

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

**The Louisiana Purchase Room
Baton Rouge, LA**

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met in special session on February 4, 2009, in the Iowa Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Board President Keith Guice.

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

Mr. John Bennett and Mr. Chas Roemer were absent.

Agenda Item 3 On motion of Mr. Bayard, seconded by Ms. Dastugue, the Board approved the agenda as printed and disseminated. (Schedule 1)

Agenda Item 4 Superintendent Pastorek made opening comments regarding efforts that have been made to identify education issues that should be the focus of the response to the proposed economic stimulus package.

Mr. Patrick Dobard, the Department's Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (AARA) and actions taken to date in response to that Act.

A question and answer session followed.

Agenda Item 5 Mr. Dobard provided the Board with a draft Resolution, prepared by the Department of Education, regarding the AARA.

Ms. Dastugue offered a motion, seconded by Ms. Givens, to adopt the Resolution, as presented by the Department, adding that copies of the Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Legislature and the Governor's Office.

Discussion followed.

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The Board was provided with handouts entitled, "Draft Resolution for Special Called Meeting" and "Draft Additional Concepts for Board Resolution on AARA," which were prepared by Mr. Robert Collins, BESE's Legal/Policy Advisor.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Guice recognized Senator Ben Nevers; Representative Patricia Smith; and Representative Rogers Pope, who were in attendance.

Senator Nevers urged the Board to request that the congressional delegation and President Obama ensure that every poor child in this state is considered equitably in the final funding formula.

Discussion followed.

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Mr. Lee offered an amendment to the original motion, seconded by Ms. McDaniel, to incorporate item three of the "Draft Additional Concept for Board Resolution on ARRA" into the Resolution presented by the Department.

Lengthy discussion followed.

The Chair called for the Question.

A Roll Call Vote was taken on Mr. Lee's motion to amend the original motion to incorporate item three of the "Draft Additional Concept for Board Resolution on ARRA" into the Resolution presented by the Department.

Yeas: Mr. Bayard, Ms. Givens, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Guice.

Nays: Ms. Buquet, Ms. Dastugue, Mr. Garvey, and Ms. McDaniel.

The motion failed for lack of six votes required for passage of a motion.

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Ms. Buquet offered an amendment to the original motion, seconded by Ms. McDaniel, to include the following additions into the Resolution presented by the Department:

(Motion continues on page 3)

- that copies of the Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Legislature, the Governor’s Office, and the Executive Director of the National Association of State Boards of Education; and
- that the following language be incorporated into the Resolution:

BESE prefers a version other than the Senate version of the stimulus bill, as originally introduced, that contains a more fair and equitable distribution to the students of Louisiana.

Discussion followed.

The Chair called for the Question.

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Motion 1 On motion of Ms. Buquet, seconded by Ms. McDaniel, the Board adopted the following Resolution regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) recognizes that the economy of the United States of America is in crisis; that the nation is facing a financial shortfall; that the State of Louisiana, like many other states, is facing a financial shortfall; that the State of Louisiana, like many other states, is facing the challenge of failing schools; and that tough choices have to be made in legislation and fiscal discipline; and

WHEREAS, President Obama’s stimulus package for American Recovery and Reinvestment is now before the United States Senate for consideration, the purpose of which is to promote economic recovery; invest in infrastructure that will promote long-term economic benefits; and stabilize state and local government budgets, including addressing budget shortfalls to prevent deep cuts to critical educational programs and services; and

WHEREAS, BESE recognizes the vital need for the one-time federal stimulus funds; BESE also recognizes the need for a long-term funding solution to help solve persistent education deficiencies in Louisiana; and

(Motion continues on page 4)

WHEREAS, BESE recognizes that the investment of federal funds is critical in helping Louisiana meet its responsibility to educate the children of Louisiana and to fulfill its vision of a world class education for all and its mission to improve academic performance for all students, eliminate achievement gaps, and to prepare students to be effective citizens in the global market.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that BESE encourages the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to support public education in the stimulus package and that BESE encourages the Congress to grant flexibility to the states, including Louisiana, consistent with the objectives of President Obama.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BESE permits and authorizes the Louisiana State Superintendent of Education to work closely with the Congressional delegation in a manner that is fair and equitable to the students of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BESE prefers a version other than the Senate version of the stimulus bill, as originally introduced, that contains a more fair and equitable distribution to the students of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BESE also requests and authorizes the Louisiana State Superintendent of Education to keep all district superintendents informed regarding the status of the passage of the federal stimulus plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation, the Governor of Louisiana, the House and Senate Members of the Louisiana Legislature, the Executive Director of the National Association of State Boards of Education, and the Louisiana State Superintendent of Education.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Yeas: Mr. Bayard, Ms. Buquet, Ms. Dastugue, Mr. Garvey, Ms. Givens, Ms. Johnson, and Ms. McDaniel.

Nays: Mr. Lee and Mr. Guice.

The motion passed.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.