

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
May 20, 2015

SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2015, Meeting

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The minutes of the April 15, 2015, Meeting is presented for approval.

Supporting Documentation Included: Minutes, April 15, 2015

Facilitator/Presenter: Chair Gary Chartrand

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING**

April 15, 2015
Suite 1703/07, Turlington Building
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida

Chair Gary Chartrand called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed members and guests to the State Board of Education meeting. The following members were present: Vice Chair John Padget, John Colón, Rebecca Fishman Lipsey, Michael Olenick and Andy Tuck. Marva Johnson participated via phone.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Tuck thanked Commissioner Stewart and Hershel Lyons, Chancellor, K-12 Public Schools, for meeting with Leadership Highlands.

Ms. Fishman Lipsey requested the Board consider having group briefings to discuss relevant and important topics. It would be an opportunity for us to share information and to be proactive. Commissioner Stewart recognized Matt Mears, General Counsel, to provide the legal requirements for group briefings. Mr. Mears explained that each meeting would need to be appropriately noticed and accommodations made for any member of the public who wanted to participate. Chair Chartrand reminded the Board that each member can submit items to the Commissioner for discussion with him to consider for a future agenda. Mr. Mears reaffirmed the procedure for submission of possible agenda items and clarified that if there was to be any dialogue on an idea among members, it must be part of a public meeting.

Mr. Colón thanked Chairman Legg and Chairman Fresen for their hard work in the Senate and in the House regarding the Education Accountability Bill and he applauded Governor Scott for signing the Bill. He also thanked Chairman Legg for his recent op-ed piece and ended his comments by thanking Chairman Porter.

Vice Chair Padget explained that Florida is very fortunate to have a totally united policy between the Governor and the Commissioner, this Board and the Legislature. We are in the middle of change and there will be hiccup or two but we shouldn't be afraid of change. We have maintained our standards throughout and should be very proud of that.

Chair Chartrand thanked and agreed with Vice Chair Padget. It's the responsibility of the Department of Education and this Board to make sure that we continue to move in the direction to ensure children are being well educated and become gainfully employed. He shared a quote from the Council of Chief State Schools report from December 2014, "The pace and change in the world is fast and as educators we need to pace with that change." He shared the following statistics from the Bureau of Labor: unemployment rate of 5.9 percent which is the equivalent of 9.3 million Americans classified unemployed; 14.3 percent of our 16 through 24-year-olds are unemployed yet there remains 4.8 million job openings in our economy, the highest number of job vacancies since January 2001. According to a recent survey, 54 percent of American companies report having openings for which they cannot find qualified workers and one million computer science jobs will be unfilled by American workers by the year 2018. We need to make sure that our kids have the opportunity to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

Ms. Johnson agreed with Ms. Fishman Lipsey that more dialogue and discussion around pertinent issues is relevant within our legal obligations. Ms. Johnson recommended the Board spend more time on digital education technology opportunities with a focus on what happens in the classroom and the legislative proposal concerning college degree programs. The signing of the Education Accountability Bill by Governor Scott is a great step forward. Chair Chartrand recommended Ms. Johnson work with the Commissioner on digital education opportunities for a future agenda.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Stewart agreed with Ms. Johnson that a workshop on digital education would be a good opportunity to highlight teachers enhancing the learning process through technology.

Commissioner Stewart announced that the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota team won the Brain Bowl state title and later won both the National Community College Tournament and the Intercollegiate Championship Tournament, defeating Duke University. Northwest Florida State College won the Division 1 basketball National Junior College Athletic Association Men's National Championship, Chipola College won the Division 1 basketball National Junior College Athletic Association Women's National Championship, and lastly Indian River State College Men and Women's Swimming and Diving Teams captured Division 1 National Junior College Athletic Association Championships.

Commissioner Stewart recognized President Jackson Sasser, Santa Fe College and Vice President and CFO Sheryl Vititoe, Indian River College for being among the top ten finalists out of 1,000 colleges for the 2015 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and Santa Fe for winning the prestigious award.

Commissioner Stewart recognized the following 2015 Prudential Productivity Award winners: Chris Sanchez, Jim Lubbers, Leanne Ames, Jeffrey Ewaldt, Thomas Kauffman, Janice Hutchinson and Barbara Ogle for developing the State Cost Accounting Reporting System, dubbed SCARS which enables school districts to submit cost data directly to a web portal; team Ticket to Work: Harold Thornton, Willette Johnson, Clenetra Lockwood, Shante Porter, Carlos Morales, Juston Gill, and Baruku Urassa for developing and incorporating process enhancements that improved the accuracy and integrity of data for vocational rehabilitation consumers which resulted in fewer resources to accomplish the program's goals and yielded an ongoing cost savings, as well as an increase in program income of over \$3 million; Process Action Team: Kathy Holt, David LaJeunesse, Greg Davis, and Buck Jones for identifying an opportunity to share resources which enabled the Department to terminate a lease agreement without impacting quality of services which resulted in an annual savings of \$7,500; Eliminating Duplicate Equipment Cost Team: Faith Lenzo, Gretchen Brantley, Lisa Forbess and Janice Harris for redesigning the Department's archiving process for a cost savings of \$10,000 annually; and Christian Mousseau for developing a more efficient process to meet the computer needs of Floridians with visual impairments yielding a cost savings of \$50,000 in the first year.

Commissioner Stewart recognized Sharon Lenzo, Administrative Assistant, for 37 years of service at the Department of Education.

Commissioner Stewart provided an update on the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) and provided that there have been more than 620,000 successful logins since an issue was resolved on March 4. She also provided an overview of the standard setting process to determine new achievement level cut scores will be presented to the Board. She provided

two websites the Department created to assist teachers and students in further preparation: www.CPALMS.org, which provides interactive tools to help teachers implement the standards for every course and grade level; and www.fsassessments.org, which features sample questions and lots of other helpful information for students. Commissioner Stewart addressed concerns expressed over test validity and explained that each year the Department contracts with a vendor to conduct a comprehensive third-party review of the entire process, including writing results and hand scoring and the Buros Center for Testing will provide an independent report of their findings regarding the process and test results. We post results of those reviews annually on our website.

Commissioner Stewart provided an overview of House Bill 7069, titled "Education Accountability," which was signed by Governor Scott and goes into effect immediately. She highlighted the following provisions: elimination of the 11th grade ELA Assessment; elimination of the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test as a state mandate for grade 11 and makes it optional; elimination of current progress monitoring requirements; elimination of local exams in courses and subjects where there is also a statewide standardized end-of-course exam; it lowers the threshold for the proportion of educator evaluations based on student data to one-third and emphasizes that districts are able to choose how they assess student performance in grades and subjects not assessed by the state; and it requires an independent verification of the validity of the FSA before school grade results may be published and before student performance results can be used in educator evaluations. The independent entity who will complete the verification must be selected by a panel consisting of an appointee of the Governor, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and the selection must be completed by June 1 and the independent verification must be completed by September 1 of this year;

Commissioner Stewart provided a summary of the Keep Florida Learning Committee conference call held on March 27 and stated that the next meeting is scheduled for June 22 and 23 in Tampa to review the implementation of Florida Standards and the Florida Standards Assessment.

Vice Chair Padgett requested clarification on what will occur before and after the validation report is completed. Commissioner Stewart explained that school grades will not be released until the validation study is released and it's expected that school grades for this year will not be released until November or December due to the process of establishing cut scores. She further explained that once achievement level cut scores are established; student scores will be available in June and school grades in July. Chair Chartrand requested when the cut scores will go before the Board for approval. Commissioner Stewart explained that it's difficult to determine as her recommendation is sent to Legislature first and they have 90 days to review. Ms. Johnson recommended the Commissioner do a series of interviews to ensure the public is receiving accurate information. Ms. Fishman Lipsey requested the Board be updated on when students and parents get information about how students performed, raw scale scores, promotion criteria, and whether or not something will require a Board vote. Commissioner Stewart explained that each year a legislative review is posted online and the Board will receive a presentation at the May meeting. Vice Chair Padgett recommended speeding up the process wherever possible.

Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve the Commissioner's Report. The motion was made by Vice Chair Padgett with a second by Mr. Colón. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 25 Board meeting. The motion was made by Vice Chair Padgett with a second by Mr. Tuck. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE

Florida College System –Ed Meadows, President, on behalf of the Council of Presidents

Chair Chartrand recognized Ed Meadows, President, Pensacola State College, on behalf of the Council of Presidents. President Meadows thanked Commissioner Stewart for keeping the presidents up-to-date on the development of performance-based funding, the filling of the Chancellor's position and other business of the Florida College System. He provided an overview of the Senate and the House's proposed budgets for the Florida College System and legislation regarding baccalaureate degrees. He also stated that the presidents are working with Governor's staff and the Legislature on proposed Affordability Legislation.

Mr. Colón requested whether or not the state colleges should have unrestricted access to growing baccalaureate degrees in every school. President Meadows explained that growing baccalaureate degrees is an adequate and effective way to meet local workforce needs. Vice Chair Padgett stated that Florida ranks near the bottom in the number of bachelor degree holders against other states and we need to create more bachelor's degrees to boost the economy and create more jobs. He also recommended the Council of Presidents keep reminding everyone whenever they speak that our job in Florida is to create more bachelor's degrees. President Meadows agreed and shared that Florida College System students have a higher graduation rate than the university students and receive a higher wage upon completion. Ms. Johnson recommended more emphasis on the price point for degrees at our community colleges and their focus on serving underserved communities and students who are from nontraditional families that don't have a high participation rate in college. Chair Chartrand agreed with Ms. Johnson and disagreed with putting a cap on baccalaureate degrees.

Ms. Fishman Lipsey requested if the rule preventing colleges from asking students or encouraging students to take remedial courses is leading to increased student performance. President Meadows explained that it's still too early to tell but there has been a tremendous dip in developmental enrollment across the state. In effort to help mitigate the negative side of students opting out of remedial courses, the colleges have added more labs, tutoring, and advisement. Ms. Fishman Lipsey requested the first semester failure rate on entry-level courses compared to previous years for students who have not taken remedial classes. Mr. Colón also requested it be broken down by ethnicity.

Ms. Fishman Lipsey shared the following ideas: colleges should develop virtual tours for students who cannot visit in-person and develop a common application for all 28 colleges.

K-12 Public Schools – Wakulla County Superintendent Robert Pearce on behalf of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents

Chair Chartrand recognized Robert Pearce, Superintendent, Wakulla County Public Schools, on behalf of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. Superintendent Pearce provided an overview of the schools in Wakulla County and complimented the Commissioner and staff for their assistance during the transition to computer-based testing.

He explained that one of the unintended consequences of computer-based testing in Wakulla County is the increased need for computer labs and due to the projected growth, portables will be needed. He requested flexibility in the way portables could be funded without using general revenue. He also provided an overview of the vocational programs offered at Wakulla High School.

Mr. Tuck requested clarification as to whether the Board could provide flexibility or if it required legislative action. Commissioner Stewart recognized Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations to provide a response and stated the need to move away from computer labs just for computer-based testing and more towards improving instruction. Ms. Champion explained that answer will be provided after further research.

Mr. Olenick requested clarification on the requirements for 3rd and 10th grade retention. Commissioner Stewart explained that the Department is currently reviewing the Accountability Bill as there was an amendment to graduation requirements and it added a review of each individual student on their own determination of what they should use to either put that student in summer camp or utilize some method to determine they can go to 4th grade or retain them in 3rd grade.

Vice Chair Padgett thanked Superintendent Pearce for bringing up the unintended consequence of computer-based testing and encouraged other Superintendents to report any issues they are having as well. Ms. Fishman Lipsey expressed her concern for what the Board can do to set up schools to have the wireless capability necessary for students to take assessments and to learn in an optimal digital environment. Ms. Johnson recommended the Board spend some time on the district technology plans and E-rate.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.0571, Career and Technical Education and Adult General Education Standards and Industry-Driven Benchmarks

Chair Chartrand recognized Chancellor Rod Duckworth, Career and Adult Education, to provide an overview of the amendment. Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve rule 6A-6.0571, as presented. Mr. Colón made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Padgett. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-10.0401, Gold Standard Career Pathways Articulation Agreements

Chair Chartrand recognized Chancellor Duckworth to provide an overview of the amendment. Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve rule 6A-10.0401, as presented. Mr. Tuck made the motion with a second by Mr. Colón. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.0573, Industry Certification Process

Chair Chartrand recognized Chancellor Duckworth to provide an overview of the amendment. Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve rule 6A-6.0573, as presented. Vice Chair Padgett made the motion with a second by Mr. Tuck. Vice Chair Padgett recommended when meeting with district staff to express the .1 and .2 into dollars as it would be more transparent and empowering. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.0903, Requirements for Exiting English Language Learners from the English for Speakers of Other Languages Program

Chair Chartrand recognized Mary Jane Tappen, Executive Vice Chancellor, K-12 Public Schools, to provide an overview of the amendment. Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve rule 6A-6.0903, as presented. Vice Chair Padget made the motion with a second by Mr. Colón. Ms. Fishman Lipsey expressed her concern that the 50th percentile was too high to exit ESOL services. The motion passed 6-1 with Ms. Fishman Lipsey in opposition.

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

Chair Chartrand recognized Brian Dassler, Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality, to provide an overview of the new rule. Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve the rules, as amended. Vice Chair Padget made the motion with a second by Mr. Tuck. Vice Chair Padget clarified that the motion was for the amendment to the amendment. Mr. Dassler provided an overview of the rule and the minor changes that provide more clarification. Chair Chartrand recognized Ron Stowers, Florida Education Association (FEA), to comment on the rule. Mr. Stowers thanked the Department for working with the FEA on this rule over the last year. The motion passed unanimously.

Lake Worth Classical Academy vs. School Board of Palm Beach County

Chair Chartrand recognized Adam Miller, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, to provide an overview. Chair Chartrand called for a motion to accept the recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission to deny the appeal for Lake Worth Classical Academy. Vice Chair Padget made the motion with a second by Mr. Tuck. Mr. Miller provided an overview and recognized Laura Pincus, Attorney, representing Palm Beach County School Board. Ms. Fishman Lipsey encouraged the Board to consider policies that potentially make it difficult for high performing charter networks coming to Florida to achieve financial viability. The motion passed unanimously.

South Palm Beach Charter School vs. School Board of Palm Beach County

Mr. Miller provided an overview of the appeal. Chair Chartrand called for a motion to accept the recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission to grant the appeal for South Palm Beach Charter School. Vice Chair Padget made the motion with a second by Mr. Tuck. Mr. Miller recognized Stephanie Alexander, Attorney, on behalf of the Florida Charter Education Foundation, and Laura Pincus, Attorney, representing Palm Beach County School Board. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS

Chair Chartrand called for a motion to approve items one through three. Vice Chair Padget made the motion with a second by Mr. Tuck. The motion passed unanimously.

CLOSING REMARKS

Chair Chartrand explained that the Commissioner and her leadership team are compiling her record of work since September 2013 and once complete it will be provided to Board members for review and feedback. At the May meeting, the Board will review the record of work and then this summer the Board will discuss a template that will be used to evaluate Commissioner Stewart moving forward which aligns with the updating of the strategic plan.

Chair Chartrand announced that the next meeting would be on May 20th in Flagler County.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Chartrand adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 12:10 p.m.

Cathy Schroeder, Corporate Secretary

Gary Chartrand, Chair