

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING

September 25, 2024
Conference Call

Chair Ben Gibson called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. The following members were present: Vice Chair Petty, Esther Byrd, Kelly Garcia, and MaryLynn Magar.

Chair Gibson recognized Ann Chesler in opposition.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 2025-26 Education Operating and Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request

Chair Gibson recognized Suzanne Pridgeon, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Operations, to provide an update on the 2025-26 Legislative Budget Request. Ms. Pridgeon shared that the proposed 2025-2026 legislative budget request is approximately \$27.2 billion, with \$25.5 billion for operating and \$1.7 billion for fixed capital outlay. This represents a total increase of \$166.9 million over the current fiscal year. The recurring base funding request is an increase of \$678 million, mostly from general revenue and state school trust funds. The largest portion of the budget is for the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), which will provide \$29.5 billion in state and local funding for kindergarten through grade 12. The funding includes \$20 million for the School Readiness Plus Program, \$4.1 million for the Summer Bridge Program, \$50 million for the Florida College System Program Fund, \$100 million for the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Program, \$84 million for nursing education, and \$35 million for the Open Door Grant Program. The capital outlay includes \$419.6 million for maintenance, repair, and remodeling, \$52.2 million for Florida College System construction projects, \$191.8 million for special facility construction projects, \$7.6 million for public broadcasting projects, and \$42 million for school hardening.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the 2025-26 Education Operating and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget Request as well as authorizing the Commissioner of Education to make technical adjustments. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd.

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. Garcia.

The motion passed unanimously.

Member Comments

Chair Gibson announced that the next meeting would be in St. Augustine, October 16, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Gibson adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 9:15 a.m.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Ben Gibson, Chair