

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING

May 29, 2024
Miami Dade College
Wolfson Campus
254 N.E 4th St Building 3,
Chapman Conference Room 3210
Miami, FL 33132

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, MaryLynn Magar, and Kelly Garcia attending by phone. Chair Gibson recognized Rabbi Lipskar of the Shul Bal Harbor to deliver the invocation.

Chair Gibson recognized Madeline Pumariega, President of Miami Dade College, to welcome the Board and provide the COP update. President Pumariega shared that Miami Dade College has been instrumental in advocating for job growth grants, workforce initiatives, and curriculum development and has partnered with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and charter schools to increase the teacher pipeline and accelerate future teachers. She shared the importance of the state group health insurance plan that will be implemented starting January 2025, allowing 28 state colleges to join the plan. This will strengthen the state plan and provide affordable dependent care for employees. She also shared that Broward College and Seminole State College are semifinalists for the Aspen Prize Community College of Excellence.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Chair Gibson recognized Manny Diaz Jr., Commissioner of the Department of Education, to present his report. Commissioner Diaz thanked President Pumariega for hosting with a great venue and shared that the federal government is attempting to redefine sex to include gender, potentially causing negative consequences for women and girls in schools. Governor Ron DeSantis is fighting back against this illegal rule, ensuring equal opportunities for girls in education and athletics under Title IX. The Florida High School Athletic Association is reviewing its bylaws to protect the rights and fairness of our girls in sports and educational training.

Commissioner Diaz shared that Florida ranks first in education for the second consecutive year, demonstrating its commitment to excellence through rigorous academic standards, innovative curriculum, and commitment to early childhood education, and ranked number one in the Parent Power Index by the Center for Educational Reform. Florida is also a leader in school choice, offering personalized learning environments and career-to-work options with Florida's school choice system offering various options, including magnet schools, district-neighborhood schools, charter schools, and scholarship programs, with collaboration between the Department of Education and Juvenile Justice, establishing the Florida Scholars Academy. The Florida Scholars Academy's proposed Accountability System aims to measure learning gains, acceleration, course progress, career and technical education progress, and graduation for students in DJJ residential programs. Florida remains committed to school safety, with Governor DeSantis signing House Bill 1473.

Commissioner Diaz shared that the Office of Safe Schools has increased staffing to support schools with grants, training, and guidance while holding them accountable to Florida's comprehensive safety requirements. In the last three years, the office has completed over 2,800 compliance visits and conducted over 6,000 compliance checks. Florida transitioned from the Specific Threat Management Model to a system that identifies threats, provides necessary services, and ensures continuity of services. Also, over 20,000 educators, administrators, and law enforcement officers have been trained using the Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Tool, allowing for earlier interventions and continuous improvement.

Commissioner Diaz thanked Secretary of the Lottery John Davis for their partnership and funding with Bright Futures Scholarship and embarked on visits to schools across the state to educate students about the Bright Futures Scholarships and requirements.

Commissioner Diaz recognized Valourde Borgella, an outstanding student at Miami Dade College, who graduated with an Associate Degree in Nursing, maintained a 4.0 GPA and has been accepted to Emory University.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the Commissioner's Report. Ms. Byrd 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 March 27th and April 17th board meetings. Dr. Christie made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates

K-12 Public Schools – Superintendent Burke, on behalf of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents

Chair Gibson recognized Michael Burke, Superintendent of Palm Beach County School District, to present the Florida Association of District School Superintendents update. Superintendent Burke shared that Palm Beach County, the 10th largest in the US, has a high graduation rate of 91.5% and is recognized for its academic excellence. The district has expanded enrollment, implemented new initiatives, and expanded school choice programs, and the district offers over 100 workforce education programs serving 20,000 adult students.

Legislative Update

Chair Gibson recognized Cory Dowd, Deputy Chief of Staff, to provide an overview of the 2024 legislative session. Mr. Dowd shared that Florida saw significant educational achievements, ranking first in U.S. News and World Report, Center for Education Reform, and Education Freedom by the Heritage Foundation. Mr. Dowd provided the following overview: House Bill (HB) 1473 regarding school safety, mandates classroom doors locked during instructional time, sets parameters for locking gates and perimeter access points and waives some requirements for former law enforcement officers to become School Guardians; HB 1403 regarding school choice, allows hybrid schooling option for state-sponsored scholarship programs, increased the number of students who can be served under the Family Empowerment Scholarship for students with unique abilities and sets new reporting requirements for scholarship funding organizations; HB 1291 prevents approved

teacher preparation programs from teaching topics like critical race theory; and Senate Bill 1264 added required instruction on the history of communism.

Chair Gibson recognized Andrew King for an update on Broward County school Districts' compliance with section 1002.33, F.S. Mr. King shared that the first payment is scheduled for July 10, 2024, the second payment for July 10, 2025, and the third payment for July 10, 2026.

ACTION ITEMS

Ratification of FHSAA Bylaws for 2024-25 School Year

Chair Gibson recognized Craig Damon, Executive Director of the Florida High School Athletic Association, to provide an overview of ratification of the FHSAA proposed bylaws. Mr. Damon shared that the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) passed several bylaw amendments at their April meeting. The FHSAA is committed to ensuring all bylaws, policies, and administrative procedures align with state statutes. The first amendment changed the word "gender" to match sex, which is listed in our state statute. The other amendments provided clarifying language and changes to processes recommended by member schools.

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

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Florida Scholars Academy Plan for System of Accountability

Chair Gibson recognized Eric Hall, Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Justice, for an overview of the Florida Scholars Academy Plan. Secretary Hall provided an overview of the Scholars Academy, a new unified school system for the DJJ. It serves 30,000 youth daily and currently has 42 residential programs and aims to reduce recidivism by focusing on academic achievement, career and technical achievement, and peer group. The board approved an accountability model using real-time information, promoting dual enrollment and advanced placement opportunities. The system also aims to prepare youth for the workforce with credentials and job skills, with programs lasting one to three years.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the Florida Scholars Academy Plan for System of Accountability. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09412, Course Requirements - Grades K-12 Basic and Adult Secondary Programs

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Sunny Chancy, Deputy Chancellor of Educator Quality, for an overview of the amendment to rule 6A-1.09412. Dr. Chancy shared that the department has been implementing a resiliency education initiative since February 2021. The initiative emphasizes character development skills, including volunteering, teamwork, and problem-solving. The state Board of Education has adopted new performance standards, character education, and substance abuse prevention standards. The new resiliency standards are embedded in physical and health education courses, focusing on resilience education, social media effects, and substance abuse prevention.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule 6A-1.09412. Dr. Christie made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.0018, School Safety Requirements and Monitoring and Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.0019, Threat Management

Chair Gibson recognized Adam Miller, Senior Chancellor, for an overview of the Amendment to Rule 6A-1.0018. Sr. Chancellor Miller shared that these amendments implement changes from HB 1473 by requiring district safety specialists in every district to conduct unannounced compliance visits to every public school, every year and by the Office of Safe Schools every three years. The rules also require access control measures, such as locked classroom doors and closed gates. Additional requirements are that school districts must implement a mobile panic alert system, instruct all students on how to use Fortify Florida, and then additional requirements around active emergency drills and the documentation required for those.

Sr. Chancellor Miller shared that rule 6A-1.0019 addresses the new Florida Specific Threat Management System, removing references to the old Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) model and clarifying the definition of the school district for charter schools. It also addresses safety requirements that authorize or accept the responsibility for colleges authorizing charter schools.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment for Rule 6A-1.0018, School Safety Requirements and Monitoring. Dr. Christie made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment for Rule 6A-1.0019, Threat Management. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Vice Chair Petty. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.094124, Required Instruction Planning and Reporting

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Chancy for an overview of the amendment to Rule 6A-1.094124. Dr. Chancy shared that the rule amendment aims to clarify the submission of required instruction planning and reporting in Florida schools. The amendment, based on recent statutory changes from House Bill 551 and 2023, emphasizes the responsibility of school districts for intentional planning and fidelity of instruction on two topics: African American History and the History of Holocaust Education. The Department of Education now has the authority to review district implementation plans for alignment with statutory requirements, ensuring transparency and accuracy of instruction. The amendment also moves the deadline for annual reports to summer, allowing districts to certify fidelity in previous school years. This ensures high-quality, accurate, and faithful teaching of Florida state academic standards and Florida law content.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule 6A-1.094124. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Paul Burns, Chancellor of Public Schools. Chancellor Burns shared that the department is proposing an update to the state academic standards in social studies, specifically incorporating the teaching of 911 Heroes Day and the history of Asian American and Pacific Islanders. These changes are due to House Bill 1537 from the 2023 legislative session, which requires 45 minutes of instruction for middle and high school students on this topic annually. The standards are developed by Florida teachers, and

experts and include contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to American society. The state is committed to maintaining high-quality state academic standards and ensuring teachers have the right standards for high-quality instruction.

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

Chair Gibson recognized Andrew Spar and Katie Blankenship in support.

Chair Gibson recognized Crystal Etienne, Lissette Fernandez, Steven Rocha, and Mina Hosseini in opposition.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-7.0715, Certifications and Plans for Instructional Materials and Library Media

Chancellor Burns shared that the proposed amendment requires an online training program for school librarians, media specialists, and other personnel involved in selecting and maintaining library media materials. The rule also mandates annual certifications from superintendents and school districts. This aims to comply with the 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions, ensuring appropriate materials are available to students and protecting parental rights and includes a new basis for objections regarding sexual conduct and non-parent resident objections. Training includes a restriction on library media materials for non-parent or guardian students, ensuring parents are at the forefront of their child's education while protecting them from inappropriate materials. Chancellor Burns proposed an amendment to the amendment based on public comments to amend slide 13 of the Library Media and Instructional materials training incorporated by reference.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to the amendment to Rule 6A-7.0715. Ms. Byrd made the motion with a second by Ms. Magar. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment for Rule 6A-7.0715 as amended. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd.

Chair Gibson recognized Andrew Spar, Damaris Allen, and Lissette Fernandez in support and Katie Blankenship in opposition.

Chair Gibson called the vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Contract between State Board of Education and SEED School of Miami, Inc

Chair Gibson recognized Adam Emerson, Director of the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, to provide an overview of the Contract between the State Board of Education and SEED School of Miami. Mr. Emerson recommended executing a new contract with SEED School of Miami, Florida. This public charter school boarding academy is for students with risk factors affecting college readiness. The new contract maintains the same scope, deliverables, and operational expenses as the old contract and with a term that is concurrent with Miami-Dade County School District contracts. The State Board of Education's contract provides support to the boarding academy and residential life program.

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

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-10.0342, Career and Technical Education Program Performance Reporting and Approval of New Rule 6A-14.096, Site Determined Associate in Applied Science and Associate in Science Degree Access

Chair Gibson recognized Dr. Kevin O'Farrell, Chancellor of the Division of Career and Adult Education, to provide an overview of the amendment to Rule 6A-10.0342. Chancellor O'Farrell shared that the Commissioner of Education conducts an annual review of secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs to establish performance targets. The update sets targets and metrics for these programs and allows school districts and institutions to provide supplemental evidence to the department and board members. The metrics include the 12th-grader concentration graduation weight rate, 12th-grader concentration industry certification rate, and CTE concentrator graduates continuing education or employed rate. Postsecondary programs also have retention and success rates, completion rates, and in-demand programs. The institution sets performance standards for its programs based on primary and alternate targets, retention rates, success rates, completion rates, and in-demand occupations, using metrics like Local Education Agency (LEA's) local comprehensive needs assessment data.

Chancellor O'Farrell shared that new Rule 6A-14.096 allows technical colleges and technical centers to offer Associate in Science or Applied Science Degrees, and the process involves school districts providing descriptions of programs, workforce demand, and impact analysis. The rule also includes metrics related to completions and job placements.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule 6A-10.0342. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve new Rule 6A-14.096. Vice Chair Petty made the motion with a second by Ms. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-10.02413, Civic Literacy Competency

Chair Gibson recognized Kathy Hebda, Chancellor of the Florida College system, to provide an overview of the amendment to Rule 6A-10.02413. Chancellor Hebda shared that since 2017, Florida has required postsecondary students to complete civic literacy competency as a graduation requirement for a degree from a public institution. This includes understanding American Democracy, the U.S. Constitution, founding documents, and landmark Supreme Court cases. Governor DeSantis has prioritized civic literacy, signing Senate Bill 1108 in 2021 and Senate Bill 266, updating general education core course requirements. The participation in the Florida civic literacy exam has increased since 2021, with 22,000 students taking it so far this year. The Faculty committee also updated the Civic Literacy Exam Postsecondary (CLEP) assessments for U.S. History 1 to demonstrate civic literacy competencies. If approved, the course description in the statewide course numbering system will be updated, allowing students to take American History 2010 in the Fall of 2024.

Chair Gibson called for a motion to approve the amendment to Rule 6A-10.02413. Ms. Magar made the motion with a second by Dr. Christie. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

Member Comments

Ms. Magar thanked Governor DeSantis and Commissioner Diaz for making school safety a priority and President Pumariega for hosting the meeting. Ms. Byrd emphasized the importance of the government listening to the public and shared the following examples: changes in internships, Bright Futures, and social studies standards. Ms. Garcia expressed pride in several action items, including Secretary Hall's work in serving juvenile justice students, new social studies standards, and the importance of civics education. Dr. Christie shared her appreciation for the Florida College System and the board's work on policies promoting civic education and Holocaust education, and Florida's fight against the Title IX rewrite, protecting all students. Vice Chair Petty echoed previous comments and dispelled the notion that the department does not engage with teachers in developing rules. Commissioner Diaz thanked and commended the board members and staff for all their work. Chair Gibson echoed the sentiments from all the members and thanked the board for their dedication and commitment to education and applauded Governor DeSantis for his leadership. He ended by sharing the highlights of the meeting.

Chair Gibson announced that the next meeting would be in Orlando on July 24, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Chair Gibson adjourned the meeting of the State Board of Education at 12:40 p.m.

Chris Emerson, Corporate Secretary

Ben Gibson, Chair