



CENTRAL FLORIDA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS COALITION

Purpose: To address public educational issues impacting Central Florida
Representing 900,000 Florida Students and their families.

MINUTES January 12, 2015



Educational Leadership Center - Conference Room A
445 West Amelia Street - Orlando, Florida 32801



Welcome / Call to Order:

Tina Calderone, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Dr. Calderone wished everyone a happy New Year and noted that the guest speaker, Senator Simmons, was running a little late due to I-4 traffic.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Dave Miner, Vice Chair Manatee County



Approval of Minutes:

The motion to approve the minutes of December 4, 2014 was made by Jay Wheeler, Osceola County, and seconded by Angie Boynton, Marion County. The motion carried unanimously.



Legislative Update:

Scott Howat, Senior Executive Director, Legislative and Congressional Relations, Orange County; Connie Milito, Chief Government Relations Officer, Hillsborough County; and Wendy Dodge, Director of Government Affairs, Polk County, provided an update and information on current legislation.

- Main issues discussed at these meetings were testing and accountability.
- Commissioner Stewart had a presentation in policy and talked about the accountability system in Florida, where she discussed where we are and where we are headed.
- An overview about the implementations of the standards and assessments was presented and how they are progressing.
- The committees proceeded to ask Commissioner Stewart questions.



Guest Speaker: Chair Calderone introduced Senator David Simmons and gave a brief biography on his career background. Senator Simmons is a member of the Florida State Senate representing District 10 serving Seminole and Volusia Counties. He was first elected to the Senate in 2010.



He previously served as a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 2000 to 2008.

Senator Simmons Current Committee Assignments:



- Rules, Chair
- Appropriations
- Appropriations Subcommittee on Education
- Banking and Insurance
- Environmental Preservation and Conservation
- Higher Education
- Judiciary
- Joint Legislative Budget Commission



Senator Simmons has worked tirelessly to support our public schools working to increase the PreK-12 education funding in last session. He is also responsible for obtaining over 90 million in funding for an extra hour a day of extended learning for our 300 lowest performing elementary schools. The Orlando Sentinel consistently rated David Simmons as one of the top three most effective Representatives in Central Florida.

SEMINOLE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



He was born in Nashville, TN. Simmons earned his bachelor's degree from Tennessee Technological University and his J.D. from Vanderbilt Law School where he serves on its National Counsel. His professional experience includes working as the financial managing partner of the law firm of de Beaubien, Knight, Simmons, Mantzaris & Neal. Senator Simmons has lived in FL since 1977. He has a long history of public service here in Central Florida. He is the father of 2 beautiful girls.

Chair Calderone asked that each member introduce themselves and what county they represent. Following the introductions, Chair Calderone turned it over to Senator Simmons.

Discussion: Senator David Simmons expressed that things are looking up for education in Florida.

- He gave an overview of his meeting with Governor Rick Scott on December 4, 2014 and informed the Coalition that both he and Governor Scott are committed to education.
- Governor Scott's suggestion is to give approximately 700 million dollars in new money for Pre-K to 12.
- The Governor is proposing to increase funding approximately \$230 per student. He is looking to increase to approximately \$7,176.00 per student.
- Senator Simmons said that the Senate is looking at the issue of testing and assuring that we are not over testing.
- He requested information that will let them know if our children are learning the most they can possibly learn in the time period that is given.
- He asked for proposals on how we need to test.
- He asked for the Coalition to formulate a plan with the understanding that accountability is essential to the continued progression of our education system.
- He requested that the plan be in his office within the next 2 weeks.

After Senator Simmons's overview of the education issues, Chair Calderone opened the floor for any questions.

Various Coalition members made comments and/or asked Senator Simmons questions regarding:

Testing

Certificate of Completion

Career Education

Test for all Subject areas

Restore the half mill – replace those funds with state dollars

Dr. Walt Griffin, Seminole County, – suggested that the coalition unite to formulate an action plan regarding testing to present to Senator Simmons.

It was decided to form a sub-committee to meet short term to develop a detailed action plan with suggestions for our testing situation. Each District will appoint a representative to serve on the sub-committee and e-mail the name of the representative to Grace Gonzalez.

Chair Calderone suggested that Seminole County take the lead in coordinating the meetings to put together the action plan. Dr. Griffin accepted.

Dr. Calderone thanked Senator David Simmons for attending the meeting.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- USF Partnership – Dr. Leonard Burrello spoke on voluntary statewide partnerships with USF.

- Affordable Care Act and 40 Hour Work - Dr. Margaret A. Smith, Volusia -
 - Dr. Smith represents the Florida Superintendent's on the National Superintendent's board.
 - In the handouts there is a communication to Senator Collins from the legislative representative regarding Affordable Care Act and 40 Hour Work vs. the 30 hour work week.
 - Senator Collins supports the 40 hour work week
 - Dr. Smith brought this to the attention of the coalition as information not an item to adopt at this time.
 - Dr. Griffin stated that this is something we would want to look into.
 - Chair Calderone asked if there is any action as a board we want to take in supporting this at this time or do we leave it up to each district?
 - Amy Lockhart suggested that there is strength in unity and would like to see us supporting it as a group.
 - Chair Calderone asked Dr. Smith what is the timeframe.
 - Dr. Smith stated that next month at the meeting would be adequate to decide if we want to support this as group.
 - At the February 9th meeting we will revisit the topic and vote on it formally.

No other new business was presented.

Adjourn Chair Calderone adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.