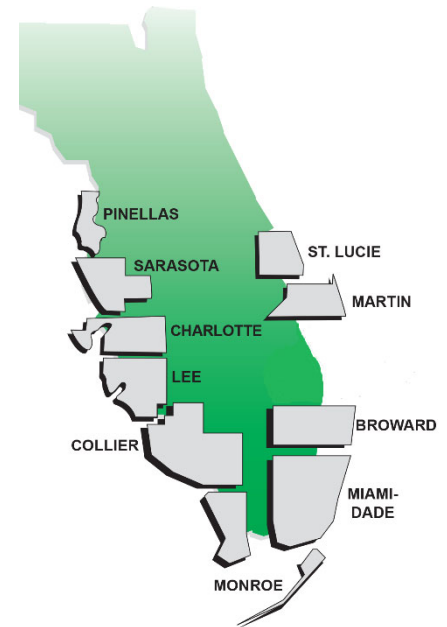


Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards

Mrs. Debbie Hawley, President
c/o St. Lucie County School District
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Minutes
October 4-5, 2018
Hilton Garden Inn PGA Village
Port St. Lucie, Florida

The meeting of the Greater Florida Consortium of School boards (GFCSB) was called to order by President Debbie Hawley at 12:00 noon. President Hawley welcomed those in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by the JROTC Color Guard from Ft. Pierce Westwood High School. This was followed with a student performance by the Music Ensemble for the Creative Arts Academy of St. Lucie (CAST).

Superintendent E. Wayne Gent welcomed the group and presented many significant accomplishments achieved by the school district in recent years. Among them were the improvements in both school and district grades and the high school graduation rate.

Captain Brain Hester of the SLC Sheriff's Department shared the many collaborative programs with the school district, including the status of complying with the recent legislative mandates. He also shared that in reading the GFCSB draft program that he supported the safety and mental health recommendations.

The business partners were given an opportunity to make brief comments. Representatives of AXA and NEOLA did so.

Reports on federal legislation and the state legislative and political outlook were made by Iraida Mendez-Cartaya (Miami-Dade), Vernon Pickup Crawford, and John Sullivan (Broward County).

Consultant Tom Cerra explained how the DRAFT GFCSB 2019 Legislative Program had been developed. Each GFCSB district submitted its issues and these issues were incorporated into last year's program by the district lobbyists at a meeting last week.

In addition to the three priorities from last year, Student Safety/Mental Health Services, was added.

Mr. Cerra then proceeded to take the group through the program section by section. Martin County suggested two additional issues that were incorporated into the draft.

When this process was completed, President Hawley recessed the meeting at 3:00 p.m., reminding the group of the 6:30 reception and 7:00 p.m. dinner.

The GFCSB meeting was reconvened on October 5, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. by President Hawley.

She asked those in attendance if there were any additions, changes, or deletions to the DRAFT program from the previous day. There were none.

She told the group that two copies would be forwarded to them for school board action. One would be the new issues underlined and a second one would be a clean copy. As has been done in the past, issues must be unanimously supported to remain in the program. She asked that each district act as soon as possible and to report their actions to Tom Cerra.

President Hawley reminded the members of the next meeting in Tampa on November 28th and the dinner meeting and Day in the Legislature in Tallahassee on April 3-4, 2019.

The members engaged in a productive discussion regarding additional legislative contacts and community activities that would be helpful in forwarding the GFCSB goals.

President Hawley adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

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