

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING

July 24, 2024
Rosen Shingle Creek
9939 Universal Blvd.
Suwannee 18/19/20,
Orlando, FL 32819

Chair Ben Gibson called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and welcomed members and guests to the State Board of Education meeting. The following members were present: Vice Chair Petty, Esther Byrd, Dr. Grazie Christie, Kelly Garcia, and MaryLynn Magar. Chair Gibson recognized Rabbi Dubov of Greater Orlando to deliver the invocation and Rhea Francani, 2023 FAU District Teacher of the Year, to perform America the Beautiful.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Chair Gibson recognized Manny Diaz Jr., Commissioner of the Department of Education, to present his report. Commissioner Diaz thanked the District Teachers of the Year and congratulated the five Teachers of the Year finalists.

Commissioner Diaz shared the Board's plans to ratify the Florida High School Athletic Association's (FHSAA) bylaw, allowing high school athletes to earn money from the use of their name, image, and likeness. This will enable students to use the earned money for college tuition, housing, and food post-graduation. The FHSAA will provide specific instructions to schools upon ratification.

Commissioner Diaz shared that Florida's progress monitoring assessments showed significant student growth and year-over-year improvement, with English Language Arts and Mathematics performance increasing by 20 percentage points and 42 percentage points, respectively. Florida schools are making significant progress in closing the achievement gap, with progress monitoring fostering better communication between students and Parents.

Commissioner Diaz shared that the Board will vote on an updated school grading scale to accurately reflect student performance. Florida schools have seen improvements in grades, with 64 percent of 2,196 schools earning an A or B in 2024.

Commissioner Diaz shared that Florida has been ranked number one for higher education for eight years in a row, and there is an opportunity to expand postsecondary access. A new specialized Associate of Arts transfer degree allows Florida College System institutions to collaborate with state university partners, guaranteeing admission to specific baccalaureate degree programs.

Commissioner Diaz shared that the Florida Collegiate Purple Star Campus Program, established in 2023, recognizes institutions for supporting military students and families. Daytona State College and Indian River State College are among the recent recipients.

Commissioner Diaz recognized Dr. Michale George, Principal of Atlantic Coast High School in Duval County, with the Outstanding Principal Achievement Award; John Michael Chaires, Assistant Principal at Palatka Junior Senior High School in Putnam County, with the

Outstanding Assistant Principal Achievement Award; and Edward Lanza with the School Related Employee of the Year.

Commissioner Diaz recognized three winners of the Commissioner's Business Recognition Award: Big Apple Pizza in St. Lucie County, represented by Superintendent Jon Prince; Beaver Toyota in Flagler County, represented by Superintendent LaShakia Morre and Teresa Rizzo; Executive Director in Flagler County Education Foundation; Duffey Southeast Construction in Duval County, represented by Cory Wright and Jim Farley, Director, Career and Technical Education, Duval County Public Schools.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the Commissioner's Report. Dr. Christie made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the May 29, 2024, board meeting. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates

K-12 Public Schools – Superintendent Dr. Maria Vazquez, on behalf of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Maria Vazquez, Superintendent of Orange County School District, to present the Florida Association of District School Superintendents update. Superintendent Vazquez shared that Orange County Public Schools is the fourth-largest school district in Florida and the eighth largest in the country, serving approximately 208,000 students across 210 schools. Superintendents have prioritized school safety by implementing safety enhancements and protocols such as collaboration between district police, emergency management team, and student services. The district has also partnered with local law enforcement agencies for training simulations and family unification training.

College System President Plinske on behalf of the Council of Presidents

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Kathleen Plinske, President of Valencia College, to provide the COP update. President Plinske shared that the Florida College System enrollment increased by over 5 percent during the 23-24 academic year, benefiting students and communities. The affordability of the Florida College System allows students to pursue degrees without accumulating student loan debt. The Florida College System presidents have supported a statutory change to authorize Florida Community Colleges institutions to offer specialized associate in arts transfer degrees. This would be particularly helpful for students pursuing a bachelor's degree in a specialized field. Without these degrees, many FCS students cannot complete lower-division courses required for admission into state university system programs. Valencia College, in partnership with the University of Central Florida, estimates that these new specialized transfer degrees would increase the STEM baccalaureate graduation rate by 12 to 14 percentage points. The report highlights notable achievements from various colleges, including the College of Central Florida robotics team, Polk State's College Nursing Program, Northwest Florida State College, and Palm Beach State College. It also highlights the efforts of Osceola County, which ranked 61st out of 67 counties in 2010 to 4th in 2022.

Chair Gibson recognized Andrew King, General Counsel, for an update on Broward County's compliance with section 1002.33, F.S., and an update on Title IX Litigation. Mr. King shared

that Broward County made the first payment on July 10, 2024. The second payment will be set for July 10, 2025, and the third payment for July 10, 2026. Mr. King ended with an update on Title IX litigation.

ACTION ITEMS

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

Chair Gibson recognized Juan Copa, Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Accountability Research and Measurement, for an overview of the amendment to Rule 6A-1.09981. Mr. Copa shared that the Board's mission is to measure student achievement and accountability. Florida has successfully implemented a progress-monitoring system to measure English Language Arts and Mathematics performance. The board is now reviewing the school grading scale for the '23-'24 school year and beyond. The recommended adjustments include maintaining the same grading scale for elementary schools and an adjusted scale for middle, high, and combination schools. This adjustment applies to districts and the calculation of district grades. The proposed scale for graduation rate and acceleration would ensure that grades reflect the performance of all schools, regardless of type. If approved, 64 percent of schools would have earned an A or B for the 2023-24 school year, up from 57 percent in the '22-'23 baseline year. Less than 4 percent would earn a D or F, reflecting significant improvement in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies assessment performance. The proposed scale provides clarity and consistency, aiming to reach the highest student achievement goal.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule 6A-1.09981. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

Ratification of FHSAA Bylaw Regarding Name, Image, and Likeness

Chair Gibson recognized Craig Damon, Executive Director of the Florida Athletic Association, to provide an overview of the proposed FHSAA Bylaw regarding Name, Image, and Likeness. Mr. Damon shared that this amended bylaw would allow Florida student-athletes to capitalize on their intellectual property through Name, Image, and Likeness Agreements. Recently, a company attacked Florida and New Jersey, collecting money through NIL Club. Ms. Byrd requested the creation of a statewide registration for those students participating in the NIL. The board requested a sample contract that complies with FHSAA bylaws to be created and posted on their website. Chair Gibson requested an update at the board meeting in September or November.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to ratify the bylaw. Dr. Christie made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09401, Student Performance Standards

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Sunny Chancy, Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality, for an overview of the amendment to rule 6A-1.09401. Dr. Chancy shared that the new Computer Science Standards were developed by teachers and experts to establish foundations and expectations for students in grades K-12. The Florida State Academic Standards for Computer Science outline learnable objectives for students, focusing on digital literacy, computational thinking, and advanced topics like coding, algorithms, and data analysis, emphasizing emerging technologies and cybersecurity.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule 6A-1.09401. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.0999, Purple Star School of Distinction Designation

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Chancy for an overview of the amendment to Rule 6A-1.0999. Dr. Chancy shared that Florida's Purple Star School of Distinction Designation Program was established in 2021, which recognized schools that support military families and 40,000 military-connected students. The program includes 197 schools and is now expanding to include districts that align school policies and best practices for military families and students. Districts must have at least 75 percent of schools designated as a Purple Star School of Distinction, maintain a website with resources for military students, and establish a council; once awarded, they must maintain it for a period of three years.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule 6A-1.0999. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-5.067, Teacher Apprenticeship Program

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Paul Burns, Chancellor of Public Schools, for an overview of the amendment to Rule 6A-5.067. Dr. Burns shared that the program will increase student achievement by providing high-quality teachers in every classroom. The proposed revisions aim to reduce barriers to entering the program. The rule amendment strengthens the Teacher Preparation Program by expanding participating employers, aligning the required GPA for candidates, and increasing the pool of eligible mentor teachers.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule 6A-5.067. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendments to Rule 6A-4.004, Florida Educator's Certificates with Academic, Administrative, Degreed Career and Technical, and Specialty Class Coverages, and 6A-4.0012, Application Information.

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Burns for an overview of the amendment to 6A-4.004 and 6A-6.40012. He shared that the proposed amendments align with 2024 legislative changes. The proposed changes include creating a new classical education certificate for teachers in classical schools and creating an inactive certificate status for educators to pause their valid and active certificates. The rule amendments also propose new fee waivers as authorized by Senate Bill 7002 from the last legislative session.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rules 6A-4.004 and 6A-4.0012. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Ms. Garcia

Chair Gibson recognized Jack Sharpe and Jamie Tremaine in opposition.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-7.0710, Instructional Materials Evaluation Procedures

Dr. Burns shared that the amendment implements Senate Bill 7004 and House Bill 1285 from the 2024 legislative session by updating the incorporated Policies and Procedures Specifications for the Florida Instructional Materials Adoption.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule 6A-7.0710. Ms. Garcia made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-14.094, Site Determined specialized Associate in Arts Transfer Degree Access and Amendments to Rules 6A-14.030, Postsecondary Instructional Unit Definitions and Awards in Florida College Systems Institution and 6A-14.0303, General Education Course Options

Chair Gibson recognized Kathy Hebda, Chancellor of the Florida College System, to provide an overview of new Rule 6A-14.094 and amendment to Rules 6A-14.030 and 6A-14.0303. Chancellor Hebda shared that House Bill 1285 introduced a Specialized Associate in Arts Transfer Degree (SAAT) for students, modeled after the baccalaureate process. This new rule process is based on an articulation agreement between a Florida College System institution and its partnering universities. The SAAT allows students to complete all requirements for a specific baccalaureate degree at a university. The main rule outlines the application process for a Specialized Associate in Arts Transfer Degree, which includes a Notice of Intent Form, application form, and reporting form. The rules also include General Education Course options.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new Rule 6A-14.094 and amendments to rules 6A-14.030 and 6A-14.0303. Dr. Christie made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of New Rule 6A-10.0244, Statewide Award of Uniform Postsecondary Credit for Specified Training and Experience and Amendments to Rule 6A-10.024, Articulation Between and Among Universities, Florida Colleges, and School Districts

Chancellor Hebda shared that rule 6A-10.024 is being amended to comply with changes outlined in HB 1285 and new Rule 6A-10.0244 outlines the procedures and requirements a Florida postsecondary institution must follow to award credit to potential students based on their previous occupation and the training and experience associated with that occupation.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the new Rule 6A-10.0244 and an amendment to Rule 6A-10.024. Dr. Christie made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the consent items. Dr. Christie made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Comments

Ms. Magar shared the importance of Florida implementing a framework for students earning money from their name, image, and likeness. She also highlighted school grades and the transition from FSA to FAST. Ms. Byrd thanked Deputy Commissioner Juan Copa for his hard work on our assessment system. Ms. Garcia thanked the staff of the Department of Education for all their hard work in making these improvements possible. She also shared her appreciation for the thoughtful discussion around NIL. Dr. Christie shared her appreciation for the Department and all their hard work. Vice Chair Petty echoed previous comments and expressed gratitude to the staff of the Department of Education for

organizing these meetings and the significant work involved in creating rules, and thanked the Commissioner, legislature, and Governor DeSantis for their efforts. Chair Gibson echoed the sentiments of all the members and thanked the board for their dedication and commitment to education. He ended by sharing the highlights of the meeting.

Chair Gibson announced that the next meeting would be in Niceville on August 21, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Gibson adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 12:21 p.m.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Ben Gibson, Chair