

FSUS CHARTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Retreat

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 9:00 AM

Beth Moor Lounge, Longmire Alumni Building, FSU

Members Present: Darryl Marshall, Chair; Dr. Rosezetta Bobo, Vice Chair; Dr. Brandon Bowden; Jimmy Cole; Doug Cooke; Jenn Garye; Amanda Grace; Dr. Laurel Harbin; Katie Perkins

Members Absent: Dr. Jimmie Davis; Kerry Drew

Ex-officio Members Present: Dr. Christopher Small, Executive Director

Staff and Guests Present: Megan Brink, Principal; Dr. Megan Crombie, Director of Data and Research; Gillian Gregory, FSU Director of Research Administration and K-12 Schools; Kevin Helms, District Safety Coordinator; Anthony Robinson, Athletics Director; Brad Rohrer, Chief Financial Officer; Opal McKinney-Williams, Board Counsel; Kate Wasson, Board Clerk; Suzanne Wilkinson, Principal

Call to Order

Chair Marshall called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

Board Governance: Roles and Responsibilities

Ms. McKinney-Williams reviewed the Board's statutory responsibilities, including obligations under Florida Statutes relating to charter schools, student records, Sunshine Law requirements, standards of conduct, and financial disclosure.

Board policy obligations were reviewed, including orientation and training, the School Board Code of Ethics, conflict of interest, meetings and agendas, School Board rules, and legal counsel. Ms. McKinney-Williams detailed the respective roles and responsibilities of the Board and the Director, and emphasized Sunshine Law requirements regarding board meetings and public records.

District Performance, Research & Survey Feedback Updates

Ms. Wilkinson, Ms. Brink, and Dr. Crombie presented data relative to the 2025-2026 school year goals. Highlights included:

- FSUS students performed well above the state average on the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) testing in ELA, math, science and social studies.

- 100% of seniors met state reading graduation requirements without waivers. 100% of seniors met state math graduation requirements. Dr. Crombie attributed student success to multiple factors, including innovative instruction, counseling around class placement, and the advantages of the K-12 school model.
- The first-year implementation of the AP Newton block resulted in 100% of calculus students earning scores of 3 or higher on the AP exam.
- The Class of 2026 earned 121 industry certifications.
- FSUS achieved a 9% increase in AP participation, a 12% increase in AP exams taken, and a 14% increase in students earning AP scores of 3 or higher. FSUS will present schoolwide AP best practices at the National AP Conference.
- FSUS earned both the AP Access Award and AP Honor Roll recognition.
- AP Seminar and AP Research classes were successfully added, allowing students to pursue the AP Capstone Diploma, which qualifies graduates for 100% Bright Futures eligibility without the required SAT score. One FSUS AP Research student earned a scholarship to Florida Polytechnic University to study plant growth on Mars.
- Approximately \$122,000 in grant funding was secured, including ElevatED Teacher Grants and Project SPARK.
- FSUS hosted its inaugural Research Showcase featuring 49 presentations and more than 200 participants.
- Received the AECT 2026 Excellence in Innovation Award through a research-practice partnership involving FSU doctoral students and FSUS teachers.
- The Elementary Behavior Dean successfully piloted positive restorative behavior circles and presented research at the FSUS showcase.
- Teachers participated in yearlong professional learning communities to strengthen K-12 collaboration.

Ms. Wilkinson, Ms. Brink, and Dr. Crombie presented the 2026–2027 school year goals as follows:

1. Increase reading achievement by 3%.
2. Increase mathematics achievement by 3%.
3. Strengthen Exceptional Student Education (ESE) supports.
4. Expand STEM opportunities.

5. Strengthen Career and Technical Education pathways.
6. Optimize Advanced Placement opportunities.
7. Continue expanding the school's research culture.
8. Support a positive and engaging school climate.

School Safety Overview

Mr. Helms presented the District Security Risk Assessment and Best Practices Assessment. The highlights for the 2025-2026 school year included:

- FSUS achieved 100% compliance with no safety audit findings.
- A comprehensive athletic safety training for all sports was implemented.
- The AI weapons detection system was expanded and upgraded.
- Campus tours were offered to FSUS' school safety partners, including Capitol Police, Leon County Sheriff's Office, EMS, Tallahassee Fire Department, and other agencies.
- FSUS earned designation as a Heart Safe School. Drills were run throughout the year to demonstrate the school can provide an AED and perform CPR within three minutes of a heart emergency anywhere on campus.
- The school safety survey results showed parents, students, and staff feel overwhelmingly safe on campus.
- FSUS completed all recommendations received from the FSU Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment.
- Student identification badges for grades 6–12 will be implemented next school year.
- Additional campus gate signage will be installed.
- The school is transitioning to a universal key system for emergency responders.
- A full-scale emergency exercise with FSU Emergency Management and community partners is scheduled.

Mr. Helms presented the FSUS School Security Risk Assessment. Ongoing improvements included hardening windows in designated evacuation rooms, upgrading the campus intercom system, and expanding security camera coverage to enhance AI weapons detection capabilities.

The board discussed future legislative requests, emphasizing the continued need for additional school safety funding.

Legislative Update

FSU's Chief Legislative Officer Clay Ingram and Legislative Affairs Manager Lina Rojas presented an overview of recent legislative actions. Highlights included:

- The overall FEFP funding increased by 3.09%. Fixed Capital Outlay funding for laboratory schools increased by 15.18%. FSUS received the highest per-pupil FEFP increase among Florida laboratory schools at 1.34%.
- Legislation expanded educator development opportunities through teacher development initiatives for low-performing schools, expanded no-cost professional learning opportunities, and required autism training through local CARD centers.
- Legislation was passed that designates athletic coaches as administrative personnel, permitting higher compensation. Funds for the additional compensation must come from authorized booster sources. Student athletic participation rules were standardized across school choice settings, and prohibitions were introduced to prevent a student from playing two different sports at two different schools.
- Updates were made to existing requirements regarding risk management, emergency preparedness, and security planning. Staff noted that FSUS already meets these standards.
- Graduation requirements were expanded to recognize participation in band and Special Olympics to count towards the PE and performing arts requirements.
- Cursive handwriting instruction was added as a requirement for grades 3–5.
- Legislation now requires notification to be provided to a parent within 10 days if a service identified within their child's IEP is not provided as scheduled, and provide plans for make-up.

Mr. Robinson asked about establishing a booster club structure separate from the school foundation. Mr. Ingram stated that current statute does not specify the mechanism and offered to seek clarification from the Florida Department of Education. Dr. Small reported a draft booster club policy has been prepared for board review. Booster funds would be maintained in a separate account while remaining accountable to the Board through semiannual reporting.

Adjournment

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:41.