

Charles E. "Chas" Roemer, President

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**BOARD
of
ELEMENTARY
and
SECONDARY
EDUCATION**

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall provide leadership and create policies for education that expand opportunities for children, empower families and communities, and advance Louisiana in an increasingly competitive global market.

OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

Meeting of March 13, 2014

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

MARCH 13, 2014

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

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met in special session on March 13, 2014, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 1:14 p.m. by Board President Chas Roemer.

Board members present were Dr. Lottie Beebe, Ms. Holly Boffy, Ms. Connie Bradford, Mr. Jim Garvey, Mr. Jay Guillot, Ms. Carolyn Hill, Mr. Walter Lee, Ms. Kira Orange Jones, and Mr. Chas Roemer.

Dr. Judith Miranti and Ms. Jane Smith were absent.

Mr. Roemer recognized Representative Kenneth E. Havard, Representative J. Rogers Pope, and Representative J. Kevin Pearson, who were in attendance.

Agenda Item 2. On motion of Ms. Boffy, seconded by Ms. Bradford, the Board approved the agenda, as printed and disseminated. (Schedule 1)

Agenda Item 3. **Items for Consideration**

Agenda Item 3.1. The LDE provided copies of the proposed FY 2014-2015 Minimum Foundation Program Formula to Board members.

Mr. Guillot offered a motion, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, to:

- a. approve the FY 2014-2015 Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula, noting that the increase in elementary and secondary education base funding for FY 2014-2015 shall not bind local education agencies to specific expenditures, but shall reflect the Board's recognition of inflation, mandated costs, increasing retirement obligations, salaries, and the need to upgrade technology to support instruction in the digital age;

(Motion continues on page 2)

- b. urge and request local education agencies to address the above issues given the increase in funds, provided such issues are applicable;
- c. authorize the LDE to make technical adjustments to the formula, as needed;
- d. authorize the LDE to adjust the estimated cost, based on the receipt of the final February 1, 2014, student count and the final audit adjustment amounts; and
- e. authorize the LDE to submit the formula and simulation of cost to the Legislature on or before March 15, 2014.

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Public comments were received on the following agenda item:

Agenda Item 3.1., "Consideration of the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Formula for FY 2014-2015."

Support: None.

Oppose: Representative J. Kevin Pearson, concerned citizen; Dr. Patrice Pujol, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents; Superintendent Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents; Superintendent Doris Voitier, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents; Superintendent Hollis Milton, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents and West Feliciana Parish School System; Representative Patricia Smith, concerned citizen; Mr. Scott M. Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association; Mr. Steve Monaghan, Louisiana Federation of Teachers; Superintendent Jerome Puyau, Vermilion Parish School System; Ms. Ashley McReynolds, concerned citizen; Mr. Jim Melohn, St. Charles Parish School Board; and Mr. Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association.

Information Only/Other: Mr. Bret Schnadelbach, Tangipahoa Parish School System.

Discussion followed.

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Mr. Guillot offered an amended motion, seconded by Mr. Garvey, to:

- a. approve the FY 2014-2015 Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula, noting that the increase in elementary and secondary education base funding for FY 2014-2015 shall not bind local education agencies to specific expenditures, but shall reflect the Board's recognition of inflation, mandated costs, increasing retirement obligations, salaries, and the need to upgrade technology to support instruction in the digital age;
- b. urge and request local education agencies to address the above issues given the increase in funds, provided such issues are applicable;
- c. authorize the LDE to make technical adjustments to the formula, as needed;
- d. authorize the LDE to adjust the estimated cost, based on the receipt of the final February 1, 2014, student count and the final audit adjustment amounts;
- e. authorize the LDE to submit the formula and simulation of cost to the Legislature on or before March 15, 2014; and
- f. support additional funding being placed in the 2014-2015 MFP if the Legislature identifies funding, provided the state maintains accountability and high standards.

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Dr. Beebe offered a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Hill, to include an additional 2.75 percent increase to the MFP Resolution and adhere to the recommendations of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents as it communicated during public comment.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. Roemer stated that a Roll Call Vote would be taken on Dr. Beebe's substitute motion.

Yeas: Dr. Beebe, Ms. Hill, Mr. Lee, and Ms. Orange Jones.

Nays: Ms. Boffy, Ms. Bradford, Mr. Garvey, Mr. Guillot, and Mr. Roemer.

(Motion continues on page 4)

Abstentions: None.

Absences: Dr. Miranti and Ms. Smith.

The motion failed for lack of six favorable votes.

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Mr. Roemer stated that a Roll Call Vote would be taken on Mr. Guillot's amended motion.

Yeas: Ms. Boffy, Ms. Bradford, Mr. Garvey, Mr. Guillot, and Mr. Roemer.

Nays: Dr. Beebe and Ms. Hill.

Abstentions: Mr. Lee and Ms. Orange Jones.

Absences: Dr. Miranti and Ms. Smith.

The motion failed for lack of six favorable votes.

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Ms. Orange Jones offered a motion, seconded by Ms. Hill, that, if the MFP is not passed by the Legislature, a 2.75 percent increase will be automatic.

Discussion followed.

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On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Ms. Boffy, the Board recessed at 2:56 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Garvey, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board reconvened at 3:24 p.m.

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On motion of Mr. Garvey, seconded by Ms. Boffy, the Board tabled the motion offered by Ms. Orange Jones.

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3.1.1 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Ms. Boffy, the Board:

- a. approved the FY 2014-2015 Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula, as proposed by the LDE, amending the language to include the following:

The state and local base per pupil shall equal \$3,855 plus 2.75 percent times \$3,855 times the whole number of school years since 2013-2014, and noting that the increase in elementary and secondary education base funding for FY 2014-2015 shall not bind local education agencies to specific expenditures, but shall reflect the Board’s recognition of inflation, mandated costs, increasing retirement obligations, salaries, and the need to upgrade technology to support instruction in the digital age;

- b. urged and requested local education agencies to address the above issues given the increase in funds, provided such issues are applicable;
- c. authorized the LDE to make technical edits and adjustments to the formula, as needed;
- d. authorized the LDE to adjust the estimated cost, based on the receipt of the final February 1, 2014, student count and the final audit adjustment amounts;
- e. authorized the LDE to submit the formula and simulation of cost to the Legislature on or before March 15, 2014; and
- f. supported additional funding being placed in the 2014-2015 MFP if the Legislature identifies such funding and provided the state maintains accountability and high standards.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Yeas: Ms. Boffy, Ms. Bradford, Mr. Garvey, Mr. Guillot, Mr. Lee, Ms. Orange Jones, and Mr. Roemer.

Nays: Dr. Beebe and Ms. Hill.

Abstentions: None.

Absences: Dr. Miranti and Ms. Smith.

The motion passed.

(Schedule 2)

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.