

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Update

April 19, 2023

SUBJECT: K-12 Public Schools – Senator Montford on behalf of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

N/A

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An update will be provided by Senator William “Bill” Montford, Chief Executive Officer of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) and former Superintendent of Leon County Public Schools.

The primary purpose of a school is to educate and prepare our children to be productive members of society, but we cannot do that unless we first make sure that we provide them with a safe learning environment. There is nothing that any of the district school superintendents take more seriously than the mental and physical safety of their students. Toward that end, FADSS has maintained an excellent working relationship with the Department’s Office of Safe Schools over the years, and we are always looking for ways to build upon that relationship in our desire to provide districts with all the tools they need to keep their schools as safe as they can be. One such area of improvement we identified, at the suggestion of Commissioner Diaz, was bringing together the different school safety specialists from each district to enhance their training and allow them to work together to share best practices.

Thus, this year, FADSS is helping the school safety specialists create their own association, the Florida Association of School Safety Specialists or FS3, which will kick off with a three-day training event in Orlando. FADSS has dedicated its personnel and resources to the creation of this association and new conference, and we have done so in collaboration with the Office of Safe Schools. We are very excited about the opportunities to enhance the safety and well-being of our students and staff that this association, its annual training conferences, and the collective force of all the school safety specialists working together will bring to this great state.

Finally, it is also good to see the Department’s and this board’s continued commitment to school safety. At the last meeting of the State Board, it adopted amendments to Rule 6A-1.0018, which should take effect before the end of the month, to bring some balance to the schools’ mission to provide a safe learning environment without overburdening students with too many drills. Reducing the number of drills but increasing their effectiveness was a wise decision and demonstrated this state’s commitment to providing students with safe spaces to obtain a 21st Century education.

Supporting Documentation Included: N/A

Facilitator/Presenter: Senator William Montford, Chief Executive Officer, Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS)