

Gary L. Jones, President

**B  
E  
S  
E**



**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 29, 2017**

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**MARCH 29, 2017**

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

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met in special session on March 29, 2017, 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 Gary Jones.

Pastor James Smith, Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Pioneer, Louisiana, opened the meeting with a prayer.

Board members present were Dr. Holly Boffy, Mr. Tony Davis, Ms. Kathy Edmonston, Mr. Jim Garvey, Ms. Sandy Holloway, Dr. Gary Jones, Ms. Jada Lewis, Ms. Kira Orange Jones, Mr. Tommy Roque, Dr. Lurie Thomason, and Ms. Doris Voitier.

Dr. Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 2. On motion of Ms. Holloway, seconded by Ms. Edmonston, the Board approved the agenda, as printed and disseminated.

Agenda Item 3. **Items for Consideration**

Agenda Item 3.1. On motion of Ms. Holloway, seconded by Ms. Edmonston, the Board approved the minutes of March 8, 2017.

Agenda Item 3.2. Dr. Boffy offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, that the Board:  
1. Endorse the draft consolidated state plan posted March 15, 2017, to comply with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA);

(Continues on page 2)

- 2. Direct the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) to submit the draft state plan to the United States Department of Education (USDOE) no earlier than April 15, 2017, incorporating any technical edits, as well as amendments as detailed by BESE, and/or which have been generated through ongoing public comment and supported by research that supports that the revision will improve student learning in Louisiana; and
- 3. Direct the LDE to prepare proposed regulations in accordance with the plan submitted and in accordance with ongoing input from the public and the USDOE for presentation and consideration at the June 20-June 21, 2017, Committee and Board meetings.

\* \* \* \* \*

State Superintendent of Education John White reviewed information contained in a PowerPoint Presentation entitled “Louisiana Believes – The Every Student Succeeds Act in Louisiana,” with Board members.

\* \* \* \* \*

Public comments regarding Agenda Item 3.2., “Consideration of the Louisiana Consolidated Plan pursuant to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA),” proposed Motion 3.2.1, were received from:

Supt. Scott Devillier, Zachary Community Schools; Supt. Trey Folse and Dr. Regina Sanford, St. Tammany Parish School System; Supt. Hazel Sellers, Morehouse Parish School System; Supt. Rick Wentzel, Livingston Parish School System; Supt. Earl Martinez and Mr. Lee Meyer, Assumption Parish School System; Supt. Dale Henderson, Iberia Parish School System; Supt. Denis Rousselle, Plaquemines Parish School System; Supt. Mark Kolwe, Tangipahoa Parish School System; Supt. Darrell Fairburn, Washington Parish School System; Supt. Kevin Lemoine, Pointe Coupee Parish School System; Supt. Felecia Gomez-Walker, St. Charles Parish School System; Ms. Barbara Whitley, Ms. Diana Bottolfs, Mr. Byron Hurst, Mr. Wilmer Wyre, Ms. Kristie Nettles, St. Helena Parish; Supt. Patrick Jenkins, St. Landry Parish School System; Supt. Warren Drake, East Baton Rouge Parish School System; Supt. Lottie Beebe, St. Martin Parish School System; Supt. John Burke, Acadia Parish School System; Supt. Gwile Paul Freeman, Catahoula Parish School System; Supt. Wes Watts, West

(Continues on page 3)

Baton Rouge Parish School System; Supt. Paul Nelson, Tensas Parish School System; Supt. David Claxton, Jackson Parish School System; Supt. Richard Strong, West Carroll Parish School System; Supt. Sheldon Jones, Richland Parish School System; Supt. Ed Cancienne, St. James Parish School System; Ms. Kate Mehok, Crescent City Schools; Mr. Jay Altman, Firstline Schools; Ms. Betty Hope, Ms. Ruthie Frierson, Ms. Janet Bean, Citizens for One Greater New Orleans; Mr. Sean Wilson, International High School of New Orleans; Ms. Liz Smith, Baton Rouge Area Chamber; Mr. Adam Thompson, Foundation for Excellence in Education; Ms. Ariyan C. Bryant, Alliance for a Healthier Generation; Mr. John C. Martin, Ms. Lauren Trahan, Ms. Carolyn Swift, Mr. Ganey Arsement, Ms. Linda Chaney, Ms. Angelia East, and Ms. Donna H. Jackson, concerned citizens.

Public comments were also received from:

Ms. Millie Harris, JCFA; Mr. Donald Songy, Governor's Office; Ms. Chloe Wiley, Baton Rouge Bridge Academy; Pastor James E. Smith, Delta Work Academy; Ms. Joni Smith, Louisiana Teacher of the Year; Mr. Mickey Landry, Choice Foundation; Supt. Hollis Milton and Supt. Kelli Joseph (who provided a handout regarding grading scales and scale scores), Louisiana Association of School Superintendents; Ms. Debra Schum, Louisiana Association of Principals (who provided handouts entitled "High Schools," "Principal Goal Setting Toolkit: High School"; Dr. Keith Leger, Stand For Children Louisiana; Ms. Brigitte Nieland, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry; Ms. Kelli Bottger, Louisiana Federation for Children; Ms. Stephanie Desselle, Citizens for a Better Louisiana; Dr. Sonia Fields Gutierrez, Ms. Shiyecca Singleton, Mr. Gray Whitsett, St. Helena; Mr. Larry Carter, Louisiana Federation of Teachers; Mr. Andre Deshotel, Lafayette Parish; Ms. Erika McConduit, Urban League of Louisiana; Ms. Carol McCall, Citizens for One Greater New Orleans; and Mr. Scott Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association.

The Board recessed at 3:10 p.m. and reconvened at 3:27 p.m. A quorum was present.

Public comments were received from:

Dr. Carol Allen, IHSNO; Ms. Eva Kemp, Democrats for Education Reform – Louisiana; Ms. Debbie Meaux, Louisiana Association of

(Continues on page 4)

Educators (who provided a handout entitled “Ensuring a Better Future for Louisiana’s Children”; Mr. John Warner Smith, Education’s Next Horizon; Ms. Sarah Vandergriff and Ms. Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools; Mr. Michael Smithers, New Schools for New Orleans; Mr. Andrew Ganucheau, LACAL – Louisiana After School Network; Ms. Michelle Gieg, Democracy Prep; Mr. Shawn Fleming, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council; Ms. Bonnie Richardson, LAHPERD; Supt. Sheila Jackson, Grant Parish School System; Dr. Phillip Rozeman, Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce; Supt. David Alexander, Ascension Parish School System; Ms. Paula Rodriguez, Deaf Focus; Pastor Peter Donald, Ms. Carmen Overton, St. Helena Parish; and Ms. Cathi Cox-Boniol, Louisiana Student Standards for Science Workgroup.

The Board recessed at 5:07 p.m. and reconvened at 5:21 p.m. A quorum was present.

Public comments were also received from:

Ms. Florentina Staigers, Equity in All Places; Mr. Kyle Wedberg, NOCCA; Ms. Shemica S. Huff, St. Helena Arts and Technology Academy; Ms. Whitney Henderson, Ed Navigator; Ms. Sarah Broome, Thrive; and Ms. Kindoll Lamotte, Ms. Mylinda Elliott, Representative Patricia Smith, Ms. Elaine Harmon, Ms. Candace Robertson, Mr. Michael R. Deshotels, Dr. Elizabeth Meyers (who provided a list of recommendations and a copy of a letter dated March 21, 2017, to the Council of Chief State School Officers from organizations representing state and local stakeholders), Ms. Kim Howell, Ms. Lee Barrios, Mr. Edward “Scott” Galmon, Ms. Sandra Franklin, Ms. Theresa Griffin, Ms. Lauren Atterbery Cesar, Rana Ottallah, Dr. James Finney (who provided graphs entitled “Strong A School,” “Weak A School,” “Strong F School,” and “Weak F School”), Mr. Herb Bassett, Mr. Keondre Robertson, Ms. Lillie Anderson, Mr. Bernard McPherson, Ms. Patricia Clark, Ms. Patricia B. Chaney, Mr. Aaron Jura, Dr. Jennifer Grace, Ms. Karen M. Triche, Ms. Mallory Padgett, and Ms. Kristin Magee, concerned citizens.

Discussion followed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. Jones stated that the Board would vote on Dr. Boffy’s motion.

3.2.1 On motion of Dr. Boffy, seconded by Mr. Davis, the Board:

1. Endorsed the draft consolidated state plan posted March 15, 2017, to comply with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA);
2. Directed the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) to submit the draft state plan to the United States Department of Education (USDOE) no earlier than April 15, 2017, incorporating any technical edits, as well as amendments as detailed by BESE, and/or which have been generated through ongoing public comment and supported by research that supports that the revision will improve student learning in Louisiana; and
3. Directed the LDE to prepare proposed regulations in accordance with the plan submitted and in accordance with ongoing input from the public and the USDOE for presentation and consideration at the June 20-21, 2017, Committee and Board meetings.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Yeas: Dr. Boffy, Mr. Davis, Mr. Garvey, Ms. Holloway, Ms. Lewis, Ms. Orange Jones, and Dr. Jones.

Nays: Ms. Edmonston, Mr. Roque, Dr. Thomason, and Ms. Voitier.

Abstentions: None.

Absences: None.

The motion passed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. Boffy offered a motion, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, that the Board direct the State Superintendent of Education, upon conclusion of the 30-day public comment period, and in response to the public comments received, to amend Louisiana’s draft Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan, incorporating the following:

(Continues on page 6)

- Starting in 2018, school scores will be calculated using the system of points the plan currently establishes for 2025, except that “basic” on the LEAP, 18 on the ACT, and Silver on the WorkKeys should earn schools “C” level points, rather than “D” level points.
- There should be no curve or forced distribution for letter grades starting in 2018.
- The plan should establish a threshold lower than 100 out of 150 to attain an “A” grade in 2017-2018 and should include modest escalations of that threshold in 2022 and finally again in 2025. Corresponding adjustments should be made at “B” and “C” levels.
- Subgroup performance should be reported by percentile rankings in addition to academic performance; the plan should include a system of identifying low subgroup performance levels, including performance levels equivalent to a D and/or an F for that subgroup, as requiring “urgent intervention.”
- For reporting purposes, the plan should include a commitment to reporting letter grade equivalents for the achievement indices and growth indices within the school rating system.
- Three percent of Title I funding should not be set aside for Direct Student Services, but should be allocated to every district per the traditional Title I formula, provided that funds should be spent in line with requirements for the supplemental course allocation. Further, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) should study access to courses for students in low-income, rural, or struggling schools and may make recommendations in future years for intervention in schools failing to provide course access to students.
- The LDE should study and consider the effect on student learning of no longer requiring Biology or U.S. History End-of-Course examinations, presenting findings no later than the June 20-21, 2017, Committee and Board meetings.
- The Interests and Opportunities indicator should include a menu of means by which schools could demonstrate success; the LDE should convene school system administrators to develop the measures necessary to create this indicator.

(Continues on page 7)

- Prior to submission of the final state plan for federal review, the LDE shall convene a discussion with diverse stakeholders, including representatives of civil rights, business, and professional organizations, representing educators, school boards, and charter schools.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Board recessed at 6:55 p.m. and reconvened at 7:10 p.m. A quorum was present.

Public comments regarding Agenda Item 3.2., “Consideration of the Louisiana Consolidated Plan pursuant to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA),” proposed Motion 3.2.2, were received from:

Mr. Shawn Fleming, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council; Supt. William Kennedy, Claiborne Parish School System; Ms. Debra Schum, Louisiana Association of Principals; Ms. Erika McConduit, Urban League of Louisiana; Ms. Stephanie Desselle, Citizens for a Better Louisiana; Ms. Debbie Meaux, Louisiana Association of Educators; Mr. Scott Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association; Mr. Kyle Wedberg, NOCCA; Ms. Alice Garcia, English as a Second Language and English Language Learners; Ms. Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools; Ms. Kelli Bottger, Louisiana Federation for Children; Ms. Brigitte Nieland, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry; Ms. Carrie Monica, Stand for Children – Louisiana; and Ms. Lee Barrios and Mr. Herb Bassett, concerned citizens.

Discussion followed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. Jones stated that the Board would vote on Dr. Boffy’s motion.

- 3.2.2 On motion of Dr. Boffy, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board directed the State Superintendent of Education, upon conclusion of the 30-day public comment period, and in response to the public comments received, to amend Louisiana’s draft Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan, incorporating the following:

(Motion continues on page 8)



- Starting in 2018, school scores will be calculated using the system of points the plan currently establishes for 2025, except that “basic” on the LEAP, 18 on the ACT, and Silver on the WorkKeys should earn schools “C” level points, rather than “D” level points.
- There should be no curve or forced distribution for letter grades starting in 2018.
- The plan should establish a threshold lower than 100 out of 150 to attain an “A” grade in 2017-2018 and should include modest escalations of that threshold in 2022 and finally again in 2025. Corresponding adjustments should be made at “B” and “C” levels.
- Subgroup performance should be reported by percentile rankings in addition to academic performance; the plan should include a system of identifying low subgroup performance levels, including performance levels equivalent to a D and/or an F for that subgroup, as requiring “urgent intervention.”
- For reporting purposes, the plan should include a commitment to reporting letter grade equivalents for the achievement indices and growth indices within the school rating system.
- Three percent of Title I funding should not be set aside for Direct Student Services, but should be allocated to every district per the traditional Title I formula, provided that funds should be spent in line with requirements for the supplemental course allocation. Further, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) should study access to courses for students in low-income, rural, or struggling schools and may make recommendations in future years for intervention in schools failing to provide course access to students.
- The LDE should study and consider the effect on student learning of no longer requiring Biology or U.S. History End-of-Course examinations, presenting findings no later than the June 20-21, 2017, Committee and Board meetings.
- The Interests and Opportunities indicator should include a menu of means by which schools could demonstrate success; the LDE should convene school system administrators to develop the measures necessary to create this indicator.

(Motion continues on page 9)

- Prior to submission of the final state plan for federal review, the LDE shall convene a discussion with diverse stakeholders, including representatives of civil rights, business, and professional organizations, representing educators, school boards, and charter schools.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Yeas: Dr. Boffy, Mr. Davis, Ms. Edmonston, Mr. Garvey, Ms. Holloway, Ms. Lewis, Ms. Orange Jones, Mr. Roque, and Dr. Jones.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: Dr. Thomason and Ms. Voitier.

Absences: None.

The motion passed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Public comments regarding Agenda Item 3.3., "Consideration of a report on the student enrollment percentages of At-Risk students and students with disabilities for all public schools statewide," were received from:

Mr. Shawn Fleming, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council; Ms. Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools; Mr. Franklin V. Endom, Belle Chasse Academy; Mr. Mickey Landry, Choice Foundation; and Ms. Lee Barrios, concerned citizen.

Discussion followed.

Agenda Item 3.3. On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Dr. Boffy, the Board received the report on the student enrollment percentages of At-Risk students and students with disabilities for all public schools statewide, as recommended by the LDE.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.