a new charter school, Indiantown, highlighting its rapid establishment and focus on workforce education. Ms. Brown highlighted the collaboration between the state college system and public secondary institutions, emphasizing the joint effort to meet community needs and praised the innovative approach in dealing with schools like Warrington, expressing excitement about the progress made and the potential for positive changes in education programs. Vice Chair Petty discussed his excitement for apprentice programs, particularly in broadband workforce development, and highlighted the significance of technology, semiconductors, and innovation in rural and urban Florida. He recognized the apprenticeship program for teachers as an exciting initiative to enhance the quality of educators in schools, emphasizing Florida's trailblazing approach. Chair Gibson echoed the comments of his fellow board members and expressed pride in the commitment to school choice and rigorous standards. Chair Gibson then condemned the violence by Hamas terrorists in the Middle East, and commended Florida's leaders for their moral clarity, and emphasized the state's support for Israel.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Gibson adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 12:48 P.M. EST.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Ben Gibson, Chair