

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

MARCH 13, 2007

## The Louisiana Purchase Room Baton Rouge, LA

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met in special session on March 13, 2007, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 10:38 a.m. by Board President Linda M. Johnson.

Board members present for the MFP Public Hearing were: Mr. Dale Bayard, Ms. Polly Broussard, Dr. Edgar Chase, Ms. Penny Dastugue, Ms. Louella Givens, Ms. Linda M. Johnson, Mr. Walter Lee, Dr. James Stafford, and Ms. Mary A. Washington.

Ms. Glenny Lee Buquet and Ms. Leslie Jacobs were absent.

Agenda Item 3      On motion of Ms. Givens, seconded by Mr. Bayard, the Board approved the MFP Public Hearing and Special Called Board Meeting agenda as printed and disseminated. (Schedule 1)

Agenda Item 4      On motion of Ms. Givens, seconded by Dr. Stafford, the Board approved the minutes of March 1, 2007. (Schedule 2)

Agenda Item 5      **Received and/or Referred**  
On motion of Dr. Stafford, seconded by Ms. Dastugue, the Board received the resolution from the East Feliciana Parish School Board requesting that BESE remove Column 14 from the MFP calculations. (Schedule 3)

At this point in the meeting, Ms. Johnson relinquished the Chair to Ms. Penny Dastugue, Chair of the Finance/Audit Review Committee, who called the MFP Public Hearing to order at 10:40 a.m.

Agenda Item 6-A      **MFP Public Hearing**

Comments were received from Mr. Ponder Jones, concerned citizen; Mr. Steve Monaghan, Louisiana Federation of Teachers; Mr. Matthew Dugas, Lafayette Parish Schools; Representative Donald Trahan, Lafayette Parish; Superintendent Charlotte Placide, East Baton Rouge Parish School System; Mr. Jim Malohn, St. Charles Parish School System; Superintendent Doris Voitier, St. Bernard Parish School System; and Ms. Catherine Fletcher, East Baton Rouge Parish School System.

The MFP Public Hearing was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Agenda **Special Called Board Meeting**  
Item 7

The Special Called Board Meeting was called to order at 12:39 p.m. by Board President Linda M. Johnson.

Board members present for the Special Called Board Meeting were: Mr. Dale Bayard, Ms. Polly Broussard, Dr. Edgar Chase, Ms. Penny Dastugue, Ms. Louella Givens, Ms. Leslie Jacobs, Ms. Linda M. Johnson, Mr. Walter Lee, Dr. James Stafford, and Ms. Mary A. Washington.

Ms. Glenny Lee Buquet was absent.

Agenda **Consideration of the Minimum Foundation Program Formula for FY 2007-2008**  
Item 7-A

7-A-1 On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Ms. Dastugue, the Board amended Motion 9-D2-2 of the minutes of February 15, 2007, deleting the following strikethrough language regarding the phase-out of hold harmless over a 10-year period:

On motion of Ms. Dastugue, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board:

- a. directed the Department to consider phasing-out hold harmless ~~over a 10 year period,~~
- b. directed the Department to present other options in phasing-out hold harmless, and
- c. authorized the Department to recommend to the Legislature that Mr. Ponder Jones' recommendations be included. (If hold harmless funds are no longer paid, hold harmless districts would be allowed to levy a property tax that would equal the reduction of hold harmless funds.)

Ms. Washington was recorded as voting "No."

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Ms. Givens requested that, in the future, when the Board directs the Department to consider a plan of action, that the Department provide a report on the activities that were conducted and the conclusions reached in those activities. Ms. Givens stated that it is much easier to digest and understand the information presented when the Board understands the premise on which the information is based.

7-A-2 On motion of Ms. Dastugue, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the Department's recommendation regarding the phase-out of hold harmless over a 5-year period, authorized the Department to keep \$38 million dollars in the formula because it is a part of prior year pay raises, and authorized the Department to redistribute the remaining \$38 million among those parishes that are not hold harmless on an annual basis."

Ms. Givens was recorded as voting "No."

7-A-3 On motion of Dr. Chase, seconded by Ms. Dastugue, the Board approved the Department's recommendation for all adjustments for students and/or tax data for Hurricane affected districts.

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Ms. Jacobs requested that the Department provide the Board with the following information on per pupil funding: The proposed 2007 information, compared to 2006, compared to 2005.

Ms. Jacobs also requested that a technical adjustment be made to Column 31, Proposed Levels 1, 2, & 3 State Share Per Pupil With Adjustments & Retiree Health, for Orleans Parish because whatever is done for retiree health care has to stay with Orleans Parish because it has that burden; the Recovery School District does not.

7-A-4 On motion of Ms. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board directed that in April 2007 the Department provide recommendations on how best to deal with the issue of East Baton Rouge Parish School System's having to retain the full liability of retirees' health insurance costs, even though their per pupil amounts have significantly decreased because students are moving to other districts recently created from EBR. Further, the Board directed that the Department's recommendations include a rationale and methodology.

Ms. Givens was recorded as voting "No."

7-A-5 On motion of Ms. Jacobs, seconded by Dr. Stafford, the Board approved the Department's recommendation to make a technical adjustment to add back into the Resolution the language that describes the redistribution of \$38 million in hold harmless. The Department will take the annual reduction amount, turn it into a per pupil amount, and provide the appropriate per pupil amount to each of the non-hold harmless districts.

7-A-6 On motion of Ms. Givens, seconded by Dr. Stafford, the Board referred to the Superintendent and the Department the issues regarding Item V., Funding for the Recovery School District, B. Local Share Per Student.

7-A-7 On motion of Dr. Stafford, seconded by Ms. Dastugue, the Board approved the Minimum Foundation Program Formula for FY 2007-2008, as amended, and authorized the Department to make technical adjustments, as needed.

At this point in the meeting, Ms. Johnson relinquished the Chair to Vice President Leslie Jacobs.

Agenda Item 7-B On motion of Ms. Dastugue, seconded by Ms. Givens, the Board approved the employment contract for the State Superintendent of Education, amending the evaluation time frame.

Agenda Item 7-C On motion of Ms. Givens, seconded by Ms. Dastugue, the Board deferred on "Consideration of policy recommendations regarding the role and authority of BESE and the State Superintendent concerning the Recovery School District." (Schedule 4)

Agenda Item 7-D **Consideration of Revisions to the Type 5 Charter Contract**

7-D-1 On motion of Ms. Givens, seconded by Ms. Broussard, the Board approved revisions to the following sections of the Type 5 charter contract, as presented by the Department:

- Section 2.8 – Student Conduct and Discipline,
- Section 2.15.1 – RSD as the Charter School's LEA for Reporting Purposes,
- Section 2.22 and Exhibit J – Services Required to be Provided, and
- Section 3.1.3 – Charter School LEA Status for Funding Purposes. (Schedule 5)

7-D-2 On motion of Ms. Dastugue, seconded by Dr. Chase, the Board approved the following language regarding Section 2.5.1. of the Type 5 charter contract:

The Recovery School District may assign a student residing within reasonable proximity to the Charter School at any time after the Charter School's enrollment period and lottery have been conducted, if the Charter School has not reached capacity and does not have a waiting list and the Recovery School District operated schools have reached capacity. Reasonable

(Motion continues on page 5)  
proximity shall be defined by the Recovery School District. Capacity shall be

defined by the Recovery School District, but in no event shall it be defined as exceeding the maximum enrollment set forth in the Charter School's Enrollment Projection Table, incorporated in this Agreement as Exhibit E. When defining capacity, the Recovery School District shall take into consideration the number of students the Charter Operator's school facility can accommodate and the necessity of hiring additional staff.

"Assign," for the purposes of this Paragraph, shall be defined as the referral of a student seeking to enroll in a school operated by the Recovery School District to the Charter School, contingent upon parental consent and completion of application materials required by the Charter School. The Charter School's obligation under the provisions of this paragraph shall include the enrollment of a student referred to it by the Recovery School District, whose parent or legal guardian has completed all application materials necessary for enrollment in the Charter School. Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, all law or charter school policy governing the admission of expelled students shall be applicable.

Ms. Givens was recorded as voting "No."

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.