

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING

August 23, 2023

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

Chair Ben Gibson called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., the following members were present: Vice Chair Ryan Petty, Esther Byrd, MaryLynn Magar, Monesia Brown, Kelly Garcia and Grazie P. Christie via conference phone. Chair Gibson recognized Father Orsi, to deliver an invocation and asked the crowd to remain standing for the presentation of the colors by the Barron Collier High School JROTC and the National Anthem performed by the Barron Collier High School Choir.

Chair Gibson recognize Dr. Leslie Ricciardelli, Superintendent, Collier County to welcome the board and provide an update on behalf of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS). Superintendent Ricciardelli thanked the board and welcomed the State Board of Education to Collier County. She highlighted the district's achievements, including its A-rated system since 2017, the opening of Aubrey Rogers High School without debt, and district plans to be debt-free by 2026. Superintendent Ricciardelli discussed the diverse student demographics and resilience in the face of hurricanes Irma and Ian. She praised the academic performance of Collier County students, mentioning their success in spring assessments, graduation rates, and acknowledged efforts to recruit and retain teachers while emphasizing the district's focus on preparing students for college and careers.

Commissioners Report

Chair Gibson recognized Manny Diaz Jr., Commissioner, Department of Education to present the Commissioners Report. Commissioner Diaz thanked the board and Superintendent Ricciardelli for hosting the State Board of Education. Commissioner Diaz commended the efforts of Collier County Public Schools, particularly their commitment to providing opportunities for all students, whether they are advancing academically or pursuing career paths. Continuing, Commissioner Diaz emphasized that the safety of students is a top priority and discussed the Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Model, a statewide threat assessment process. Commissioner Diaz also highlighted rules aimed at enhancing student safety, such as addressing bathroom and changing facilities in private schools, and updates to the definition of gross immorality and acts of moral turpitude.

Commissioner Diaz addressed the issue of teacher vacancies, stating that there were 4,776 teacher vacancies in Florida as of the first day of school, which represented a nearly ten percent decrease from the previous year when there were 5,208 vacancies. Commissioner Diaz then explained efforts to recruit and retain high-quality teachers, including extending temporary certification times and implementing recruitment initiatives. He also emphasized the importance of investing in teacher salaries and supporting education. Concluding, Commissioner Diaz discussed the Legislative Budget Request for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, emphasizing the need for appropriate funding to maintain Florida's status as the number one state in education. Chair Gibson opened the board for questions. Vice Chair Petty thanked the Commissioner for his report and thanked the Department for all the extra work in teacher certifications. Chair Gibson echoed this comment. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the commissioners report. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates

College System – President Allbritton on behalf of the Council of Presidents

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Jeffrey Albritton, President, Florida SouthWestern (FSW) State College, for a brief update on behalf on the Council of Presidents. Dr. Albritton thanked the board and highlighted FSW's role as the oldest and largest institution of higher education in southwest Florida and its significant contributions to the community. Sharing some notable achievements of FSW, including their success in sports, such as three consecutive division one softball championships and the 2022 national volleyball champion. Dr. Albritton also mentioned partnerships and investments, including a \$2 million investment from the Ritz Family Foundation for the Ritz Cyber Institute and a \$1 million donation from the Kauffman Foundation to expand nursing programs.

Dr. Albritton then highlighted the achievements and initiatives of Florida's colleges, including their recognition in various fields, such as teacher preparation, electric vehicle technology, and online bachelor's programs. He expressed gratitude for the historic allocation and support from the House, Senate, and Governor for the Florida College system. Dr. Albritton celebrated Florida's ranking as the number one state for education and outlined the implementation of the Accelerate Florida Plan, which aims to create pathways for students and contribute to the state's economy.

Warrington Preparatory Academy, Escambia County

Chair Gibson recognized Adam Emerson, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, for an update on Warrington Preparatory Academy in Escambia County. Mr. Emerson thanked the board and provided an update on Warrington Preparatory Academy, highlighting the positive changes and progress made at the school. Mentioning that during a recent visit, he observed signs of transformation in the school's culture, such as students wearing uniforms and being referred to as scholars. With the campus undergoing a significant cleanup, with new floors, fresh paint, and renovated rooms. Students were provided with new iMacs and iPads. The school also improved its facilities by deep cleaning and renovating bathrooms and enhancing landscaping. The kitchen received substantial upgrades, including hiring an executive chef to prepare fresh and warm foods, creating an environment resembling a restaurant.

Continuing, Mr. Emerson briefed the board on instructional vacancies, stating that the school has filled most positions, with a few vacancies remaining in English Language Arts and math. Adding that enrollment is steady, with approximately 600 students in the system. Mr. Emerson noted that about 30% of the instructional team from the previous year was retained, and new teachers were hired from both Florida and Alabama. Commissioner Diaz then asked that an update on Warrington Preparatory Academy be provided at each board meeting.

Action Items

Approval of the 2024-25 Education Operating and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Request

Chair Gibson recognized Suzanne Pridgeon, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Operations to provide the board an overview of the 2024-25 Education Operating and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Request.

Ms. Pridgeon thanked the board and presented the proposed 2024-25 Legislative Budget Request. Stating that the budget request amounts to approximately \$26.6 billion, with \$24.6 billion allocated for operating expenses and \$1.9 billion for Fixed Capital Outlay, representing a \$120 million increase from the current fiscal year. Ms. Pridgeon highlighted some key priorities and initiatives including: school safety, with \$5 million for district threat management coordinators, \$40 million for the Schools of Hope Program, and \$6.4 million for Alyssa's Alert to enhance emergency response systems; teacher recruitment and retention, including \$45 million for the Florida Civics Seal of Excellence, \$20 million for teacher professional development, recruitment, and bonuses, and \$10 million for computer science certification and teacher bonuses; early learning, including a 5% increase in the base student allocation for the VPK program, a \$6 million Summer Bridge Program to prepare VPK students for kindergarten, and \$77 million for school readiness expansion; workforce education, including \$100 million for the Florida College System Program fund, \$5 million for the State Apprenticeship Program, and \$100 million for the Workforce Development Capitalization Grant Program. Concluding, Ms. Pridgeon highlighted the significant increases in funding for various programs and emphasized the department's commitment to enhancing school safety, supporting teachers, and providing quality education and workforce opportunities. Chair Gibson opened the board for questions. Ms. Brown thanked the department and Ms. Pridgeon for all the work that goes in to the proposal and expressed her excitement at the investments in early learning. Vice Chair Petty commended the Department's dedication to school safety and the efforts to strengthen threat management capabilities in Florida schools. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the 2024-25 Education Operating and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Request. Ms. Brown made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

New Bachelor Degree Program – Valencia College Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Administration

Chair Gibson recognized Kathleen Plinske, President, Valencia College to provide the board an overview of the proposed Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Safety Administration. Dr. Plinske thanked the board and presented Valencia Colleges' Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Safety Administration. Dr. Plinske highlighted the growing needs of public safety officers, including police, fire, and corrections personnel, within Orange and Osceola counties due to population growth. Adding that a significant number of professionals in these fields lack a bachelor's degree, and a substantial portion expressed interest in pursuing one. Dr. Plinske then recognized Lovetta Quinn Henry, Deputy Chief, Orlando Police Department.

Ms. Henry thanked the board and Dr. Plinske and emphasized the importance of this bachelor's degree in ensuring that the profession of public safety is left in capable hands. She explained that it would provide opportunities for individuals to serve in leadership roles within law enforcement agencies, particularly as the city of Orlando continues to experience rapid growth. Concluding, Ms. Henry expressed her support for the program, emphasizing its necessity in preparing the next generation of leaders in public safety. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Safety Administration for Valencia College. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. 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; 6A-4.0051, Renewal and Reinstatement of a Professional Certificate; and 6A-5.066, Approval of Teacher Preparation Programs

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Paul O. Burns, Chancellor, Division of Public Schools to provide the board an overview on the next eight agenda items and combined the next three agenda items to be presented together. Dr. Burns thanked the board and presented rules 6A-4.0012, 6A-4.004, 6A-4.0051, and 6A-5.066 related to educator preparation programs and educator certification. Stating that these amendments are in response to recent legislative changes aimed at improving teacher recruitment and retention in Florida. The amendments include: changing the name of professional development certification programs (PDCPs) to professional learning certification programs (PLCPs); revising the uniform core curricula for teacher preparation programs to reduce redundant requirements in alternative certification pathways; requiring that reading instruction in teacher preparation programs be grounded in the science of reading; establishing a new five-year temporary internship certificate to provide an additional pathway for educators to enter the classroom; and waiving initial certification fees for retired first responders to encourage them to pursue careers in education. Concluding, Dr. Burns emphasized that these rule changes aim to reduce barriers to certification, increase the teacher pipeline in Florida, and improve educator quality. He also shared statistics highlighting the decrease in teacher vacancies in Florida schools compared to the previous year, showcasing the impact of these efforts on teacher recruitment and retention.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve 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. Brown made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve rule 6A-4.0051, Renewal and Reinstatement of a Professional Certificate. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve rule 6A-5.066, Approval of Teacher Preparation Programs. Ms. Brown made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rules 6A-6.0531, Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence (RAISE); and New Rule 6A-6.0533, Determining Substantial Math Deficiency

Chair Gibson combined action items 9 and 10 and recognized Dr. Burns to provide the board an overview of proposed rules 6A-6.0531 and 6A-6.0533. Dr. Burns thanked the board and presented two rules related to student achievement. Stating that the first rule, 6A-6.0531, focuses on improving literacy in schools that need it the most by providing additional support to struggling readers. It also allows eligible students to participate in the RAISE high school tutoring program. Continuing, Dr. Burns stated that the second rule is new and aimed at identifying students in grades K-4 with substantial math deficiencies and provides them with tailored support and interventions. Dr. Burns added that these rules are in response to legislative changes from House Bills 5101 and 7039 from the 2023 legislative session and emphasize evidence-based reading and math instruction that is grounded in the science of reading and mathematics to improve student achievement. Chair Gibson opened the board for questions. Ms. Brown asked what happens once a student has been identified as needing additional support. Ms. Magar asked who will have access to the data and how will it be tracked. Vice Chair petty asked how quick resources are provided once a student is identified. Chair Gibson opened the board for public comment. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve rule 6A-6.0531, Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence (RAISE). Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-6.0533, Determining

Substantial Math Deficiency. Ms. Brown made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-1.094126, Special Magistrate for Materials Used in Classroom or School Libraries; and Rule 6A-1.094125, Special Magistrate for Unresolved Student Welfare Complaints

Chair Gibson combined action items 11 and 12 and recognized Dr. Burns to provide the board an overview of proposed rules 6A-1.094125 and 6A-1.094126. Dr. Burns thanked the board and provided an overview of rule 6A-1.094125 regarding the appointment of a Special Magistrate for resolving disputes related to sexual orientation/gender identity instruction. Stating that the rule aims to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of Florida students while protecting parental rights and allows a parent to request a Special Magistrate's appointment if they disagree with local decisions regarding unresolved student welfare complaints. Continuing, Dr. Burns stated that new rule, 6A-1.094126 was prompted by House Bill 1069 and permits parents to request a Special Magistrate's appointment if they object to classroom materials, school library content, or reading lists. Parents are required to attempt to resolve the issues locally before seeking a Special Magistrate's intervention. Concluding, Dr. Burns added that these rules prioritize parental rights, offer a way to address disputes, and empower parents to have their concerns addressed without resorting to a civil suit. Chair Gibson opened the board for questions. Ms. Magar asked when the special magistrate timeline starts. Chair Gibson asked what type of objection would a parent be raising that would allow them to seek a special magistrate and how are the special magistrates selected. Chair Gibson opened the board for public comment.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-1.094126, Special Magistrate for Materials Used in Classroom or School Libraries. Ms. Garcia made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-1.094125, Special Magistrate for Unresolved Student Welfare Complaints. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-10.083, Standards Relating to Gross Immorality and Acts of Moral Turpitude

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Burns, to provide the board a brief update on the amendment to rule 6A-10.083, Standards Relating to Gross Immorality and Acts of Moral Turpitude. Dr. Burns thanked the board and presented rule 6A-10.083 stating that the Department and the board have been taking steps to strengthen protections for students, adding that at the July State Board meeting, a new rule was adopted to prevent inappropriate school events. Dr. Burns added that the current amendment aims to clarify what constitutes grossly immoral or acts of moral turpitude for disciplining Florida educators. Adding that these changes will enable the Department to swiftly protect students from educators involved in various criminal offenses, including sexual battery, lewdness, indecent exposure, and child abuse. Chair Gibson opened the board for public comment. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve rule 6A-10.083, Standards Relating to Gross Immorality and Acts of Moral Turpitude. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-14.00612, Designation of Restrooms and Changing Facilities in Florida College System Institution Facilities

Chair Gibson recognized Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System to provide the board an overview of new rule 6A-14.00612, Designation of Restrooms and Changing Facilities in Florida College

System Institution Facilities. Chancellor Hebda thanked the board and discussed new rule, 6A-14.00612 established in accordance with House Bill 1521, passed by the Florida Legislature in 2023. Stating that this rule pertains to the Safety in Private Spaces Act, which amends building codes for restrooms and changing facilities, specifying labeling for exclusive use by males, females, or unisex. Chancellor Hebda added that Florida College System institutions must verify compliance by April 1, 2024, for existing facilities, and within one year for new facilities constructed after July 1 of that year. With the rule also mandating updates to the student code of conduct and employee disciplinary procedures to align with the statute's requirements, including disciplinary actions specified by the State Board of Education. Chair Gibson opened the board for public comment. Chair Gibson asked if the Department has been in contact with state colleges about the rule. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-14.00612, Designation of Restrooms and Changing Facilities in Florida College System Institution Facilities. Ms. Brown made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-6.0963, Facility Requirements in K-12 Private Schools

Chair Gibson recognized Adam Emerson, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice to provide the board a brief update on new rule 6A-6.0963, Facility Requirements in K-12 Private Schools. Mr. Emerson thanked the board and discussed new rule, 6A-6.0963 related to House Bill 1521, the Safety in Private Spaces Act. Stating that this rule applies not only to colleges but also to K-12 private institutions, requiring them to have designated restrooms and changing facilities for exclusive use by males, females, or a unisex option. Mr. Emerson added that similar to the previous rule 6A-14.00612, private schools must update their codes of student conduct and disciplinary policies for staff to ensure compliance. Concluding Mr. Emerson added that a new form will be incorporated, which all private schools, regardless of participation in scholarship programs, must submit annually. This form will include an attestation of compliance with the statute and its implementing rule. Chair Gibson opened the board for public comment. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-6.0963, Facility Requirements in K-12 Private Schools. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-14.097, Foreign Influence

Chair Gibson recognized Kathy Hebda, to provide the board a brief update new rule 6A-14.097, Foreign Influence. Chancellor Hebda thanked the board and stated that this rule was drafted from a bill passed in the previous legislative session regarding foreign countries of concern and restricting access and dealings, while also adding necessary restrictions, particularly for educational compacts and partnerships with foreign entities and individuals from those countries. Chancellor Hebda added that this rule outlines a process for gaining State Board approval for agreements with entities in countries of concern, provided they are beneficial to the students and the institution while safeguarding U.S. interests. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-14.097, Foreign Influence. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-2.0020, Eligibility for Charter School Capital Outlay

Chair Gibson recognized Adam Emerson, to provide the board a brief overview of the amendment to rule 6A-2.0020, Eligibility for Charter School Capital Outlay. Mr. Emerson thanked the board and provided a brief update on the changes related to Charter School Capital Outlay eligibility criteria in Florida. Adding that, Florida provides funding for charter schools to cover facility-related expenses, and that the changes, are influenced by recent legislative bills. Stating that the amendment includes two

significant updates: Charter schools are now ineligible for Capital Outlay funding if they have received two consecutive F grades, three consecutive grades below a C, or two consecutive unsatisfactory school-improvement ratings. Charter schools must provide an attestation in their application for Capital Outlay funds, stating that if their charter is not renewed or is terminated by their sponsor, any unused funds or equipment purchased with those funds will revert. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-2.0020, Eligibility for Charter School Capital Outlay. Ms. Brown made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6M-4.620, Health and Safety for School Readiness Providers

Chair Gibson recognized Adam Miller, Senior Chancellor, Division of Public Schools to provide the board an update on rule 6M-4.620, Health and Safety for School Readiness Providers. Sr. Chancellor Miller thanked the board and presented rule 6M-4.620 which provides financial assistance to eligible low-income families for early education and childcare. Stating that the program, managed by the Division of Early Learning, currently serves around 220,000 children. Adding that the rule focuses on health and safety requirements for school readiness providers and clarifies these requirements by eliminating outdated language. It also mandates that all staff must undergo pediatric First-Aid and CPR training as a condition of their employment, aligning with federal regulations. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6M-4.620, Health and Safety for School Readiness Providers. Ms. Garcia made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Gibson recognized Chancellor Hebda to provide the board 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 presented rule 6A-10.024. Stating that the amendment addresses three main components, to provide veterans and former military personnel postsecondary credit based on their military experience and training; extends opportunities to law enforcement personnel; and includes annual updates to the list of credits earned through exams, allowing high school students in Florida to earn post-secondary credit through various accelerated programs. Chair Gibson asked who made the recommendations for the rule. Chair Gibson 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 Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-20.046, Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Kevin O'Farrell, Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education to provide the board a brief update on the amendment to rule 6A-20.046, Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program. Dr. O'Farrell thanked the board and discussed the progress of apprenticeship programs and industry-specific credentials in Florida, which began with Governor DeSantis's Executive Order 1931 in 2019 and has since received over \$45 million in appropriations. Stating that the current focus is on expanding apprenticeship programs and pre-apprenticeship programs, benefiting approximately 20,000 individuals across the state. Adding that for the 2023-2024 period, \$20 million has been allocated, including \$5 million for the Grow Your Own Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program. It also introduces an operating option for apprentice programs, prevents funds from covering administrative costs, and caps individual applicant funding at ten percent of the total

PCOG funds awarded. Chair Gibson opened the board for questions and asked for an example of apprenticeship programs that are in existence. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-20.046, Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.0018, School Safety Requirements and Monitoring; New Rule 6A-1.0019, Threat Management; and New Rule 6A-1.0020, Florida Safe Schools Canine Program

Chair Gibson combined action items 21-23 and recognized Senior Chancellor Adam Miller to provide the board an update on amendment to Rule 6A-1.0018, School Safety Requirements and Monitoring; New Rule 6A-1.0019, Threat Management; and New Rule 6A-1.0020, Florida Safe Schools Canine Program. Sr. Chancellor Miller thanked the board and started with rule 6A-1.0018, which focuses on removing references to the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) threat management model and updating outdated references. Adding that this change is due to the passage of House Bill 543, which directed Florida to create a new threat management process. Continuing Sr. Chancellor Miller discussed rule 6A-1.0019, which addresses the new Florida-specific threat assessment instrument and process required by House Bill 543. Emphasizing the importance of school safety and introducing various changes to the threat management process. Including, requiring each school district to have a dedicated threat management coordinator, establishing threat management teams at both the school and district levels, and implementing straightforward terminology for threats. Additionally, the rule empowers a designated chairperson to make quick decisions on whether to refer cases to the full team while maintaining checks and balances through the principal and district reviews. Concluding, Sr. Chancellor Miller briefed the board on rule 6A-1.0020 adding that it is a result of House Bill 543 and outlines the process for designating individuals, schools, or business entities as Florida Safe School's Canine partners. These partners provide donations for the training and care of firearm detection canines used by local law enforcement agencies. Chair Gibson opened the board for questions. Vice Chair Petty commented on the update to the CSTAG model stating that the Department developed the new Threat Management model in coordination with the United States Secret Service. Chair Gibson opened the board for public comment.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to rule 6A-1.0018, School Safety Requirements and Monitoring. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-1.0019, Threat Management. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-1.0020, Florida Safe Schools Canine Program. Ms. Garcia made the motion with a second by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-1.09550, Student Online Personal Information Protection

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Paul O. Burns, to provide the board a brief overview of new rule 6A-1.09550, Student Online Personal Information Protection. Dr. Burns thanked the board and presented new rule 6A-1.09550 aimed at enhancing student privacy and parental rights. Stating that this rule was prompted by Senate Bill 662 from the 2023 legislative session and focuses on protecting the personally-identifiable information (PII) of students when using mandatory online educational services. Dr. Burns added that the new rule will require school districts to develop policies that safeguard students' PII; establish procedures for notifying parents and students about the collection, usage, retention, and terms of re-disclosure of PII; and requires that contracts or agreements with third-party vendors or

service providers protect PII and should specify how student data will be collected, disclosed, or sold. Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new rule 6A-1.09550, Student Online Personal Information Protection. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Items

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the Consent Items. Ms. Brown made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Comments

Chair Gibson opened the board for member comments. Ms. Garcia thanked everyone in attendance and the Department for all the hard work that goes into meetings and preparation. Ms. Magar followed and thanked Collier County for hosting the State Board and commended the Commissioner and Department for its commitment to school safety. Ms. Byrd echoed the comments of Ms. Magar and added that none of this would be possible without the leadership of Governor DeSantis. Ms. Brown expressed her excitement for the Deputy Chief of Police from Orlando who is leading the way in advocating for more educational opportunities for our law enforcement officers. Vice Chair Petty addressed a school safety issue in Duval County, related to the use of restorative justice practices funded by a U.S. Department of Justice grant and expressed concern about the potential negative consequences of these practices, citing the example of Broward County, where such practices contributed to the Parkland school shooting.

Commissioner Diaz commented, stating that the Department has zero tolerance for any program that runs afoul of state statutes or Department rules, especially when it comes to state to school safety. Adding that the Department is monitoring Duval County very closely and has written a letter to bring it to their attention.

Chair Gibson thanked his fellow board members, Commissioner Diaz and Governor DeSantis for their leadership and commitment to student safety. While highlighting the importance of early intervention in a child's education, and stressed the protection of parents' rights in education. Concluding Chair Gibson highlighted the efforts to make higher education more accessible for law enforcement and first responders, aiming to remove financial barriers and provide training opportunities.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Gibson adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 1:28 P.M. EST.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Ben Gibson, Chair

