

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

## The Louisiana Purchase Room Baton Rouge, LA

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met in special session on September 16, 2008, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 9:18 a.m. by Board President Linda M. Johnson.

Board members present were: Mr. Dale Bayard, Mr. John Bennett, Ms. Glenny Lee Buquet, Ms. Penny Dastugue, Mr. Jim Garvey, Mr. Keith Guice, Ms. Linda Johnson, Mr. Walter Lee, Ms. Tammie McDaniel, and Mr. Chas Roemer.

Ms. Louella Givens was absent.

Agenda Item 3      On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Ms. McDaniel, the Board approved the agenda as printed and disseminated.

Agenda Item 4      On motion of Ms. McDaniel, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the minutes of August 21, 2008.

Agenda Item 5      **Notices of Intent**

Agenda Item 5-A      On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board approved for final adoption revisions to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*: §3905. Inclusion of Alternate Assessment Results.

Agenda Item 5-B      On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board approved for final adoption revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*: §2321. Carnegie Credit for Middle School Students and §2325. Advanced Placement and Military Service Credit.

Agenda Item 5-C      On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board approved for final adoption revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*: §2907. PreGED/Skills Option Program.

Agenda Item 5-D      On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board approved for final adoption revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*: §665. Educational Technology Areas.

Agenda Item 5-E On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board approved for final adoption revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*: §219. Minimum Requirements for Approved General/Special Education Mild-Moderate Undergraduate Program: An Integrated to Merged Approach for Grades 1-5: Adopted October 2004; Effective July 1, 2010; §221. Minimum Requirements for Approved General/Special Education Mild-Moderate Undergraduate Program: An Integrated to Merged Approach for Grades 4-8: Adopted October 2004; Effective July 1, 2010; and §223. Minimum Requirements for Approved General/Special Education Mild-Moderate Undergraduate Program: An Integrated to Merged Approach for Grades 6-12: Adopted October 2004; Effective July 1, 2010.

Agenda Item 5-F On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board approved for final adoption revisions to Bulletin 1706, *Regulations for Implementation of the Children with Exceptionalities Act*. Subpart A. Regulations for Students with Disabilities, Chapters 1 - 10.

Agenda Item 5-G On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board approved for final adoption revisions to Nonpublic Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for Nonpublic School Administrators*: §2109. High School Graduation Requirements, §2313. English, §2323. Mathematics, §2329. Science, and §2331. Social Studies.

Agenda Item 6 **Board Advisory Council Appointments**

On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Bayard, the Board approved the appointment of Representative Donald Mark Trahan to the 8(g) Advisory Council upon the recommendation of Representative Jim Tucker, Speaker of the House. Representative Trahan replaces Representative Carl Crane on the Council.

On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Bayard, the Board approved the appointment of Representative James R. "Jim" Fannin to the 8(g) Advisory Council upon the recommendation of Representative Jim Tucker, Speaker of the House. Representative Fannin replaces Representative John Alario on the Council.

On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Bayard, the Board approved the appointment of Representative Donald Mark Trahan to the Louisiana Educational Assessment Testing Commission upon the recommendation of Representative Jim Tucker, Speaker of the House. Representative Trahan replaces Representative Henry W. "Tank" Powell on the Commission.

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On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Bayard, the Board approved the appointment of Representative Frank A. Hoffmann to the Textbook/Media/Library Advisory Council upon the recommendation of Representative Jim Tucker, Speaker of the House. Representative Hoffman replaces Representative Michael Powell on the Council.

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Mr. Bayard requested that he be e-mailed a roster of the members of the Science Textbook Adoption Committee, including who appointed each member.

Agenda  
Item 7

On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board approved the \$5,000 annual supplement for National Certified Social Work Specialist Certification for Ms. Alison Byrd.

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Public comments regarding Agenda Item 8, "Consideration of requests from local education agencies for waivers of *Bulletin 741* school approval standards, for regular and special education, submitted by the State Superintendent of Education," were received from: Mr. Robert Collins, BESE's Legal/Policy Advisor; Mr. Jay Dardenne, Secretary of State; Ms. Debbie D. Hudnall, Executive Director of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association; and Ms. Gayle Sloan, Superintendent of the St. Tammany Parish School System and President of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.

Ms. Buquet offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Lee, that the Board approve the Department's recommendation regarding a waiver of *Bulletin 741, Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, §333.D., which states that general election day shall be designated by each LEA as a holiday every four years for the presidential election, to allow each LEA to decide whether to declare election day, November 4, 2008, as a school holiday.

Discussion followed.

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Mr. Roemer offered a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. McDaniel, that the Board approve the waiver of Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, §333.D., which states that general election day shall be designated by each LEA as a holiday every four years for the presidential election, only for schools that are not polling sites for the November 4, 2008, presidential election.

Discussion followed.

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A Roll Call Vote was taken of Mr. Roemer’s substitute motion.

Yeas: Mr. Bayard, Mr. Bennett, Ms. McDaniel, and Mr. Roemer.

Nays: Ms. Buquet, Ms. Dastugue, Mr. Garvey, Mr. Guice, and Mr. Lee.

The substitute motion failed.

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Agenda  
Item 8

On motion of Ms. Buquet, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the Department’s recommendation regarding a waiver of Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, §333.D., which states that general election day shall be designated by each LEA as a holiday every four years for the presidential election, to allow each LEA to decide whether to declare November 4, 2008, as a school holiday.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Yeas: Ms. Buquet, Ms. Dastugue, Mr. Garvey, Mr. Guice, Mr. Lee, and Ms. Johnson.

Nays: Mr. Bayard, Mr. Bennett, Ms. McDaniel, and Mr. Roemer.

The motion passed.

Agenda  
Item 9

**Report by State Superintendent of Education**

- Superintendent Pastorek stated that Governor Jindal did not order that all school districts in the state be closed because of Hurricane Gustav. The Governor chose to close those districts north of Alexandria and including Baton Rouge at Superintendent Pastorek’s recommendation.

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The Superintendent made this recommendation because two problems existed. First, later storm information indicated that there would be significant rain and weather in the central part of the state and schools were being used as shelters. Superintendent Pastorek was concerned that the shelters would not be adequate to accommodate the people that would be there, and other shelters in the northern portion of the state would be needed. The second issue was buses. Motor coaches that were hired did not arrive on time; therefore, school districts provided buses in Baton Rouge, Rapides, Caddo, and Monroe City.

- Hurricane Gustav's largest impact was upon electricity. The hurricane did impact some school buildings, primarily in South Louisiana and Rapides Parish. Out of approximately 30 districts surveyed, there was approximately \$50 million dollars in damages to school buildings.
- Board President Linda Johnson and Ms. Erin Bendily of the Governor's Office accompanied Superintendent Pastorek on site visits by helicopter to Avoyelles, St. Landry, Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, Iberville, and Pointe Coupee parishes, which were heavily impacted by Hurricane Gustav.
- Superintendent Pastorek stated that Mr. Ramsey Green has been reassigned to the Department and is working full time assisting district superintendents with their recovery efforts. Superintendent Gayle Sloan, St. Tammany Parish School System, and Superintendent Stephanie Rodriguez, Cameron Parish School System, were helpful in providing names of contractors and getting processes put in place.
- The Superintendent stated that there was an incredible effort on the part of the education system in Louisiana. Over 750 regular school buses and 150 medical lift buses were in position to support the evacuation effort. Buses were in place to support the repatriation when people returned to southeast and southwest Louisiana.
- Superintendent Pastorek has requested that district superintendents report any time lost due to the hurricanes by September 22, 2008. He stated that he feels it is premature to discuss waiving those days at this time. One of the forms of relief that has been discussed by the Department is moving testing dates back one week. The Department will come back to the Board with a thorough assessment of what the real impacts are on school districts and how districts are best able to recover, the possibility of moving the testing dates, and consideration of waiving days. The Superintendent stated that he is reluctant to waive days.

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- The Department assisted some districts in obtaining generators.
- Currently, there are six school districts with some schools closed and one school district, Cameron Parish School System, which is completely closed due to Hurricane Ike.
- Superintendent Pastorek stated that there will be some long-term relocation of students in some coastal parishes. Some Texas residents are starting to register for school in Louisiana. The Department is reaching out to the Texas Superintendent of Education, the Houston School District Superintendent, and the Galveston School District Superintendent to discuss the possibility of sheltering people from Houston and Galveston and how Louisiana may be able to help and support their efforts.
- Dr. Hank Bounds, Mississippi's State Superintendent of Education, has been providing FEMA technical support.
- The higher education and K-12 community provided over 100,000 hot meals in Terrebonne, Lafourche, West Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, and West Feliciana parishes and in New Orleans.
- Approximately 100 Department employees are providing support for food stamp distribution.

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Ms. Dastugue requested that the report on how the districts will make up their time include some policy issues and recommendations that the Board may want to consider, such as:

- What is the range of emergency days that are built into the districts' calendars?
- What would be a reasonable target or benchmark for number of emergency days, and how can BESE help the districts achieve those targets or benchmarks?
- Should the Board consider setting some type of minimum emergency policy? If so, what should it be, and how can BESE assist the districts with accomplishing this?
- How can BESE help districts decrease the disruption of learning in the future given that Louisiana is a coastal state and is likely to incur damage and impact from other hurricanes in the coming years?
- Considering that schools start at the peak of hurricane season, is it feasible and/or reasonable for the Board to look at district start dates?

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On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board directed that:

- 1) a meeting of the School and District Accountability Commission be convened in October 2008;
- 2) the Department provide an overview, including an historical prospective of the work of the Commission thus far, as well as longitudinal data for review by the School and District Accountability Commission; and
- 3) the following item be received and referred to the Student/School Performance and Support Committee: Consideration of recommendations on how to engage districts in providing Early Childhood (LA 4) Education services to all 4-year-olds and become grantees of Headstart programs for children ages 0-3 years old.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.