



**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 10, 2021

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

March 10, 2021

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

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met in regular session on March 10, 2021, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 9:23 a.m. by Board President Sandy Holloway and opened with a prayer by Representative Raymond E. Garofalo, Chair, House Committee on Education.

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

Board members Jim Garvey and Ronnie Morris were not in attendance.

Assistant Attorney General Amanda Lagroue, Louisiana Department of Justice, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comments were received from Dr. Tia T. Mills, Louisiana Association of Educators.

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BESE Executive Director Shan Davis informed members of a request to amend the agenda to include discussion concerning revisions to bulletins regarding LEAP 2025 high school assessment substitutions for the class of 2021 due to COVID-19.

Ms. Davis stated that, per R.S. 42:19, unanimous approval of the members present is required to amend the agenda. Ms. Davis indicated that there would be an opportunity for public comment on any such motion in accordance with R.S. 42:14.

Ms. Davis asked for a motion to amend the agenda.

Dr. Boffy offered a motion, seconded by Ms. Ellis, to amend the agenda to include Agenda Item 7.1., “Consideration of revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices* and Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators* regarding LEAP 2025 high school assessment substitutions for the class of 2021 due to COVID-19.”

There were no requests for public comment at this time.
Ms. Davis asked for a Roll Call Vote on the motion to amend the agenda.

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On motion of Dr. Boffy, seconded by Ms. Ellis, the Board amended the agenda to include Agenda Item 7.1., "Consideration of revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices* and Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators* regarding LEAP 2025 high school assessment substitutions for the class of 2021 due to COVID-19."

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Yeas: Dr. Boffy, Mr. Castille, Dr. Davis, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Holloway, Ms. Orange Jones, Mr. Roque, Ms. Voitier, and Dr. Weaver.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absences: Mr. Garvey and Mr. Morris.

The motion passed.

Ms. Davis indicated that this agenda item would be taken last on the agenda.

The Board returned to the regular agenda order.

Agenda Item 2.

Approval of the Agenda

(Schedule 1)

On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board approved the agenda, as amended.

Agenda Item 3.

Approval of the Minutes

On motion of Dr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board approved the minutes of January 19, 2021.

Agenda
Item 4.

Report by the State Superintendent of Education

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

- It was one year ago that buildings were closed by the Governor in light of the global health crisis. This time was unprecedented and produced many questions regarding education and services for children. System leaders across the state made the best possible decisions given the information available. Everyone in the education field is still doing what is best for children. Louisiana’s plan for education during the health crisis has kept children safe and learning. Even though it has not been perfect 100 percent of the time, the lessons learned continue to move education forward.

Agenda
Item 5.

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

- Mr. Castille informed members of his participation on a task force organized by Chief Justice John Weimer and Justice Scott Crichton for the Judges in the Classroom program. This program allows judges across the state to share knowledge of the judicial system with students in K-12 education.
- Dr. Davis, serving as BESE representative for the Louisiana Educational Television Authority (LETA), informed members of the phenomenal partnership with the LDE concerning educational programming and the hopes of expanding resources going into the summer months especially for early childhood.

Agenda
Item 6.

Board Committee Reports

Agenda
Item 6.1.

Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee
(Schedule 2)

6.1.1 On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board endorsed the Louisiana State Police Crisis Response Safety Initiatives report as it pertains to the Rave Panic Button App and the Crimestoppers Safe Schools Louisiana App.

6.1.2 On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board received the report regarding reopening of schools in response to COVID-19.

- 6.1.3 On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board received the summary report of waiver requests, submitted by Local Education Agencies (LEAs) for the 2020-2021 school year, regarding policy contained in Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*: §2313. Elementary Program of Studies, pertaining to BESE mandated elementary level foreign language programs, as submitted by the State Superintendent of Education.
- 6.1.4 On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board received the report regarding 2020-2021 school and district accountability.
- 6.1.5 On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board directed the State Superintendent of Education, in response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and guidance issued February 22, 2021, by the United States Secretary of Education regarding state assessments and accountability, to:
1. issue guidance to schools related to test administration and provide communications resources to aid parents and students in understanding the importance of measuring student learning for purposes of instructional planning and student support;
 2. provide, as quickly as available, a report of aggregate 2020-2021 test results and the extent to which results are misaligned with historical trends;
 3. recommend any adjustments, Federal waivers, or other forms of relief required to ensure that school ratings and scores fairly communicate school performance and achieve the intended purpose of identifying where supports and interventions are needed;
 4. draft proposed revisions to Bulletin 118 that address accountability for the 2020-2021 school year at the appropriate time; and
 5. work with state legislators and BESE leadership regarding legislation proposed for the 2021 Regular Legislative session concerning Louisiana state assessments and accountability for the 2020-2021 school year.
- 6.1.6 On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board authorized Board President Sandy Holloway to approve an Emergency Rule if necessary regarding the exemption of LEAP 2025 for 2020-2021 seniors to include the following substitutions:

(Motion continues on page 5)

1. an ACT Composite score of 17 for all students or Silver or higher on WorkKeys for Career Diploma Students;
2. an ACT subject score of 17 in the corresponding LEAP 2025 assessment pair; or
3. student participation in 20 or more extended learning hours, taught by a qualified teacher, to substitute for LEAP 2025 assessment pair deficiencies and earning a performance level of Approaching Basic.

6.1.7 On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board approved issuance of a graduation pathway diploma, for 2020-2021 seniors, where an Industry Based Credential (IBC) was not earned because of a loss of hours due to COVID-19 restrictions if the student has earned a Silver or higher on WorkKeys.

6.1.8 On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board approved the membership of the Social Studies Content Standards Review Committee and Workgroups.

6.1.9 On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board received the minutes from the Nonpublic School Council (NPSC) meeting held January 26, 2021.

6.1.10 On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board received the minutes of the Accountability Commission meeting held February 1, 2021.

6.1.11 On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board received the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) meeting held February 3, 2021.

6.1.12 On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board received the minutes of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Council meeting held February 24, 2021.

6.1.13 On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board received the minutes of the Superintendents' Advisory Council (SAC) meeting held March 2, 2021.

6.1.14 On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board recognized Mr. Jack Walker, 2020-2021 Student Representative for the BESE Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee, and welcomed Mr. Zach Johnson, 2021-2022 Student Representative.

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

6.2.1 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board received the report from the LDE Director of Internal Audit.

6.2.2 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board received the 8(g) monitoring visit reports conducted by Board staff.

6.2.3 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board received the report regarding LDE contracts \$50,000 and under, approved by the State Superintendent of Education.

6.2.4 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board ratified the following emergency decisions made by the BESE President pursuant to authority granted in LAC 28:I.305.B: waivers of BESE rules, as requested by the State Superintendent, to support Louisiana local education agencies (LEAs) and early childhood centers severely impacted by the recent COVID-19 public health emergency.

6.2.5 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board received the update report regarding RSD capital projects for October and November 2020, including:

- RSD Monthly Summary for October and November 2020;
- Superintendents' Report for October and November 2020; and
- RSD Open Contracts as of October 31, 2020 and November 30, 2020.

6.2.6 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board approved the following LDE contract:

Contractor: Ochsner Health
Contract Period: 03/10/2021 – 06/30/2022
Contract Amount: \$1,000,000.00
Fund: Federal - Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund
Competitive Process: N/A

Description of Service: Employees serving students birth – grade 12 will have access to confidential, evidence-based mental teletherapy services from Ochsner Health Systems.

6.2.7 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board approved the following RSD contract amendment:

Contractor: SCNZ Architects, LLC
 Contract Period: 10/18/2017 – 10/18/2023
 Previous Amount: \$2,344,748.29
 Amended Amount: \$ 61,751.25
 Contract Amount: \$2,406,499.54
 Fund: IAT - FEMA
 Competitive Process: Competitive

Description of Service: This amendment provides for the additional services for air monitoring and bulk sampling during asbestos and lead abatement for Career Technical Education High School at Kerlerrec Street CMar.

Student Centered Goals - Formula

6.2.8 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Believe and Prepare Formula Funds
 Amount/Period: \$ 4,000.00 - 8(g) 07/01/2020 – 06/15/2021
 \$51,500.00 - TIF 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 educator preparation providers to pay stipends to the mentors of undergraduate year-long 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, educator preparation providers and local school systems identified undergraduate residents and assigned them mentors. Mentors supported residents completing a residency from both January 2020 through December 2020, and August 2020 through May 2021.

(Motion continues on page 8)

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 January 2021 based on data confirmed by school systems.

Dr. Boffy recused herself from voting on this motion.

Student Centered Goals - Competitive

6.2.9 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Pre-Educator Pathway (Grow Your Own)
Amount: \$100,000.00
Period: 07/01/2020 – 06/15/2021
Source of Funds: 8(g) - State

Purpose: In order to ensure a robust, diverse pipeline of educators in the profession, the LDE is supporting the development and implementation of Grow Your Own programs in several pilot school systems. These pilots will support school systems in creating and implementing courses for high school students who are interested in the teaching profession.

Basis of Allocation: School systems interested in implementing a Grow Your Own program applied for competitive funding. Twenty-five schools and/or school systems submitted applications. Funding is intended to support curriculum adoption, professional development, initial training, and student organization or credentialing costs. Nineteen schools and/or school systems were selected for funding.

Funding recipients agree to:

- offer a pre-educator pathway course in the 2021-2022 school year;
- select a qualified instructor for the course by 03/01/2021;
- ensure that a diverse population of students enroll in the course;
- strategically recruit students who belong to underrepresented identities in the system’s workforce to the course;
- attend monthly LDE facilitated support check-ins from March 2021 – May 2022;

(Motion continues on page 9)

- participate in LDE guided reflections aimed to identify pathway opportunities and challenges; and
- provide information related to curriculum, finance, operations, and personnel aimed to isolate best practices.

Dr. Boffy recused herself from voting on this motion.

Student Centered Goals - Competitive

6.2.10 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Fast Forward
Amount: \$200,000.00 – Perkins
 \$200,000.00 – Board of Regents
Period: 03/10/2021 – 05/10/2021
Source of Funds: State, Federal

Purpose: Eight regional planning grants of \$50,000 each will be allocated for the Fast Forward program. These funds will be utilized by lead school systems in each region to create pathways which allow students to earn a Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma or a TOPS University Diploma while simultaneously earning an Associate Degree or participating in a state-recognized pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship opportunity.

Basis of Allocation: A collaboration between the LDE and the Board of Regents to collectively provide \$400,000 (\$200,000 Perkins - \$200,000 Board of Regents). Fast Forward is designed to increase the number of students earning Associate Degrees or participating in state-recognized pre-apprenticeships/apprenticeships in high school.

6.2.11 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board approved the 8(g) Statewide budget revisions for FY 2020-2021 for the Educator Career Opportunity Expansion and the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP).

6.2.12 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board ratified the submission of the legislative report in response to House Concurrent Resolution 20 of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session, submitted by the BESE President, per interim authority.

6.2.13 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board ratified the submission of the legislative report in response to Louisiana Revised Statute 17:264, submitted by the BESE President, per interim authority.

- 6.2.14 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board ratified the submission of the legislative report in response to Louisiana Revised Statute 17:437.1, submitted by the BESE President, per interim authority.
- 6.2.15 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board received the report in response to House Resolution 15 of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session.
- 6.2.16 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board received the report in response to Louisiana Revised Statute 17:17.4.
- 6.2.17 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board approved a status report regarding the 2021 Regular Legislative Session.
- 6.2.18 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board received the list of pre-filed bills for the 2021 Regular Legislative Session as of March 5, 2021.
- 6.2.19 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board received the minutes of the MFP Task Force meetings held on January 19, 2021, and March 2, 2021.
- 6.2.20 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board approved the FY 2021-2022 Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula – to include:
- a 1.375 percent increase to the MFP base per pupil amount in Level 1, whereby the base per pupil amount shall equal \$4,070;
 - a pay raise of \$400 for certificated staff and \$200 for non-certificated support staff, including retirement benefits, in Level 4, as proposed by the Governor in the 2021-2022 Executive Budget, equal to approximately \$40 million, or a 1.375 percent increase; and
 - a funding allocation in Level 4 of the formula for annual stipends to certified mentor teachers in the amount of \$2,000 per mentor teacher.

The Board requested that in the event additional funds are realized, the Louisiana Legislature will return the MFP formula to BESE, so that the MFP formula may be resubmitted by BESE accordingly.

6.2.21 On motion on of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board authorized the LDE to make technical changes to the MFP formula as needed.

6.2.22 On motion of Ms. Voitier, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board authorized the LDE to submit the MFP formula to the Legislature by March 15, 2021.

Agenda **BESE Retreat** (Schedule 4)
Item 6.3.

6.3.1 On motion of Ms. Orange Jones, seconded by Ms. Ellis, the Board received the report regarding BESE member communication and collaboration.

6.3.2 On motion of Ms. Orange Jones, seconded by Ms. Ellis, the Board received the report regarding the BESE Legislative Process.

6.3.3 On motion of Ms. Orange Jones, seconded by Ms. Ellis, the Board received the report regarding the LDE Priorities Plan for 2021.

Agenda **Educator Effectiveness Committee** (Schedule 5)
Item 6.4.

6.4.1 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Weaver, the Board received the report regarding the Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System.

6.4.2 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Weaver, the Board directed the LDE to form a workgroup consisting of literacy experts, teacher preparation providers, and school system leaders and provide an update report, including proposed policy revisions based upon the workgroup recommendations, for consideration at the June 2021, Educator Effectiveness Committee meeting.

6.4.3 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Weaver, the Board received the report regarding the Mentor Teacher Workgroup.

Further, the Board directed the LDE to propose policy revisions consistent with the workgroup recommendations.

- 6.4.4 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Weaver, the Board extended the waiver of policy, contained in Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*, and Bulletin 996, *Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs*, regarding the requirement that all undergraduate residents and post-baccalaureate candidates be placed with mentor teachers holding the ancillary mentor teacher certificate, the ancillary provisional mentor teacher certificate, or the supervisor of student teaching certificate, for the 2021-2022 school year, with the following contingencies:
- Mentor teacher waivers will be granted on a case-by-case basis through the application process established by the LDE and at no fee to the applicant, school system, or teacher preparation provider;
 - The waiver will be issued by the LDE for educators highly recommended by the mentor's principal and who possess one or more of the following qualifications:
 1. Two years of Highly Effective Compass ratings;
 2. National Board Certification;
 3. Statewide or national distinction for excellence in teaching;
 4. Experience as a TAP mentor, master teacher, executive master teacher, or certified TAP evaluator;
 5. Content leader experience, as evidenced by participation in Content Leader training or redelivery of professional development; or
 6. Master's or doctorate in education and exemplary experience hosting student teachers.
- 6.4.5 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Weaver, the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Arthur Joffrion, a certified school system administrator representing the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents (LASS), to the membership of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council (TCAC) for a term of four years from 2021-2025.
- 6.4.6 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Weaver, the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Dustin Hebert, a college of education faculty member representing the Louisiana Association of Teacher Educators (LAATE), to the membership of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council (TCAC) for a term of four years from 2021-2025.

- 6.4.7 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Weaver, the Board approved the appointment of Mr. Scott Devillier, a certified school system administrator representing The Louisiana Association of School Executives (LASE), to the membership of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council (TCAC) for a term of four years from 2021-2025.
- 6.4.8 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Weaver, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel: §203. Certification Exams and Scores*.
- 6.4.9 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Weaver, the Board revoked the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary certificate #567019 issued to Ms. Carolyn Ann Burrell.
- 6.4.10 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Weaver, the Board granted the issuance of a Louisiana teaching certificate appropriate to the credentials of Ms. Kedra Lorraine James.
- 6.4.11 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Weaver, the Board granted the reinstatement of a Louisiana teaching certificate appropriate to the credentials of Ms. Andraei M. Henderson.
- 6.4.12 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Weaver, the Board revoked the Louisiana Out-of-State (OS) certificate #611812 issued to Ms. Jennifer Elissa Burnley.
- 6.4.13 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Weaver, the Board granted the issuance of a Louisiana ancillary certificate appropriate to the credentials of Ms. Shalacy Stevenson Baudoin.
- Agenda Item 6.5. **School Innovation and Turnaround Committee** (Schedule 6)
- 6.5.1 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Dr. Davis, the Board deleted from the School Innovation and Turnaround Committee agenda, "Consideration of revisions to Bulletin 1566, *Pupil Progression Policies and Procedures*, regarding pupil progression plans for locally-authorized charter schools."

Agenda Item 7. **Consideration of revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices*, and Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, related to LEAP 2025 High School Assessment substitutions due to COVID-19**

7.1. On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board approved as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices*: §6821. High School Test Cohorts, and Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*: §2318. The TOPS University Diploma; and §2319. The Career Diploma.

7.2. On motion of Ms. Ellis, seconded by Ms. Orange Jones, the Board approved as a Declaration of Emergency, revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices*: §6821. High School Test Cohorts, and Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*: §2318. The TOPS University Diploma; and §2319. The Career Diploma.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.