



**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 January 19, 2021

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

January 19, 2021

The Louisiana Purchase Room Baton Rouge, LA

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met in regular session on January 19, 2021, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 3:13 p.m. by Board President Sandy Holloway and opened with a prayer by Ms. Shelly McFarland.

Board members present were Dr. Holly Boffy, Mr. Preston Castille, Dr. Belinda Davis, Mr. Tony Davis, Ms. Ashley Ellis, Mr. Ronnie Morris, Ms. Kira Orange Jones, Mr. Tommy Roque, and Ms. Doris Voitier.

Board member Jim Garvey was not in attendance.

Dr. Libbie Sonnier, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item 2. **Approval of the Agenda** (Schedule 1)

On motion of Mr. Morris, seconded by Dr. Davis, the Board approved the agenda, as printed and disseminated.

Agenda Item 3. **Approval of the Minutes**

On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board approved the minutes of December 16, 2020.

Agenda Item 4. **Report by the State Superintendent of Education**

State Superintendent of Education Brumley highlighted the following in his report to the Board:

- Preparations for a new endeavor called Fast Forward are underway. The program is not aimed to take the place of graduation pathways but is an additional option to further personalize the high school experience.
- The annual Jump Start convention is upcoming and will be a virtual event due to the pandemic.
- National School Choice Week is upcoming.
- In the wake of current events in our nation, educators have given students space and opportunity to have conversations in a balanced way and should be commended.

Discussion followed.

Agenda Item 5.

Report(s) from members of BESE (Statutory and Legislative Task Force/Council Appointees)

- Dr. Davis serves on House Concurrent Resolution 20 Committee that works on discovering the actual cost of owner operated buses. Report will be turned in to the legislature in February 2021 and to BESE in March 2021.
- Ms. Ellis, working with the mentor teacher expansion improvement team, informed members there will be deliverables by March 2021. The team has worked diligently through logistics and has produced great work.
- Mr. Roque, recently appointed to the Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) Board of Directors, reported that he is excited to represent BESE on JAG’s board and looks forward to the upcoming meetings.
- Ms. Holloway informed members of Mr. Castille’s appointment to the board for Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts (LSMSA).

Agenda Item 6.

Board Committee Reports

Agenda Item 6.1.

Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee
(Schedule 2)

- 6.1.1 On motion of Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board approved the 2021-2022 Nonpublic School Academic Classifications Report to renew previously approved nonpublic school classifications.
- 6.1.2 On motion of Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board received the report regarding Brumfield vs. Dodd approval for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 6.1.3 On motion of Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board approved the Fall 2020 Reading Report and directed the LDE to submit the report to the House and Senate Committees on Education, in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 17:182.

- 6.1.4 On motion of Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board approved the following TOPS-Tech Early Start training program providers for the 2021 - 2022 academic year:
- ABC Pelican Chapter Associated Builders and Contractors;
 - Ayers Career College;
 - New Orleans Career Center;
 - New Orleans Technical Education Provider (NOTEP); and
 - St. James Online School.
- 6.1.5 On motion of Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board approved revisions to Jump Start 1.0 and Jump Start 2.0 graduation pathways regarding Industry Based Credentials and required category, elective category, and universal courses, as recommended by the State Superintendent of Education.
- 6.1.6 On motion of Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board approved Global Trucking Academy and Parkview Education as course providers for the Course Choice Program beginning with the Spring 2021 semester.
- 6.1.7 On motion of Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board approved the Early Learning Development Standards Review Process.
- 6.1.8 On motion of Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board deleted the standing item, "Consideration of a report regarding a Louisiana Balanced Calendar model and alternative school calendar options" from the Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement (AGII) Committee agenda.
- 6.1.9 On motion of Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board received an update report regarding reopening of schools in response to COVID-19.
- 6.1.10 On motion of Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board approved, as a Declaration of Emergency, revisions to Bulletin 139, *Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund: §509. Certification Requirements for Non-Categorically Eligible Households*; and §515. *Payments Made on Behalf of Households*, effective February 1, 2021, for a period of 120 days or until adopted as a final Rule.
- 6.1.11 On motion of Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 139, *Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund: §509. Certification Requirements for Non-Categorically Eligible Households*; and §515. *Payments Made on Behalf of Households*.

Agenda **Administration and Finance Committee** (Schedule 3)
Item 6.2.

6.2.1 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board received the report from the LDE Director of Internal Audit.

6.2.2 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board received the report regarding LDE contracts \$50,000 and under, approved by the State Superintendent of Education.

6.2.3 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board received the report regarding in-state travel for Board members to be reimbursed from the BESE budget.

6.2.4 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board received the quarterly report of expenditures and budget balances regarding 8(g) projects for FY 2020-2021.

6.2.5 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board ratified the emergency policy waivers made by the BESE President under interim authority.

6.2.6 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board received the update report regarding RSD capital projects for September 2020, including:

- RSD Monthly Summary for September 2020;
- Superintendents' Report for September 2020; and
- RSD Open Contracts as of September 30, 2020.

6.2.7 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board received a report from Education Finance staff regarding BESE-authorized charter school budgets and expenditure reports, including irregularities or concerns.

6.2.8 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board approved the following LDE contract:

Contractor: Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College
Contract Period: 01/20/2021 – 06/30/2021
Contract Amount: \$403,529.00

(Motion continues on page 5)

Fund: State – 8(g)
Competitive Process: Interagency Agreement

Description of Service: The Social-Emotional Learning and Academic Integration (SELA) program will enhance the social and emotional competencies and skills of students and adults. Leaders will develop adult social-emotional learning and capacity to support every student's social and emotional development. As a result of the SELA program, schools will create a climate that impacts students' academic success and their ability to develop social-emotional competencies. The SELA program will allow students to engage in a positive, inclusive, and culturally responsive learning environment that develops social, emotional, and academic skills to cultivate personal agency and life-long success.

LSU will provide high quality comprehensive support to 200-300 school system and school administrators and school leadership teams through the SELA program. SELA will equip leadership teams with the knowledge they need to ensure students acquire and apply social-emotional competencies and skills to improve social behaviors, the ability to regulate emotions, and student achievement. The SELA program is being developed to build upon the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) work of the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) in Early Childhood to ensure all students access a continuum of social-emotional learning.

The contract work involves the design and delivery of a professional learning series to include five 6-hour modules grounded in the fundamentals of effective SELA planning and implementation. To achieve this, LSU will provide the following scope of work:

- Collaboration with LDE to design the training content;
- Production of training materials; and
- Management of logistical aspects of conducting training for between 200-300 individuals, to include scheduling, registration, technology, and other important planning and implementation activities.

Development of a comprehensive statewide strategic plan (to include, but not be limited to, mission, vision, philosophy, goals, objectives, strategies, and metrics) to support LDE implementation of evidence-based SELA.

Dr. Davis recused herself from voting on this motion.

6.2.9 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board approved the following RSD contract amendment:

Contractor:	Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects Project Design Group, LLC
Contract Period:	10/16/2013 – 10/16/2021
Previous Amount:	\$1,538,714.17
Amended Amount:	\$22,104.76
Contract Amount:	\$1,560,818.93
Fund:	IAT - FEMA
Competitive Process:	Competitive

Description of Service: This amendment adjusts the designer's basic service fee based on the final construction contract amount for Avery Alexander School.

Student Centered Goals - Federal

6.2.10 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation:	Believe and Prepare Formula Funds
Amount/Period:	(\$48,000) - 8(g) - 07/01/2020 - 06/15/2021 (\$ 5,000) - TIF & IDEA - 07 /01/2020 - 06/30/2021
Source of Funds:	State, Federal

Purpose: The purpose of this program is to support educator development through the use of mentoring. The program provides funds to LEAs and preparation providers to pay stipends to the mentors of undergraduate yearlong residents.

Basis of Allocation: Allocations to LEAs and BESE approved preparation providers are to provide funding for undergraduate mentor stipends.

Through a data collection process, preparation providers and local school systems identified undergraduate residents and their assigned mentors. This includes mentors supporting residents completing a residency from January 2020-December 2020 and those completing a residency from August 2020-May 2021.

(Motion continues on page 7)

IDEA funds were allocated at a 100 percent rate if the resident being supported by the mentor is pursuing special education certification. TIF funds were allocated if the residency occurred in a TIF district.

This allocation is an update to the allocation which was brought in December 2020 based on data confirmed by schools.

Dr. Boffy, Ms. Ellis, and Ms. Voitier recused themselves from voting on this motion.

Student Centered Goals - Competitive

6.2.11 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation:	Preschool Development Grant B-5 Seats (PDG Seats)
Amount:	\$206,569.00
Period:	07/01/2020 - 06/30/2021
Source of Funds:	Federal

Purpose: The purpose of the Preschool Development Grant B-5 is to strengthen states' early childhood systems, including by providing sub-grant funding to offer fully-funded birth through three-year-old seats for economically disadvantaged children. In the 2020-2021 year, this program will serve approximately 625 children in Louisiana. Sites enrolling seats funded through PDG B-5 will adhere to state approved guidelines and regulations.

Basis of Allocation: All early childhood community networks are eligible to apply for funding for seats through Super App. Due to the funding limitations. Ready Start Networks were prioritized for seat funding. Actual reimbursement is based on recipients filling all allocated seats and students meeting attendance thresholds. Awards for this program are contingent upon approval of funding. The LDE shifted some of the original allocations to serve more children in networks where there were families on waiting lists ready to be served.

Student Centered Goals - Competitive

6.2.12 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board approved the following allocation:

(Motion continues on page 8)

Allocation: SRCL2 Grant
Amount: \$200,500.00
Period: 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2021
Source of Funds: Federal

Purpose: These SRCL funds will assist sub-grantee districts, charter schools, and lead agencies in supporting high-quality curriculum, professional development, and assessments.

Basis of Allocation: Allocations are based on federal funding percentages set forth by the USDOE per age band and school system need.

School and District Support - Competitive

6.2.13 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Strong Start Tutoring (ESSER Initiative)
Amount: \$1,016,170.00
Period: 02/01/2021 - 06/30/2021
Source of Funds: Federal

Purpose: Under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund), the LDE awards grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact that Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation. LEAs must provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools as required under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

Basis of Allocation: The allocation is funded with \$1 million from the CARES Act, ESSER Set-aside funds. The total funds available were divided by the number of students to generate a per-pupil amount. Then, that per pupil amount was multiplied by the student count for each school system to generate a school system allocation amount.

Dr. Boffy, Ms. Ellis, and Ms. Voitier recused themselves from voting on this motion.

School and District Innovations - Other

- 6.2.14 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Louisiana Early Leaders Academy stipends
Amount: \$0
Period: 10/15/2020 - 6/30/2021
Source of Funds: Kellogg

Purpose: The recipients of these funds will be Louisiana Early Leadership Academy participants. They were selected through a rigorous application process. Early Childhood Community Network lead agencies will accept the allocations and distribute as stipends to Academy participants. Stipends will assist with expenses that participants will incur associated with attending the Academy classes and events. Funds can be used for staffing support, child care support, and technology support for participation in Academy activities, and any support that better prepares Academy participants to engage in the LELA program.

Basis of Allocation: Early Childhood Community Network Lead Agencies are allocated \$1,000 per Academy participant to distribute as stipends.

Funding in the amount of \$1000 per participant was allocated to East Baton Rouge Parish as part of the Kellogg stipends for Louisiana Early Leaders Academy (LELA) participants. The stipends were intended to offset the costs of participation in the ten-month program. Christy Gilmore was the intended recipient of \$1000 in funding, and designated East Baton Rouge as her parish. However, the lead agency for Christy Gilmore's community is actually Zachary parish. Therefore, a correction must be made in order for those funds to be moved from East Baton Rouge to Zachary Parish so that Ms. Gilmore may receive the stipend.

Dr. Boffy recused herself from voting on this motion.

- 6.2.15 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board approved the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Tangipahoa Voluntary Council on Aging, Inc. for use of the site located at 207 East Church Street, Hammond, Louisiana.

- 6.2.16 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board approved the 2019-2020 Report regarding Alternative Education Schools and Programs.
- 6.2.17 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board authorized the LDE to submit the 2019-2020 Report on Alternative Education Schools and Programs to the Governor and to the House and Senate Committees on Education.
- 6.2.18 On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Roque, the Board received the reports in response to the following legislation:
 - House Resolution 51 and Senate Resolution 29 of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session;
 - Act 236 of the 2019 Regular Session; and
 - Act 224 of the 2017 Regular Session.

Agenda Item 6.3. **Educator Effectiveness Committee** (Schedule 4)

- 6.3.1 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Davis, the Board revoked the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary certificate #578602 issued to Ms. Trenice M. Theophile Knighton.
- 6.3.2 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Davis, the Board granted the reinstatement and issuance of a Louisiana teaching certificate appropriate to the credentials of Ms. Trenice M. Theophile Knighton.

Agenda Item 6.4. **School Innovation and Turnaround Committee** (Schedule 5)

- 6.4.1 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board received the 2019-2020 Annual Report on Types 2, 4, and 5 Charter Schools.
- 6.4.2 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board approved the 2021 Charter School Application Process Timeline, authorizing the LDE to amend the timeline as needed and noting that BESE will be notified of any revisions.
- 6.4.3 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board approved the 2021 Common Charter School Application.

- 6.4.4 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 126, *Charter Schools*: §103. Definitions; §311. Application Process for Locally-Authorized Charter Schools; §503. Eligibility to Apply for a Type 2 Charter School; §511. Application Process for BESE-Authorized Charter Schools; §513. Stages of Application Cycle for BESE Authorized Charter Schools; and §515. Application Components for BESE-Authorized Charter Schools.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.