

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING

April 29, 2022
Capitol Complex, Room LL03
400 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Chair Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members were present: Vice Chair Ben Gibson, Monesia Brown, Esther Byrd, and Joe York with the following members via phone: Grazie P. Christie and Ryan Petty.

ACTION ITEM

Consideration of the Appointment of Commissioner of Education

Chair Grady recognized Anastasios Kamoutsas, Interim Chief of Staff and General Counsel to introduce the item. Mr. Kamoutsas thanked the board and briefed them on the role of the board in selecting a new commissioner. Stating that the board has the sole authority to appoint a commissioner according to Florida Statute, Article 9 Section 2.

Chair Grady called for a motion to consider the governor's recommendation for Senator Manny Diaz, Jr. to be the next Commissioner of Education. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Grady opened the board for public comment with 16 individuals speaking in support of Senator Diaz.

Chair Grady then recognized Senator Manny Diaz, Jr. to answer member questions. Senator Diaz thanked the board and governor for their support and consideration in choosing him to lead the department. Chair Grady opened the board for questions. Ms. Brown asked about his experience as a coach and how that would correlate to his leadership in the department. Vice Chair Gibson followed asking how Senator Diaz will build his team and about his leadership styles. Mr. Petty asked how Senator Diaz makes his priority list and how he drives those initiatives. Dr. Christie shared her excitement to work with Senator Diaz.

Chair Grady made a motion to appoint the governor's recommendation for Senator Manny Diaz, Jr. to be the next Commissioner of Education with a second by Mr. York. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Grady called for a motion to appoint Jacob Oliva as Interim Commissioner of Education from May 2 through May 31. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Grady called for a motion to authorize himself to work with the Commissioner Diaz in finalizing the details of his employment. Mr. York made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Grady adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 11:50 A.M.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Tom Grady, Chair