



2020-2021

STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION



The Annual Report of the Florida School Boards Association
VOL. 6



2020-2021

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VOL. 6

A publication of the Florida School Boards Association (c) 2021

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Andrea Messina Executive Director

"Throughout the year, you demonstrated extraordinary leadership, continuing to ask the right questions, providing for safety and security, and ensuring that students continued to receive high-quality education options."

The 2020-2021 school year was a year like no other in memory. So much changed, yet what did not change was Florida School Board members' commitment to your school districts and Florida's public education. It is important to recognize the challenges that FSBA members faced as you led our districts through the year.

School board members were put in positions where you had to make unpopular decisions again and again. But, you persevered, as did your staffs, your families, and your communities.

This year was arguably the most difficult time in recent history to govern our school districts. Boards were faced with decisions on when to begin the school year, whether or not to require masks, how to offer virtual and/or face-to-face instruction, how to maintain student and staff safety, who and how to quarantine exposed staff and students, how to ensure high-quality education and support services, how to ensure access to broadband infrastructure, how to cover staffing challenges presented by large numbers of retirements, how to accommodate vaccine roll outs, and how to select and use multiple virtual platforms.

The complexity of demand for education services to be offered virtually and in-person, many times simultaneously, and sometimes separately, consumed district staff, angered parents and community, and created never before seen pressures on our education professionals. Additionally, boards responded to Zoom-bombed classes and professional meetings, loss of students, concern for social, emotional and mental health of staff and students and more.

It became very clear to FSBA leadership and staff that school board members needed accurate, timely, updated, and regular information. This was where the Association stepped in to fill the gap, providing sometimes weekly and other times bi-weekly member live calls filled with experts and relevant content in addition to providing timely resources along the way.

61 newly elected school board members were unable to meet face-to-face for several months after installation. Typically, new School Board members meet each other and form indelible bonds only weeks after their installation. This year, newly elected members relied on virtual platforms until late in the year.

The ability of all our members to adapt to virtual discussions, meetings, webinars, and training was not unlike students' adjustments to the same. Some of our members had smaller bandwidth and an inability to maintain connection, while others found ease and comfort. For most members, although it was a challenge to learn new platforms, processes, and logins for meetings and events, they were not deterred and continued active, lively participation and involvement in the Association.



Without an IT specialist on the FSBA team, many staff hours were spent researching, learning, and designing a simple and easy to use system so that the work of the Association could continue. Most everything and all business activities of the Association, including Board of Directors' meetings, General Membership meetings and voting, election of nominating committee members, interviewing applicants for executive officer positions, committee work, annual trainings and convenings were conducted virtually and successfully. Staff shined throughout the year consistently.



Nothing could have prepared us for the massive pivot required of public education for the school year 2020 - 2021. District policy manuals, though thick, do not contain any guidance on leading in a pandemic. Florida's School Board members, however, found their way and led their districts with the conviction, courage, and grace to ensure that students continued to have education opportunities to learn and grow under such extraordinary circumstances.

Andrea Messina

Andrea Messina
FSBA Executive Director



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



Jane Goodwin
Sarasota
FSBA President 2020-2021

As I ended my tenure as President of the Florida School Boards Association, I wanted to take a little time to reflect on the 2020-2021 year and offer inspiration to our members, leaders, and staff as we entered into another year that requires positive, impartial, attentive, and insightful leadership.

We will one day look back on the 2020-2021 year as one of the most difficult years of our lifetimes. The Covid-19 pandemic caused discomfort and anguish for many, and we saw glaring reminders of the serious social and environmental challenges demanding our attention and action. With this backdrop, I am extremely proud of the way FSBA members, leaders, and staff embraced the challenge to meet the moment.

During the 2020-2021 year, FSBA members, leaders, and staff showed remarkable flexibility, agility and resiliency. Innovation was developed and implemented to meet member needs in many new ways. Key elements of the Association's strategy and policies were accelerated thoughtfully and carefully through our processes.

While we could not ignore the past and the current challenges that laid before all school board members, we remained focused on serving our students, school districts and community so that they had an opportunity to achieve success. We focused on the outcome and not the obstacles and remembered that our focus determined our reality.

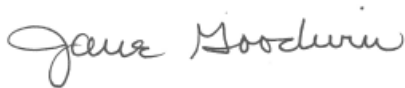
It has been an honor to serve on the Sarasota County School District Board and as a President of Florida School Boards Association. My experiences have been invaluable. I am forever grateful for the establishment of relationships and work we have done together.

As we began our year together, it was my hope we would always remain mindful of some guiding principles that protect our efforts and move us forward together:

- Place purpose before the association itself so that we are reminded of why we exist and direct our decision-making.
- Respect the community and commit to being a respectful member in the community by acknowledging that the association's actions can positively or negatively impact community on a local, regional and state level.
- Have an unbiased mindset that will result in the association advancing equitable outcomes, and assessing and evading the ways in which the association's strategies and work may reinforce systemic inequities.

We made sure to recognize that the association's power and voice must be authorized by those impacted by the organization's work.

Again, I thank you for the trust you had in me to lead FSBA during a year filled with challenges, opportunities and successes. Together, we were able to move FSBA into a innovative and flourishing future for the benefit of the students and families who rely on our leadership.



Jane Goodwin, Sarasota
FSBA President 2020 - 2021



FSBA MISSION

The mission of the Florida School Boards Association is to increase student achievement through the development of effective School Board leadership and advocacy for public education.

The work of the association staff, leadership, and general membership is driven by the FSBA 2020 Strategic Plan, approved by the Board of Directors in 2015, amended in 2016, and expired in 2020, when the Board of Directors began work on planning for the next 5 years and beyond. FSBA has been the collective voice for Florida school boards since 1930 and is closely allied with other educational and community agencies to work toward the improvement of education in Florida.

MEMBERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

The membership of the Florida School Boards Association is made up of Florida school board members, constitutional officers elected locally to four year terms. Membership is optional and representative governance within the association is structured around membership. The 2020-2021 membership represented 65 of Florida's 67 school districts.

FSBA By-Laws and Policy govern day to day operations and procedural matters. An Executive Office of 5 members, elected by their peers, a board of 27 regionally elected directors, and the general membership drive policy changes, association positions, and vision with guidance and recommendations of 9 standing committees.

The FSBA Board of Directors' never stopped leading, in spite of being pushed to virtual meetings. Here, the Board of Directors discuss their October action agenda.





BELIEF STATEMENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Policy 2015 approved by the Board of Directors, March 2021

Members of the Florida School Boards Association share the following beliefs to guide the Association in its work with members, FSBA staff, and stakeholders.

Our work will be representative, professional, collaborative, innovative, and impactful.



Representative

We will reinforce local decision-making and reflect diverse points of view.



Professional

We will model ethical leadership and exemplary stewardship.



Innovative

We will focus on forward-thinking, innovative solutions, opportunities and possibilities.



Collaborative

We will act with cohesion, transparency, and intentional engagement.



Impactful

We will strategically leverage initiatives, alliances and resources to produce measurable results.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS



JANE GOODWIN
Sarasota
President



**CHRIS PATRICCA
Lee**
President-Elect



THOMAS KENNEDY
Citrus
Vice President



WENDY ATKINSON
Charlotte
Treasurer



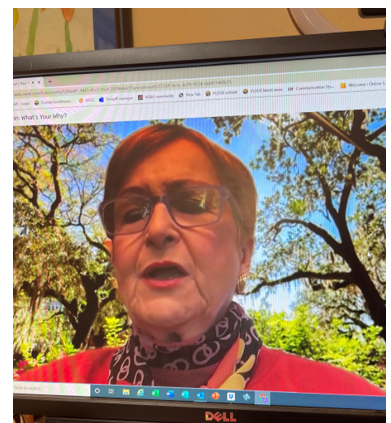
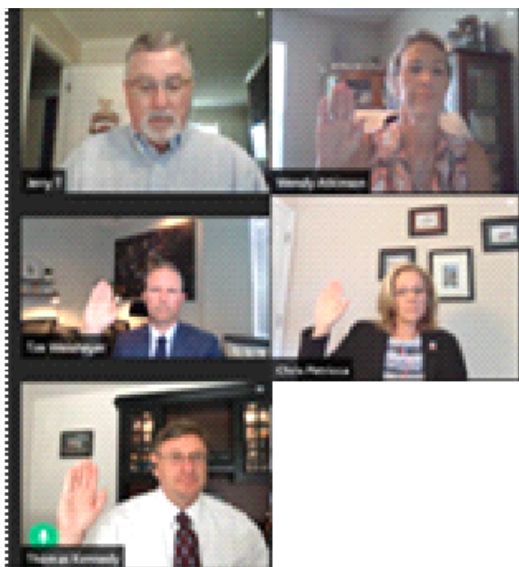
TIM WEISHEYER
Osceola
Immediate Past President

VIRTUALLY TAKING THE OATH

For the first time in history, FSBA Executive officers took their oath of office virtually, which is where the bulk of their meetings were conducted throughout the year.

In November, 2020, Jerry Taylor, Suwannee, assumed the position of Immediate Past President when Tim Weisheyer retired from board service.

FSBA Officers also conducted a virtual check-in monthly with Committee leadership.



STAFF



Andrea Messina
Executive Director



Cheval Breggins
Member Engagement
Coordinator



Leslie Dunlap
Director,
Finance & Administration



BillieAnne Gay
Director
Advocacy & Legislative
Services



Patricia Peterson
Member Services
Specialist



Tina Pinkoson
Director, Leadership
Services



Carolyn Sanders,
Member Services
Associate.



Through a partnership with NSBA and BellaCanvas, FSBA staff packed 60,000 donated cotton masks and shipped to school districts.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Jane Goodwin, Sarasota
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Christine "Chris" Patricca, Lee
VICE PRESIDENT	Thomas Kennedy, Citrus
TREASURER	Wendy Atkinson, Charlotte
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT*	Tim Weisheyer, Osceola Jerry Taylor, Suwannee
DISTRICT 1	Kevin Adams, Escambia
DISTRICT 2	Lori Hershey, Duval
DISTRICT 3	Dr. Steve Gallon, III, Miami-Dade
DISTRICT 4	Alan Justice, Holmes
DISTRICT 5	Beverly Slough, St. Johns
DISTRICT 6	Dr. Jory Westberry, Collier
DISTRICT 7	Sara Beth Reynolds, Polk
DISTRICT 8	Janice Kerekes, Clay
DISTRICT 9	Cindy Belin, Gulf
DISTRICT 10	Melissa Snively, Hillsborough
DISTRICT 11	Linda Kobert, Orange
DISTRICT 12	Carol Cook, Pinellas
DISTRICT 13	Saul Speights, Hamilton
DISTRICT 14	Christie McElroy, Gilchrist
DISTRICT 15	Judy Kirkpatrick, DeSoto
DISTRICT 16	Kathie Joiner, Sumter
DISTRICT 17	Nora Rupert, Broward
DISTRICT 18	Marcia Andrews, Palm Beach
DISTRICT 19	Matt Susin, Brevard
DISTRICT 20	Steve Scott, Gadsden
DISTRICT 21	Christia Li Roberts, Martin
DISTRICT 22	Teresa Castillo, Osceola
DISTRICT 23	Virginia "Ginger" Bryant, Citrus
DISTRICT 24	Kim Amontree, Charlotte
DISTRICT 25	vacant
DISTRICT 26	Debbie Jordan, Lee
DISTRICT 27	Jamie Haynes, Volusia
NSBA SOUTHERN REGION BOD	Beverly Slough, St. Johns

*In November, 2020, Jerry Taylor, Suwannee, assumed the position of Immediate Past President when Tim Weisheyer retired from board service.

COMMITTEES

ADVOCACY	Beth McCall, Marion, Chair; Tim Bryant, Okaloosa, Vice
FEDERAL RELATIONS	Beverly Slough, St. Johns, Chair; Kevin Adams, Escambia, Vice
FINANCE	Wendy Atkinson, Charlotte, Chair; Linda Cuthbert, Volusia, Vice
LEADERSHIP SERVICES	Mary Bolla, Clay, Chair; Elizabeth Andersen, Duval, Vice
LEGISLATIVE	Dr. Sue Woltanski, Monroe, Chair; Dr. Karen Castor Dentel, Vice
EQUITY	Marcia Andrews, Palm Beach, Chair; Joy Bowen, Leon, Vice
POLICY	Thomas Kennedy, Citrus, Chair; Jen Mitchell, Collier, Vice
LONG-RANGE PLANNING	Chris Patricca, Lee, Chair
NOMINATING	Jerry Taylor, Suwannee, Chair
PAST PRESIDENTS	Jerry Taylor, Suwannee, Chair

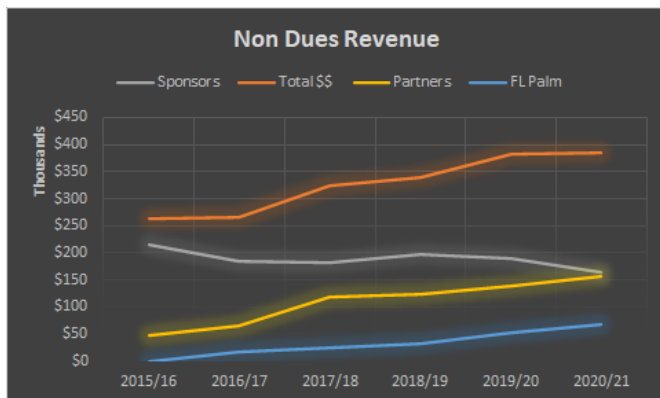


A monthly check in with Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs was held virtually. Recognized for their work leading this year's Equity Committee, Joy Bowen and Marcia Andrews were awarded this year's President's Award for exemplary work.

FINANCE

FSBA's finance department continued to focus on financial stability and operational efficiency for the Association. The 20-21 Operating Budget, passed in December of 2019, reflected what was, at the time, the Association's budget priorities. The effects of the pandemic on travel and in-person events resulted in a reduction in revenue as well as a reduction in expenditures that were reflected in a budget amendment approved prior to fiscal year end.

Almost all statewide and national travel for Association officers, staff, and consultants was cancelled for the year, resulting in significant savings to the Association. In addition, since FSBA's in-person conferences are typically some of our largest annual expenditures, shifting to virtual platforms resulted in further cost savings. A minimal impact to conference registration revenue was experienced as the virtual events were not quite as well attended and some were priced significantly lower than prior in-person events.



We continued to move forward with the FSBA Strategic Plan 2020 goal of increasing non-dues revenue, see figure on left. Forward progress in this area is driven with the help of the following long term partners:

BoardDocs, a Diligent Brand, provides an easy and powerful software platform for school board agenda management and community engagement.

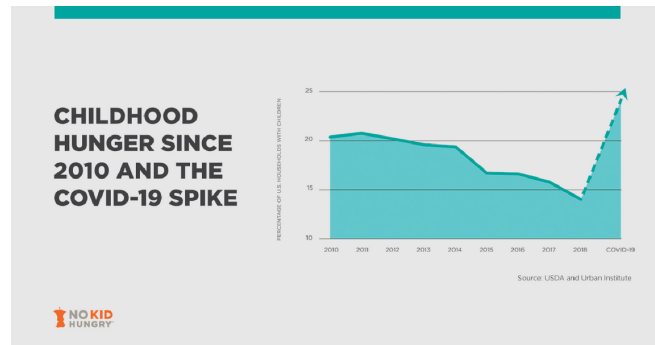
Florida currently has 38 districts using BoardDocs who save an average of \$2000 per year through our district cost saving program.

BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative which provides a streamlined purchasing process for government agencies as well as significant savings. Cities, counties, colleges, universities and other special districts also use BuyBoard to take advantage of the benefits.

Florida Public Assets for Liquidity Management (FLPALM) which meets the cash management and short-term investment needs of school districts and other government agencies and whose investment objective is to provide investors with the highest possible investment yield, while maintaining liquidity and preserving capital.

Neola, FSBA's policy partner, whose services help school leaders set direction through policy and address the policy implications and mandates of the ever-evolving laws and regulations from all levels of government. Florida currently has 30 districts utilizing Neola's expertise.

In addition to our valuable partners, FSBA is fortunate to be supported by a variety of sponsors from various service sectors and industries. Despite the unstable economic conditions of the pandemic, many of our Annual Sponsors continued to provide support throughout the 2020-21 fiscal year. Please see our website for a complete listing of our current sponsors.



One of this year's Platinum Sponsors, No Kid Hungry, stood out as a crucial resource for our members and districts. With many students learning at home on virtual platforms the entire school year, the challenges of providing food and nutrition services to families were increased. No Kid Hungry stepped in to help guide the way and ensure that students across Florida were fed and ready to learn.

With the Finance Committee's continued direction and the ongoing focus on financial stability of the Finance Department, the Association continues to build a minimum investment reserve equal to 25% of the average annual operating expenses (Policy 5012 – Investment Reserves). See figure below for a snapshot of growth toward this goal.



SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH SERVICES

FSBA's Executive Superintendent Search Service completed four superintendent searches this year. Because the search for a Superintendent can be time-consuming, challenging, and complex, FSBA's specialized, professional assistance was called upon to design a well-organized search that attracted quality candidates and adhered to the highest standards of ethics and effective school governance. FSBA's deep understanding and respect for your local community, its high expectations, and the district's way of work, as well as our extensive experience with best practices in school district leadership and productive Board/Superintendent relations helped us serve these districts during their search.

Our process was complimented this year with the addition of a comprehensive handbook designed to assist district staff liaisons throughout the process in supporting the work of the board.

Sarasota

Completed July 2020

- 44,000+ students
- 34 applicants
- 14 states represented
- 18 doctorate degreed applicants
- 10 current supt. applicants
- 25 community panel members
- Dr. Brennan Asplen named

Martin

Completed October 2020

- 14,495+ students
- 45 applicants
- 21 states represented
- 33 doctorate degreed applicants
- 17 current or former supt. applicants
- 27 community panel members
- Dr. John Millay named

Escambia

Completed October 2020

- 40,000+ students
- 27 applicants
- 15 states represented
- 20 doctorate degreed applicants
- 8 current or former supt. applicants
- 22 community panel members
- Dr. Tim Smith named

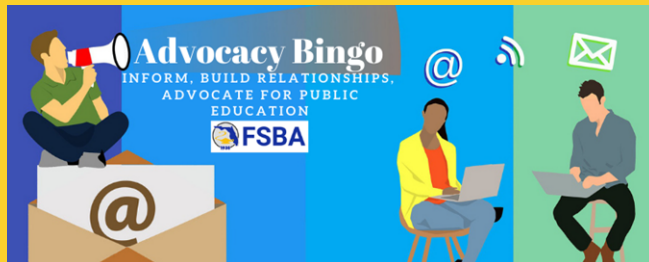
Polk

Completed May 2021

- 88,000+ students
- 52 applicants
- 24 states represented
- 36 doctorate degreed applicants
- 20 current supt. applicants
- 36 community panel members
- Frederick Heid named

ADVOCACY

Some goals take time to implement, and one such goal was achieved in 2020. After policy discussion and visioning, the FSBA Advocacy Committee restructure finally came to fruition (FSBA By-Laws, Article XI). The committee restructure shifted statewide representation from the Legislative Committee to the Advocacy Committee. This shift reiterated the importance of overall advocacy efforts for public education. The newly restructured committee includes two subcommittees - Legislative and Federal – and enabled these member-driven workgroups to focus on advocacy efforts and stakeholder relationships to ultimately increase student achievement. The refocus led to many successes and new initiatives.



A fun new resource, FSBA Advocacy BINGO, implemented good advocacy strategies on the local, state, and federal levels with recognition in the Certified Board Member program. Another resource developed by the committee was “Creating an Advocacy Template for your School District” guide.



This guide, utilizing examples from several member districts, provided step-by-step guidance and considerations for developing district templates to educate all audiences about the work of Florida school districts. At the direction of the committee, FSBA staff also expanded upon the traditional advocacy calendar.

This calendar came to life as it was transformed from a list of important advocacy dates and celebrations to a full color interactive tool including events, graphics, and suggested social media content to help members engage with their communities.

The continued pandemic forced all FSBA conferences and training to be delivered virtually. Discovering ways to provide opportunities for digital networking and share the good news of Florida’s public school districts was a challenge. Joining forces with the virtual platform Accelevents, FSBA collaborated with an all-star line up of presenters and experts to roll out the Annual Joint Conference. One highlight of the virtual event was the District Showcase video.

Calling on Advocacy Representatives from each member district, videos were submitted highlighting the great work and innovation from across the state. State of the art facilities, family engagement centers, robotics, welding, and community partnerships were all a part of this successful compilation. Conference attendees were also provided with suggested appetizer and seasonal drink recipes to try as they connected during “meet ups.” These 3 minute (virtual) face-to-face meetings were a great substitute for typical reception chats.



FSBA's Annual Day in the Legislature (virtual) boasted an all-star lineup of presenters.

Another virtual success was the Annual Day in the Legislature. Typically hosted in Florida's capital, advocacy leaders desired a way to deliver in-depth advocacy training while also bringing policy makers to members—even from afar. Outside of legislative and budget briefings, the advocacy training not only included nuts and bolts of Florida's legislative process, but also incorporated 15 policy makers' insight. Commissioner Richard Corcoran shared the Department of Education's goals, and a wide variety of legislators, including Chairs McClain, Aloupis, Mariano, and Williamson participated by providing their advice on effective advocacy.

FSBA saw even more partnerships grow which was a great success given limited travel and direct exposure with stakeholders. Blue Origin's Club for the Future partnered with FSBA during the Annual Joint Conference to promote its Postcards to Space initiative. This provided an opportunity not only for school board members to participate and send a card to space themselves, but to learn more about this project's mission to get students engaged with STEM initiatives. FSBA also promoted the Share Gratitude Project during the Annual Joint Conference to encourage Floridians to focus on thankfulness in our lives during such challenging times.

The re-aligned FSBA Advocacy Committee structure allowed for a more streamlined platform development process while still including diversity and statewide perspective during the process. During interim committee weeks and the 2021 Legislative Session, there were successes as well as tough hits for public education.

One of the toughest pills to swallow was the continued expansion of state voucher programs. Multiple voucher programs, often referred to as scholarships, were combined and eligibility criteria was expanded. This expansion made scholarships available to significantly more families, not just low-income families. In addition, although they did not ultimately pass, school board salaries were on the chopping block and the consideration of school board term limits was back on the table.

FSBA's lobby team was able to work closely with members to leverage key relationships, communicate quickly and directly on these important issues, and was ultimately credited as "in on the win" by Florida Politics.



School board members — The House toyed around with a measure to eliminate pay for school board members. It was controversial, of course, and lawmakers eventually killed it. But rather than die, it morphed into a more familiar foe — term limits. Republicans in the Legislature have long thought school board members should be subject to the same eight-year limit that exists for lawmakers. Home-rule advocates have railed against the idea, arguing that local residents should decide how long a school board member can hold office, either by voting them out or passing a referendum instituting term limits. The measure almost appeared on the ballot in 2018 but was struck down by the courts ahead of the election — that's why there was no Amendment 8. HJR 1461 would have put it the question before voters in 2022, but it ultimately died after the Senate failed to take it up. Consider it two wins in one for school board members, who not only get to keep their jobs, but their paychecks too.

In on the win: **BillieAnne Gay**.



Advocacy Committee Chair Beth McCall (Marion) finally met with her committee members face to face at the Annual Summer Conference.

Measuring Success: Advocacy Goals for 2021

- 1 Emergency orders and federal funding provided financial flexibility for school districts to operate during the pandemic.
- 2 Safe and secure learning environments were enhanced by \$20M for mental health, \$6M for the Aaron Feis Guardian Program, and several policy issues in SB 590.
- 3 Accountability negative effects were paused while allowing for optional flexibility for districts to document success after proposed legislation and executive action.
- 4 School board member salaries and terms of service retained.
- 5 Coordinated efforts for members to leverage key relationships to support, advocate, and provide information to legislators.

As for successes, several pillars of the FSBA Legislative Platform were achieved including increased school safety and mental health funding, financial flexibility for school districts during the pandemic, and pausing the negative effects of the accountability system following the interrupted school years [DOE ORDER No. 2020-EO-06].

The priority on pausing accountability while providing recognition for districts showing growth and student achievement was a major success and fine example of coalition building and advocacy through both legislative and executive action [SB 886/HB 359 COVID-19 Impact on School Accountability; SB 7070 Impact of COVID-19 on Educational Institutions; DOE ORDER No. 2021-EO-02: Waiving Strict DOE ORDER No. 2021-EO-02 Adherence to the Florida Education Code, as made necessary by the COVID-19 public health emergency].

LEADERSHIP SERVICES

FSBA's Leadership Services, led by Director Tina Pinkoson, had a banner year with team and individual recognitions exceeding goals. Known for providing exemplary training programs to individual school board members and leadership teams, her consultants, Carol Cook, April Griffin, and Stacy Kirvin, all having served or currently serving on a Florida school board, bring a unique perspective and experience to training. They each stepped up to every challenge in the midst of the global pandemic.

The Leadership Service team filmed trainings, attended trainings virtually, and reverted back to in-person trainings when it was safe to do so, only proving the point to school board members how important it is to adapt to changing times.



The total number of new school board members in 2020 was 61, with 38 open seats due to retirements and 23 challengers defeating incumbents in competitive races. Within days of being elected, each new school board member received a welcome call and a packet from FSBA. In December, less than 3 weeks after the election, 48 newly elected school board members eagerly attended the New School Board Academy Part 1. Part 2 of the New School Board Member Academy was held virtually in March. These crucial trainings aided our newly elected members in making a smooth transition from citizen to elected school board member during one of the most challenging times to be an elected official.

Two FSBA Certified Board Member Finance Forums were held. Both the Finance Forum and Finance Forum 2.0 had full capacity attendance within the confines of social distancing throughout the event. These Forums provided a great way for new school board members to become familiar with the aspects of their new role and for experienced school board members to brush up on their skills.



And governance team training didn't miss a beat either. The 37 governance teams participating in training far exceeded the goal of 25 set in FSBA's 2020 Strategic Plan. Traveling across the state, working alone or in pairs, this department proved that nothing would impede their commitment to serving our members and helping them learn how to better do their jobs individually and as a team.

96

School Board Members currently hold either the Certified Board Member distinction and/or the distinction of Emerging Leader.

61

New School Board Members elected and sworn into office in Nov. 2020, 33 of whom accepted the offer to have an experienced School Board member serve as a mentor.

37

School district teams participating in Governance Team training either through Master Board Program or Technical Onsite Trainings.

The Leadership Services team again crafted a Master Board program designed to onboard new members while addressing the issues experienced by seasoned board members, confirming for our members how this capstone program constantly evolves and brings members the best and most up-to-date training possible. Combined with Lunch-and-Learn sessions for new school board members and bi-weekly member webinars, there were more professional development opportunities this year than ever before.

Wanting to personally acknowledge completion of challenging training programs, Tina and her consultants presented each team their recognition plaque in person which meant hitting the road a little harder, a task they gladly assumed.

The Leadership Services department goal never waived – to provide the tools for a leadership team to work effectively, efficiently, and collectively while maintaining a focus on student achievement through the five components of FSBA's Governance Model: vision, policy, accountability, community leadership, and relationships.



EXPANDING OUR IMPACT

As part of FSBA's mission to increase student achievement through effective board training and advocacy for public education, members and staff continued efforts to offer themselves as education experts and advocates. FSBA staff and members are regularly called upon to serve on panels, as presenters, or in leadership roles throughout the state and country. Below are some of the areas where FSBA's impact was felt.



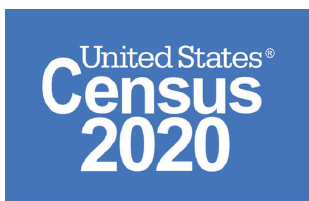
Dr. Steve Gallon III, a member of FSBA's Board of Directors and Miami Dade County School Board, was elected Chair of the National School Boards Association's Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE).



Bev Slough, FSBA Past President, member of FSBA's Board of Directors and St. Johns County School Board, continued to represent the Southern Region on NSBA's Board of Directors.



School Choice Week provided a unique opportunity for board members to present on innovation and public school choice options.



Gov. DeSantis appointed FSBA Executive Director Andrea Messina to serve on Florida's 2020 Census Statewide Complete Count Committee, coordinating with the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure all Floridians were counted.

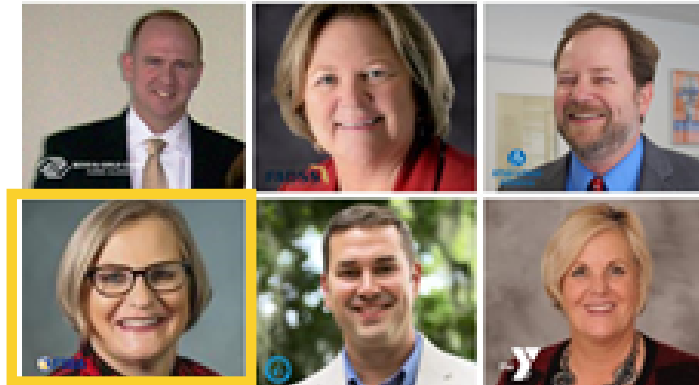
Highlights of FSBA's Impact

- Junior League of Florida: Advocacy Chair Beth McCall (Marion) participated on student literacy panel
- Foundation for Florida's Future: Participated in Digital Divide Coalition
- FSBA Executive Director Andrea Messina presented at NSBA's national conference on A Successful Future of Public Education Lies in Procurement: Doing More with Less for Student Success
- Early Learning: FSBA Director of Advocacy and Legislative Services BillieAnne Gay presented on effective advocacy on several panels
- Equality Florida: FSBA President Jane Goodwin (Sarasota) and Equity Committee Chair Marcia Andrews (Palm Beach) presented a conference session entitled School Board Policies: Procedures that Promote Equity and Access for Students
- FSBA Executive Director Andrea Messina was named one of Diligent's 100 Modern Leaders in Community Governance

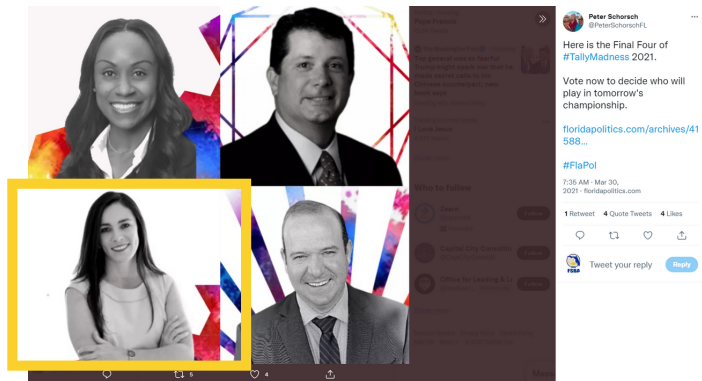


LEGISLATIVE UPDATE & FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE

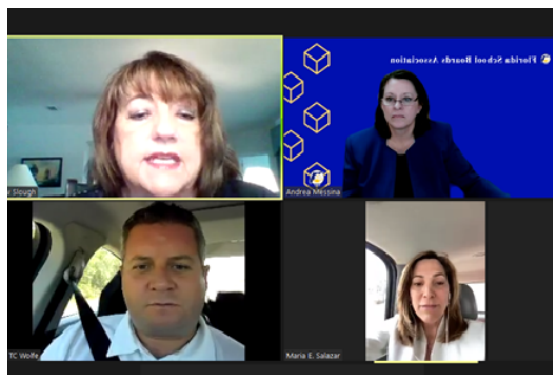
May 18, 2021 | 2:00 pm EST



Above: Lori Hershey (Duval) provided insight on a panel hosted by the Florida Afterschool Network,



Above: FSBA Director of Advocacy and Legislative Services BillieAnne Gay made it to the final 4 in Tally Madness, a highly anticipated annual competition to determine who the best lobbyist is in Florida.



Left: Federal Relations Committee Chair Bev Slough, Federal Relations Consultant TC Wolfe, and Executive Director Andrea Messina welcomed new members of Congress with individual virtual meetings, some of which were joined by school board members in the Congressional districts.

TRANSITIONING TIMES

It was a year of firsts:

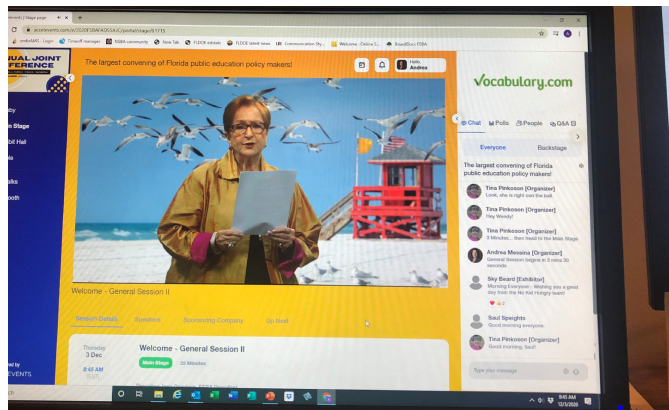
- 1st time Executive Officers had to be sworn in virtually
- 1st Leadership Development Training Meeting held on virtual platform
- 1st Annual Joint Conference held on virtual platform

... and on and on.

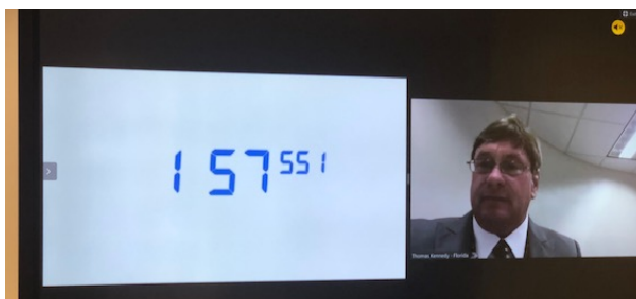
Despite the confines, frustrations, and obstacles presented by the Covid-19 spread and shutdown of community and statewide services, School boards continued to lead their districts, ensuring an innovative, dynamic framework for learning. Most classrooms across the state shifted to a hybrid learning modality and allowed students and families the option to choose whether they would attend school in person or online with a classroom teacher. Though it proved exhausting for all, the term "We're all in this together" resonated throughout schools, districts, and communities.



Citrus County School Board members, above, gathered together to attend FSBA's Annual Joint Conference in December.

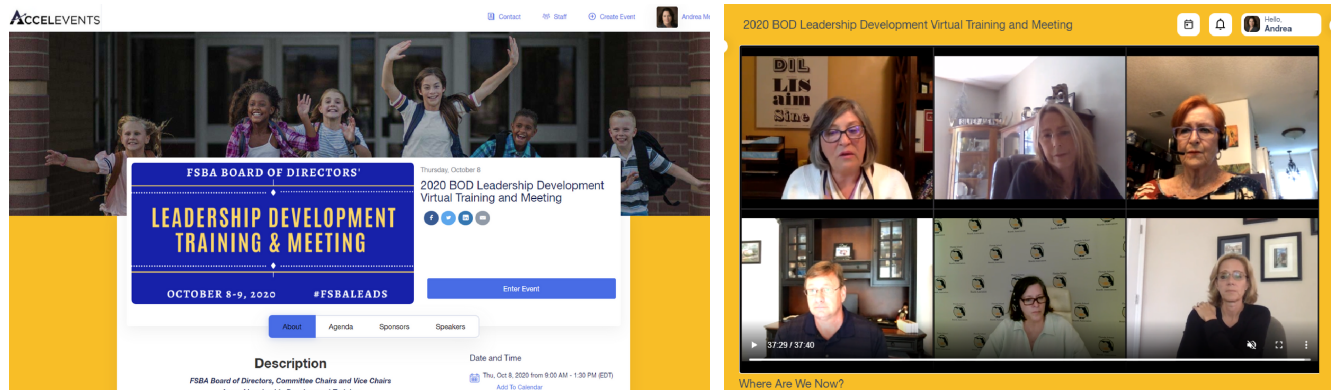


President Jane Goodwin, Sarasota, addressed virtual conference attendees at our Annual Joint Conference.



Thomas Kennedy, Citrus, represented Florida at NSBA's Delegate Assembly, held virtually.

Most all Association activities and operations shifted to virtual platforms over the course of the year, where leadership ensured that members continued to receive the services they have come to rely upon. FSBA's first true virtual convening was the FSBA Board of Directors' Leadership Development Training and Meeting.



Though the 20-21 school year started out differently than previous years, school boards refocused on their purpose of ensuring a high quality education for all students in the safest possible environment.



Tammy Boyle, Levy, won the opportunity to present a scholarship to a student in her district through her participation at our Annual Joint Conference.

BY THE NUMBERS

358

Constitutional officers, elected to oversee school district operations.

Operating, controlling, and supervising all free public schools within the school district and determining the rate of school taxes within the district.

67

Public school superintendents leading operations in districts.

29 appointed and 38 elected superintendents advising and counseling with school boards to effectively operate all schools within the district.

9K

9072 School administrators leading public schools.

Over 9K principals and assistant principals in addition to over 560 deans and curriculum coordinators, and 5 community education coordinators serving public schools at the site level.

176.1K

176,182 Total teachers in Florida public schools.

In 2020-21, Florida public schools employed over 176K teachers as well as 26,323 other instructional staff members such as guidance counselors, librarians, and school psychologists.

2.79 M

2,791,687 Students in Florida public schools in 2020-21.

Likely due to the Pandemic, student enrollment decreased by over 67K from 2019-2020. Just over 341K students were enrolled in charter schools.

FLORIDA SUPERINTENDENTS

Below are the 29 districts with superintendents appointed by the local school board.

Alachua	Hillsborough	Okeechobee	
Brevard	Indian River	Orange	
Broward	Lake	Osceola	
Charlotte	Lee	Palm Beach	Elected 56.7%
Collier	Manatee	Pinellas	
Duval	Marion	Polk	
Escambia	Martin	St. Johns	
Flagler	Miami-Dade	St. Lucie	Seminole
Hernando	Monroe	Sarasota	Volusia

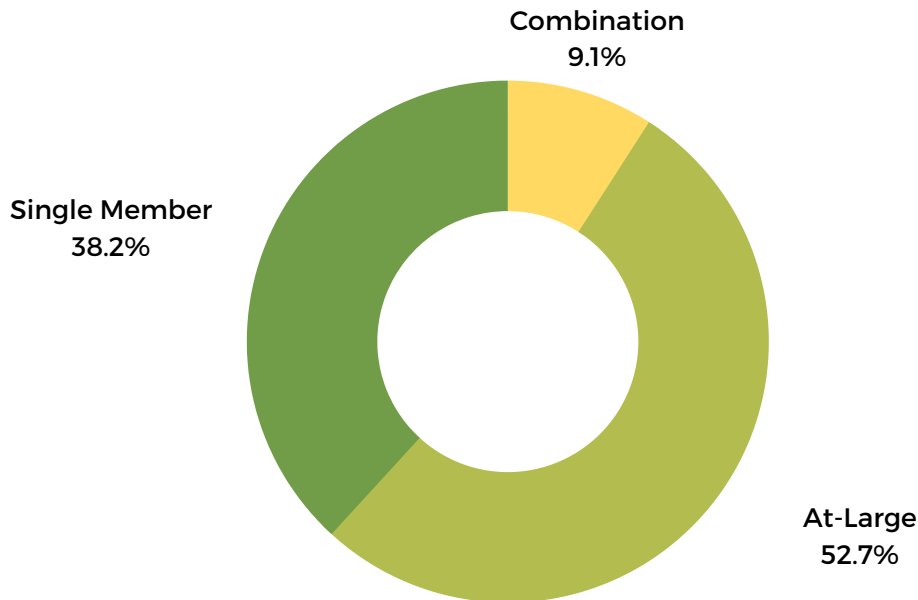
Elected
56.7%



Appointed
43.3%

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

All school board members must reside within the district for which he or she runs. Some are elected at-large*, some from single-member districts, and others are a combination of the two.



5 district boards are elected using a combination of single-member and at-large:

Broward (7 single, 2 at-large)
Hillsborough (5 single, 2 at-large)
Lee (5 single, 2 at-large)
Orange (7 single, 1 at-large (Chair))
Pinellas (4 single, 3 at-large)

*At-large members are elected county-wide

^Single member districts are elected by those who live within the specified district

2020 ELECTION

96

Incumbents
reelected

21

Challengers
elected

38

Open seats
elected

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

July 2020

FSBA delivered its Pandemic Response Guide to members. DOE Comm. Richard Corcoran issued DOE Order No. 2020-EO-06 requiring schools to open a brick and mortar option for students. FEA and others filed a lawsuit challenging the order.

August 2020

All Florida schools reopen with face to face options for families, most students attend hybrid classrooms.

Florida Primary elections determined 61 school board seats.

September 2020

President Goodwin authors op-ed Courts Playing Role in Schools' Reopening to help public understand back and forth legal opinions on school reopening lawsuit.

FSBA ships 60,000 cloth masks to member districts for distribution.

FSBA sends letter to US Secy. Perdue asking for continued access to meals during pandemic.

October 2020

FSBA new website launches.

1st District Court of Appeals ruled that school reopening case was a "political question" and not for the court's jurisdiction.

FSBA hosts 1st virtual event - BOD Leadership Development Training.

November 2020

Local, state, and national elections held.

155 School Board members took oath of office beginning new terms.

Florida's Legislative Chambers begin work under the leadership of House Speaker Chris Sprowls (Palm Harbor) and Senate President Wilton Simpson (Trilby).

December 2020

FSBA hosts 1st virtual conference with keynote speakers, breakout sessions, new school board member academy training, networking/social sessions followed by virtual General Membership meeting.

After 1st Covid-19 vaccine distributed in US, FSBA sends letter to Gov. DeSantis and Comm. Corcoran requesting K-12 educators and school related personnel be included in vaccine priority for distribution.

January 2021

US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris sworn into office.

Covid-19 vaccines begin to become widely available on priority basis to Floridians.

February 2021

FSBA sends letter to Comm. Corcoran, requesting Federal Waiver for the 20-21 school year of the accountability and school identification requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA).

FSBA returns to in person events with distancing and strict protocols for School Finance Forum.

Comm. Corcoran signs EO-01, waiving strict adherence to Florida Education Code.

March 2021

FSBA hosts 1st virtual Day in the Legislature event with legislative breakdowns, policy briefings, budget briefings, and tips on how to (and not to) advocate for your students.

FSBA hosts virtual New School Board Member Academy, Part 2 with sessions on communications, Sunshine Law, Public Records, the history of education, and the importance of civility.

April 2021

Comm. Corcoran sign EO-02, addressing flexibility for school districts, students, and families and acknowledging the pandemic's potential effect on learning.

May 2021

School districts began to hold in person graduations for the Class of 2021.

June 2021

FSBA hosts Annual Summer Conference, returning to in person conference after a one year hiatus and sees record attendance.

FRIDAY MEMBER WEBINARS

FSBA continued its commitment to regularly bringing members timely and relevant information by hosting Friday member webinars throughout the year. This year's topics included:

- 2020 Census (Lieutenant Governor of Florida Jeanette Nunez)
- Take a moment to relax (Rita Davis, Director, Adult & Career Education, Lee County)
- Understanding Current Federal Issues - An Insider's Perspective (TC Wolfe, New Century Government Affairs, FSBA Federal Legislative Consultant)
- School Meals and Child Hunger (Sky Beard, Florida Director, No Kid Hungry and Lakeisha T. Hood, Director, Division of Food, Nutrition, and Wellness Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services)
- Alyssa's Law Update and District Perspectives (Dean Olds, VP of Innovation, Centegix)
- ADA Website Accessibility & Compliance (Scott Trachtenberg, CEO & Founder, ADA Site Compliance)
- Florida Internet and Television (Brad Swonson, President & CEO, Derek S. Cooper, Vice President, Comcast, Marva Johnson, Vice President, Charter Communications)
- Protecting Student Athletes & Schools Through Heart Screening (Matt Susin, Brevard County)
- Navigating Advocacy in the New Year (FSBA Advocacy Committee and Sub Committees)
- Introduction to Designing Equitable Systems (Justin De Leon, Partner EdElements)
- Purchasing 101: Fundamentals (David Ricketts and Jennifer Lansden, BuyBoard)
- Becoming an Adaptive Organization (Justin De Leon, Partner EdElements)
- Florida PTA Attendance Initiative (Florida PTA officers)
- Understanding the School Incident Report (Max Schachter, SafeSchoolsforAlex)
- Adopting a Portfolio Approach to Schools (Justin De Leon, Partner, EdElements)
- Town Hall Meeting on FSBA Proposed Policy Changes (Thomas Kennedy, FSBA Policy Chair and Vice President)
- What Does a Data Culture Look and Feel Like? Does it Matter? (Justin De Leon, Partner, & Dr. Shelby McIntosh, EdElements)
- What is DOAH? What services benefit school districts? (Judge Kilbride, Florida DOAH)
- Florida After School Network—who are they and what do they do? How can afterschool program quality be improved? (Brian Hickey, Director, Florida Afterschool Network)

PAST PRESIDENTS

A Legacy of Leadership

2019	Tim Weisheyer, Osceola	1994	Joyce Hobson, Martin
2018	Jerry Taylor, Suwannee	1993	Sharon Hartsell, St. Johns
2017	April M. Griffin, Alachua	1992	Janice Mee, Sarasota
2016	Tim Harris, Polk	1991	Barbara Wallace, Lee
2015	Caroline Zucker, Sarasota	1990	Dr. Bill Gene Smith, Highlands
2014	Patty Hightower, Escambia*	1989	Jan Cummings, Broward
2014	Karen Disney-Brombach, Indian River*	1988	Judy Cross, Hendry
2013	Patty Hightower, Escambia	1987	Charles Chestnut, III, Alachua
2012	Joie Cadle, Orange	1986	Barbara Moore, Okaloosa
2011	Lee Swift, Charlotte	1985	Holmes Braddock, Miami-Dade
2010	Candace Lankford, Volusia	1984	Carol Hyde, Gilchrist
2009	Georgia "Joy" Bowen, Leon	1983	Susan Pell, Palm Beach*
2008	Beverly Slough, St. Johns	1983	James Westberry, Jr., DeSoto*
2007	Jeanne Dozier, Lee	1982	Billie Jean Reynolds, Okeechobee*
2006	Sue Hershey, Martin	1982	Susan Pell, Palm Beach*
2005	Dr. Jack Lamb, Hillsborough	1981	Bob Howe, Alachua
2004	Tom Greer, Osceola	1980	Ethel Kennedy Lyons, Orange
2003	Andy Griffiths, Monroe	1979	Joe Idlette, Indian River
2002	Judy Conte, Volusia	1978	Deane Bozeman, Bay
2001	Barbara Sharpe, Alachua	1977	Dr. Pete Everett, Leon
2000	Jane Gallucci, Pinellas	1976	Ethel Beckham, Miami-Dade
1999	Patricia Riley, Lee	1975	Allan Keeth, Seminole
1998	Bill Graham, Palm Beach	1974	Rayma Page, Lee
1997	Andrea Whiteley, Polk	1973	Pete Gindl, Escambia
1996	Linda Southerland, Orange	1972	George Miller, Jr., Putnam
1995	Margaret Sirianni, Lee	1971	Broward Davis, Leon

*Denotes half-term served



Florida School Boards Association

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