

Keith Guice, President

BESSE



**BOARD
of
ELEMENTARY
and
SECONDARY
EDUCATION**

It is the mission of this board to provide leadership and enact policies that result in improved academic achievement and responsible citizenship for all students

OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

Meeting of December 10, 2009

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

DECEMBER 10, 2009

The Louisiana Purchase Room
Baton Rouge, LA

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met in special session on December 10, 2009, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m. by Board President Keith Guice.

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

Ms. Penny Dastugue and Ms. Louella Givens were absent.

Mr. Guice stated that the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council announced the winners of the 2009 Inclusive Schools Art Contest in recognition of National Inclusive Schools Week (December 7-11, 2009). The contest reflects the theme: Inclusion = Everyone.

Students in grades K - 12 were encouraged to use this as an opportunity to showcase their talents by expressing how inclusion affects them and their school community. An awards ceremony on December 9th at the State Museum recognized the twenty-one winning artists from ten schools and five BESE districts. Mr. Guice invited those in attendance to enjoy the artwork, which was on display at the entrance to the Louisiana Purchase Room.

The program has become a wonderful opportunity to promote disability awareness and inclusive education. It also celebrates the progress schools have made in providing a quality education for all students, including those with disabilities. The contest is a collaborative effort with the Louisiana Department of Education, the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, LaTEACH, and Families Helping Families of Southwest Louisiana.

Agenda Item 3 On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Bennett, the Board approved the agenda as printed and disseminated, with the addition of Emergency Agenda Items 13 – 14. (Schedule 1)

Agenda Item 4 On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Bennett, the Board approved the minutes of October 15, 2009.

Agenda
Item 5 **Notices of Intent**

Agenda
Item 5-A On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board approved for final adoption revisions to the *Louisiana Administrative Code*, Title 28, Part I. Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE Code): §713. Public Comments.

Agenda
Item 6 **Report by the State Superintendent of Education**

On behalf of Superintendent Pastorek, Deputy Superintendent of Education Ollie Tyler, highlighted the following in the "Report by the State Superintendent of Education":

- Ms. Tyler recognized Lake Forest Elementary Charter School in Orleans Parish and Sugarland Elementary School in Iberia Parish, who were honored for exceptional student performance and closing the achievement gap among all groups by the National Title I Distinguished Schools Program. These schools exhibited exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years in reading and mathematics with the greatest percentage of students reaching proficiency.
 - One of the Department's primary goals is to eliminate the achievement gaps between the races and socioeconomic groups. In January 2010, Lake Forest Elementary Charter School and Sugarland Elementary School will represent our state and be recognized by the National Association of State Title I Directors during an event in Washington, DC.
- For the second year in a row, Louisiana was recognized by a national group for its strong longitudinal data system. In its Annual Progress Report on State Education Data Systems, the Data Quality Campaign (DQC) found that Louisiana is one of 11 states that meet all requirements for a robust and effective longitudinal data system. Louisiana's data allows states and districts to follow individual student growth; determine the value of specific programs; and identify high-performing classrooms, schools, and systems on a year-to-year basis.
- In addition to this accolade, Louisiana has also been recognized nationally for its efforts to provide online education opportunities. Louisiana was recently ranked sixth in the nation in providing online

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education courses and opportunities for its students, according to the *Online Learning Policy Survey. A Survey of States* was conducted by e.Republic's Center for Digital Education. Louisiana's state ranking was based on a number of factors, including a strategy for school reform that includes online learning and the establishment of a virtual school.

- Two Louisiana teachers were recently recognized by the Milken Foundation for the outstanding work that they do on behalf of children each day.
 - New Iberia Senior High School teacher Stephanie Judice and North DeSoto Middle School teacher Deana McMillian were both surprised recently by learning they were among 53 educators nationwide who will receive the prestigious Milken Educator Award. In addition to the national distinction, both teachers were also given a \$25,000 cash award to spend any way they wish.
 - Teachers are not nominated for this award. Rather, the Milken Foundation seeks out educators who demonstrate the qualities of world-class teachers. The criteria for selection are exceptional educational talent; exemplary educational accomplishments beyond the classroom; and an engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues, and the community, among other criteria.
- The Department has continued to dialogue with stakeholders, including teachers unions, school boards, superintendents, and others regarding Louisiana's Race to the Top proposal.
 - The Department hosted a Race to the Top Summit in November 2009 and regional summits will begin this week and continue through next week.
 - These regional meetings will offer district superintendents, school board members, educators, and members of the general public the chance to learn more about how all schools could benefit from the initiatives supported by Race to the Top funding, as well as give stakeholders a chance to ask questions and express their concerns regarding our state's application. Additionally, a special area has been designated on the Department's website where community members can find out important information and ask questions about Louisiana's participation in Race to the Top before the application is submitted in January 2010.

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- Ms. Tyler recognized Mr. Rodney Watson, who will retire from the Department of Education on December 11, 2009. She offered congratulations to Mr. Watson on his outstanding years of service, stating that Mr. Watson has spent 33 years serving the children of Louisiana. He worked diligently during the years when the Department of Education began its journey of creating a nationally recognized accountability system and was a key contributor to ensuring that this system worked for the benefit of all children in Louisiana

Committee of the Whole (COW)

Agenda Item 7-A **Board Administration/Relations Committee COW** (Schedule 2)

- 7-A-1 On motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. McDaniel, the Board received the report of 8(g) Student Enhancement Block Grant projects for elementary/secondary education for FY 2009-2010.
- 7-A-2 On motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. McDaniel, the Board approved the out-of-state travel request to be reimbursed by BESE for Ms. Linda Johnson to attend the SREB State Career/Technical Education Consortium State Leaders' Forum in Savannah, Georgia, November 12-13, 2009.
- 7-A-3 On motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. McDaniel, the Board received the update report regarding Louisiana's Race to the Top grant application.
- 7-A-4 On motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. McDaniel, the Board approved the following allocations by funding category for the FY 2010-2011 8(g) Annual Program and Budget:
- 1) \$20,400,000 or 53.7% of the total budget for the Student Enhancement Block Grant Program and
 - 2) \$16,619,600 or 43.7% of the total budget for the Statewide Grant Program.
- 7-A-5 On motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. McDaniel, the Board approved the FY 2010-2011 8(g) Student Enhancement Block Grant focus areas as follows:
- prekindergarten programs for at-risk four-year-olds,
 - remediation programs for students unsuccessful on high stakes testing and/or unable to keep up with their peers, and
 - proven strategies for dropout prevention.

Agenda **Finance Committee COW** (Schedule 3)
Item 7-B

7-B-1 On motion of Mr. Roemer, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board received the report of the MFP formula.

7-B-2 On motion of Mr. Roemer, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board deferred until January 2010: "Consideration of a presentation regarding student-based budgeting."

7-B-3 On motion of Mr. Roemer, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board received the report on the FY 2010-2011 BESE Special Schools (BSS) and the Special School District (SSD) budget requests.

7-B-4 On motion of Mr. Roemer, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board received the report of the FY 2010-2011 Department budget request and retained this item on the agenda.

7-B-5 On motion of Mr. Roemer, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the FY 2010-2011 BESE budget request.

Agenda **High School Redesign Committee COW** (Schedule 4)
Item 7-C

7-C-1 On motion of Ms. McDaniel, seconded by Mr. Bayard, the Board received the update report from the High School Redesign Commission and referred the Louisiana College and Career Readiness Policy Framework and appendices to the Board for a full discussion at the next Board meeting.

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Ms. Johnson offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Garvey, that the Board reconsider its action on implementation of the Career Diploma.

Discussion followed.

No vote was taken on Ms. Johnson's motion to reconsider. Mr. Guice stated that the motion to reconsider died from lack of action.

7-C-2 On motion of Ms. McDaniel, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board retained the policy revisions related to the implementation of the Career Diploma until January 2010.

7-C-3 On motion of Ms. McDaniel, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board deferred: "Consideration of new Industry Based Certifications to be offered by secondary Career and Technical Education programs," until the regularly scheduled January 2010 meeting.

Agenda **Quality Leaders/Educators Committee COW** (Schedule 5)
Item 7-D

7-D-1 On motion of Ms. Buquet, seconded by Mr. Bennett, the Board approved the following teacher education programs at the University of New Orleans:

Master of Arts in Teaching Degree in Grades PK-3, Grades 1-5, Grades 4-8 in Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and English;

Master of Arts in Teaching Degree in Grades 6-12 in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, General Science, Physics, English, Mathematics, and Social Studies;

Master of Arts in Teaching Degree in Early Interventionist;

Master of Arts in Teaching Degree in Hearing Impaired; and

Master of Arts in Teaching Degree in Significant Disabilities.

7-D-2 On motion of Ms. Buquet, seconded by Mr. Bennett, the Board approved the following teacher education programs at McNeese State University:

Certification-Only Alternate Program in Grades 6-12 General Science, Grades 4-8 Mathematics, and Grades 4-8 Science.

Agenda **Recovery School District Committee COW** (Schedule 6)
Item 7-E

7-E-1 On motion of Mr. Roemer, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board received the report from Education Finance staff concerning Type 5 charter school budgets and expenditure reports, including irregularities or concerns.

Agenda **State Authorized School Oversight Committee COW** (Schedule 7)
Item 7-F

7-F-1 On motion of Mr. Garvey, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board deferred until January 2010: "Consideration of a report on Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired," as requested by the Department.

- 7-F-2 On motion of Mr. Garvey, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board deferred until January 2010: "Consideration of a report from Education Finance staff concerning Types 2 and 4 charter school budgets and expenditure reports, including irregularities or concerns," as requested by the Department.
- 7-F-3 On motion of Mr. Garvey, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board deleted Agenda Item IV.B.4.: "Consideration of the two Type 2 charter school applications that were submitted by Helix Network of Educational Choices to the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board," as recommended by the Department.
- 7-F-4 On motion of Mr. Garvey, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board deferred until January 2010: "Consideration of recommendations for authorizing Type 2 charter schools," as requested by the Department.
- 7-F-5 On motion of Mr. Garvey, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board deleted Agenda Item V.B.1.: "Consideration of a discussion concerning the release of Delhi High School from the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Education and the Richland Parish School Board and any addenda or exhibits incorporated by reference in the MOU."
- Agenda Item 7-G **Student/School Performance and Support Committee COW**
(Schedule 8)
- 7-G-1 On motion of Mr. Bayard, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board deferred until January 2010: "Consideration of approval of nonpublic school academic classifications," as requested by the Department.
- 7-G-2 On motion of Mr. Bayard, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board approved the Career and Technical Education textbooks, as recommended by the State Textbook Adoption Committee.
- 7-G-3 On motion of Mr. Bayard, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board deferred until January 2010: "Consideration of revisions to Nonpublic Bulletin 741," which reflect the change to End-of-Course Tests and the phasing out of GEE as the assessment requirement for a state diploma, and referred this item to the Nonpublic School Commission. Further, the Board directed that the recommendations of the Commission be presented to the Board at the January Special Called Board Meeting.
- 7-G-4 On motion of Mr. Bayard, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board approved the process of involvement with the National Governors Association in the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

There was no opposition to the motion.

7-G-5 On motion of Mr. Bayard, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board received the report regarding the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

7-G-6 On motion of Mr. Bayard, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board immediately released the following schools from the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs):

Oak Park Elementary School - Caddo Parish,
Romeville Elementary School - St. James Parish,
Claiborne Elementary School - East Baton Rouge Parish,
Barret Elementary School - Caddo Parish,
Caddo Heights Elementary School - Caddo Parish, and
Julius Patrick Elementary School - Rapides Parish.

Further, if these schools make their growth target or come within one point of the growth target in 2009-2010, they remain out of the MOU.

7-G-7 On motion of Mr. Bayard, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board allowed Griffin Middle School in East Carroll Parish to opt out of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) if it so desires, as recommended by the Department.

7-G-8 On motion of Mr. Bayard, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board deferred until January 2010: "Consideration of changes to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*," as requested by the Department.

7-G-9 On motion of Mr. Bayard, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board deferred until January 2010: "Consideration of changes to the High Stakes Testing Policy required by Act 276 of the 2009 Louisiana Legislative Session," as requested by the Department.

7-G-10 On motion of Mr. Bayard, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board deferred until January 2010: "Consideration of revisions to Bulletin 741 relative to Data Calculation regarding Persistently Dangerous Schools," as requested by the Department.

Agenda
Item 8

Board Advisory Council Reports

There were no Advisory Council reports in December 2009.

Agenda
Item 9

Board Advisory Council Appointments

There were no Advisory Council appointments in December 2009.

Agenda **Received and/or Referred**
Item 10

Agenda Item 10-A On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Bayard, the Board received Resolution No. 44-09 from the Orleans Parish School Board, which requests that BESE and the Recovery School District (RSD) relinquish control and use of the Tommy Lafon School facilities to the Orleans Parish School Board. (Schedule 9)

Agenda Item 10-B On motion of Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Bayard, the Board received and referred to the State Authorized School Oversight Committee: "Consideration of a report entitled, 'Evaluation of Evidence-Based Practices in Online Learning,' published by the United States Department of Education (USDOE)."

Agenda Item 11 On motion of Ms. McDaniel, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board received the update report on the findings of the Virtual Education Study Group. (Schedule 10)

Agenda Item 12 On motion of Mr. Garvey, seconded by Ms. Buquet, the Board referred to the State Authorized School Oversight Committee: "Consideration of recommendations from the Department regarding the composition of the Virtual Education Study Group."

Agenda **Received and/or Referred**
Item 13

Agenda Item 13-A On motion of Ms. McDaniel, seconded by Mr. Bayard, the Board received Resolution 11-09-1667 from the Lafayette Parish School Board regarding the Extended Day/Year Learning Program. (Schedule 11)

Agenda Item 13-B On motion of Ms. McDaniel, seconded by Mr. Bayard, the Board received Resolution 11-09-1668 from the Lafayette Parish School Board regarding the Tutorial Program. (Schedule 12)

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On motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Roemer, the Board agreed to amend the agenda to include two additional Receive and/or Refer items.

There were no objections to amending the agenda.

Agenda Item 13-C On motion of Ms. McDaniel, seconded by Mr. Bayard, the Board received and referred to the Recovery School District Committee for discussion at the next regularly scheduled meeting: "Consideration of the Recovery School District (RSD) audit released on November 19, 2009."

Agenda Item 13-D On motion of Ms. McDaniel, seconded by Mr. Bayard, the Board received and referred to the Student/School Performance and Support Committee: "Consideration of the definition of when a district must offer School Choice and where the Recovery School District (RSD) is in that process."

Agenda Item 14 On motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bayard, the Board approved an out-of-state travel request for Mr. Dale Bayard to attend the Common Core Standards Regional Meeting sponsored by NASBE on January 11-12, 2010, in Jacksonville, Florida. (Schedule 13)

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Ms. Johnson requested that, as the School Performance Scores or the Student Performance Scores are released, that Mr. Bayard, as Chair of the Student/School Performance and Support Committee, participate in the press conferences that are held.

Mr. Bayard stated that he received e-mails on the analyses of the School and District Performance Scores 2 hours after the press conference, which indicated that others had a chance to review those scores before he, as Chair of the Student/School Performance and Support Committee, had an opportunity to review them. Mr. Bayard requested that all members of the Board be provided that information in a timely manner. Mr. Bayard stated that all of that data should be received and a proper motion should be made at a Board meeting, which normally occurs subsequent to the release of the scores.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.