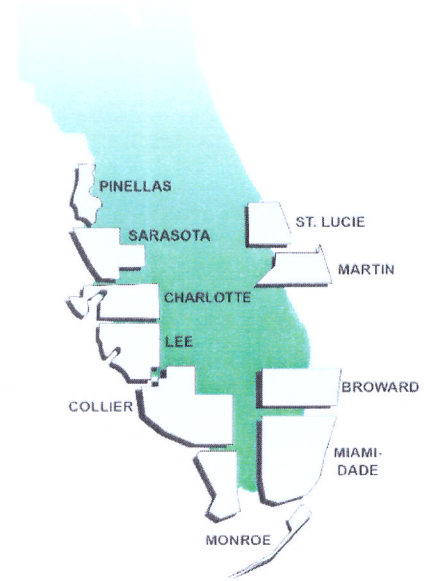


Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards

Mrs. Debbie Hawley, President
c/o St. Lucie County School District
501 NW University Boulevard
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
(772) 429-3600



MEMORANDUM

June 22, 2018

TO: The Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards
FROM: Debbie Hawley
President

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT POSITION

Attached is a Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) resolution opposing Amendment 8. This resolution was unanimously adopted by the FSBA Board of Directors at their meeting on June 14, 2018 in Tampa, Florida.

The members of the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards (GFCSB) in attendance of our business meeting on that same date also unanimously voted to support that position.

There will be thirteen (13) amendments on the November 6, 2018 ballot. Eight (8) have been proposed by the Florida Constitutional Revision Commission (CRC) that meets every 20 years. Of the five (5) remaining proposals, three (3) were passed by the legislature and two (2) were petition drives.

All will require a 60 percent approval vote for passage.

Only those proposed by the CRC can include more than a single subject in a bundled proposal. As a result, Amendment 8 will read as follows:

- **PUBLIC SCHOOLS: It would impose an eight-year term limit on school board members. It would allow an alternative process for approving public schools; including charter schools, rather than by local school boards. It would establish a requirement for the teaching of civic literacy in public schools.**

Pursuant to the discussion at the GFCSB business meeting of June 14, 2018 I am requesting that your School Board consider, at the earliest possible date, the adoption of the following resolution:

- **BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards is opposed to Amendment 8 because it is not necessary, is not fair, is not desirable, and is not clearly understandable.**

Please remind your board that, under the consortium bylaws, if any board rejects this resolution, it will not be a GFCSB position. This item may not be amended, but may only be accepted or rejected.

If all ten (10) GFCSB member school boards approve the resolution I will prepare an official announcement for your use with your community and stakeholders.

Please notify Mr. Tom Cerra at tomcerra@gmail.com about your actions.

DH:apw
Attachment



FSBA Resolution Opposing Amendment 8

- Whereas,** The Florida Constitution Revision Commission has proposed an amendment to the Florida Constitution, Amendment 8, that will appear on the November 2018 General Election Ballot; and
- Whereas,** Amendment 8 would amend Article IX, Section 4 and would create a new section in Article XII of the State Constitution which, if approved by voters, would limit school board members to two consecutive four year terms in office, would authorize the establishment of public schools are operated, controlled, and supervised by an entity other than the elected school board, and would require the Legislature to provide for the promotion of civic literacy in public education; and
- Whereas,** Term limits are typically imposed to encourage more competitive races and/or to reduce the power of incumbency; and
- Whereas,** A review of the election results for the last four general election cycles reveals that most school board races (an average of 65%) are competitive, involving 2 or more legitimate, active, and viable candidates; and
- Whereas,** A substantial number of all school board races (an average of 41%) result in the election of a new school board member, showing that few, if any, school board members are shielded by incumbency; and
- Whereas,** Imposing term limits on school board members is not necessary based on objective data that clearly shows that voters have imposed natural term limits on school board members and it has resulted in a healthy balance of both new and experienced perspectives on our school boards; and
- Whereas,** Amendment 8 unfairly imposes term limits on only one group of Constitutional officers from among several similar groups of Constitutional officers and local elected officials; and
- Whereas,** Amendment 8 appears to authorize an entity other than the elected school board to establish a traditional public school, a charter school, a school or hope, and/or other public school choice options; and
- Whereas** Transferring the authority to establish a public school to an individual or entity that is not elected denies taxpayers, families, and communities any means to hold the authorizing entity fiscally and programmatically accountable; and
- Whereas,** Transferring the authority to establish a public school to an an entity other than the school district would permit and encourage the creation of a parallel system of free public schools which threatens the state's ability to comply with the constitutional mandate for a uniform system of free public schools; and

Whereas, Amendment 8 would permit and encourage a process to establish a public school without regard to the need for, desire for, or appropriateness of, the new school which threatens the state's ability to comply with the constitutional mandate for an efficient system of free public schools; and

Whereas, An additional public school authorizing entity is neither necessary nor desirable since Florida is a national leader in public and private school choice options, including more than 3,500 traditional public schools, more than 650 charter schools, five existing private school scholarship programs, and a state policy of open enrollment; and

Whereas, Amendment 8 does not clearly explain the possible implications of authorizing an alternate entity to establish public schools; and

Whereas, The promotion and instruction in civic literacy is already well established in Florida Statutes, incorporated into the Florida Standards, and measured by Florida's statewide, standardized assessment system; and

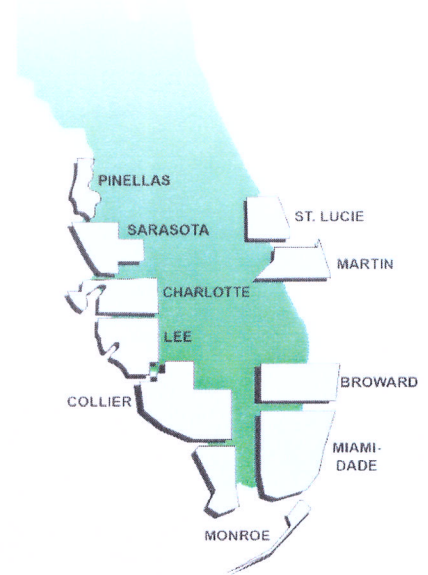
Whereas, Civic literacy is well entrenched and promoted in Florida and it is not necessary to further enshrine civic literacy in the state constitution; and

Whereas, Amendments to the Florida Constitution should be necessary, fair, desirable, and clearly understandable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida School Boards Association is opposed to Amendment 8 because it is not necessary, is not fair, is not desirable, and is not clearly understandable.

Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards

Mrs. Debbie Hawley, President
c/o St. Lucie County School District
501 NW University Boulevard
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(772) 429-3600



Minutes
June 14, 2018
5:00 – 5:45 p.m.
Grand Hyatt Hotel
Tampa, Florida

The meeting of the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards (GFCSB) was called to order by President Roy M. Terry at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Terry recognized the consortium partners: Acceleration Academies and FBMC Benefits Management. The representatives explained their programs and services.

Mr. Terry explained that the minutes of the February 7, 2018 meeting had been sent out previously and were included in the meeting packet. Mrs. Caroline Zucker (Sarasota County) made a motion to adopt the minutes and it was seconded by Mrs. Cathleen Morgan (Lee County). The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Terry noted that the GFCSB financial report was available for review. On a motion by Mrs. Nora Rupert (Broward) and a second by Mrs. Ann Murray (Broward), the report passed unanimously.

Mr. Vern Crawford (Florida Schoolhouse Consulting) reported on the successes achieved during the 2018 legislative sessions which included:

- Including the value of new construction in computing the **Required Local Effort**(RLE);
- Restoring the full revenue of the **1.5 capital millage** to the district;
- Restoring greater flexibility to the district for **Title I funds**;
- Delaying the **accountability provisions** (HB 1279) for one year;
- Providing funding for **school resource officers** and enhanced **mental health programs**;
- Providing funding for hardening **school facilities**;
- Providing greater flexibility in **SREF requirements**; and,
- Achieving flexibility related to **hurricane impact**.

Mr. Bob Cerra (Cerra Consulting Group) discussed the various statewide November 2018 elections and the potential impacts on the 2019 legislative agenda.

The major issues he identified for 2019 were: RLE computation; 1.5 capital outlay funding; accountability provisions; school safety issues; charter school expansion; and vouchers.

He also discussed Constitutional Amendment #8 and its potential impact on public education.

President Terry passed the gavel to President Debbie Hawley (St. Lucie).

President Hawley presented Mr. Terry with a small gift of appreciation for his serving this past year.

President Hawley asked for nominations for GFCSB Secretary-Treasurer.

Mrs. Caroline Zucker and Mrs. Ann Murray nominated Ms. Jane Goodwin (Sarasota County). The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tom Cerra (Florida School Services/Consortium Consultant) explained that the 2019 Legislative Session will begin with committee meetings this coming November and the 60-day Regular Session beginning on Tuesday, March 5, 2019.

President Hawley discussed possible dates for the consortium meeting to develop a draft GFCSB Legislative Program. It was decided that meeting will occur in St. Lucie on a date to be determined.

President Hawley discussed the consultant's agreement which did not change from last year. The agreement was approved.

President Hawley led a discussion of Constitutional Amendment #8 and the fact that the FSBA Board of Directors voted to oppose it.

The GFCSB members in attendance voted unanimously to forward a proposal to each of the 10-member districts to also oppose this amendment. Mr. Cerra explained that, pursuant to the GFCSB bylaws, this will require a positive vote by all 10-member boards.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.