



**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.

**SPECIAL CALLED
BOARD MINUTES**

Meeting of April 5, 2023

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

April 5, 2023

**The Thomas Jefferson Room
Baton Rouge, LA**

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met in special session on April 5, 2023, in the Thomas Jefferson Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 9:25 a.m. by Board President Dr. Holly Boffy.

Board members present were Mr. Preston Castille, Dr. Belinda Davis, Ms. Ashley Ellis, Mr. James Garvey, Ms. Sandy Holloway, Mr. Michael Melerine, Mr. Ronnie Morris, Mr. Tommy Roque, and Ms. Doris Voitier.

Ms. Kira Orange Jones was not in attendance.

There were no public comments.

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BESE President Dr. Holly Boffy informed members of a request to amend the agenda to include discussion concerning Resolutions regarding school safety officers.

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

Dr. Boffy asked for a motion to amend the agenda.

Mr. Melerine offered a motion, seconded by Ms. Holloway, the Board amended the agenda to include the following item: "Consideration of Resolutions regarding school safety officers."

There were no requests for public comment at this time.

Dr. Boffy asked for a roll call vote on the motion to amend the agenda.

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On motion of Mr. Melerine, seconded by Ms. Holloway, the Board amended the agenda to include Agenda Item 3.3., "Consideration of Resolutions regarding school safety officers."

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Dr. Boffy, Mr. Castille, Dr. Davis, Ms. Ellis, Mr. Garvey, Ms. Holloway, Mr. Melerine, Mr. Morris, Mr. Roque, and Ms. Voitier.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absences: Ms. Orange Jones.

The motion passed.

Dr. Boffy 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)

2.1 On motion of Mr. Roque, seconded by Dr. Davis, the Board approved the agenda.

Agenda Item 3. **Items for Consideration** (Schedule 2)

3.1 On motion of Mr. Melerine, seconded by Dr. Davis, the Board received an update report regarding the legislative process for the Louisiana 2023 Regular Legislative Session.

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The Board recessed for lunch at 11:40 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 12:25 p.m.

3.2 On motion of Dr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Ellis, the Board received an update report regarding a watch list of bills and approved BESE guiding principles regarding bills filed for the Louisiana 2023 Regular Legislative Session as follows:

1. A Minimum Foundation Program that prioritizes students and educators through a teacher pay raise, including differentiated pay options, and increased operational funding;

2. Providing school and system leaders autonomy to make

decisions responsive to local needs without the hindrance of undue red tape and bureaucracy;

3. Creating innovative ways to bolster the educator pipeline through expanding access to the profession, taking into consideration reducing barriers to entry; eliminating undue processes; and streamlining certification;
4. Elevating the educator profession by providing resources, professional development, and fostering a supportive environment to all educators;
5. Recognizing the critical role of teachers as the number one in-school factor influencing outcomes for students and supporting educators by promoting a safe teaching environment, free from disruption, unnecessary bureaucracy, and external distraction;
6. Continued implementation of rigorous State Standards and courses of study aligned with college and workplace expectations, as measured by high-quality assessments and learning opportunities aligned to such standards and expectations;
7. A fair and honest accountability system that honors student performance, growth, and relevant measures of high school success;
8. Fostering innovation through maintaining charter school autonomy;
9. Maintaining parental rights in education;
10. Expanded opportunities for high school students to access career training aligned to regional workforce demands enabling them to enter the workforce and continue their career development through specialized training and postsecondary education;
11. The ability of local school systems to make curriculum decisions and select instructional materials that support students' mastery of academic standards;
12. The ability of local school systems to leverage technology resources to enhance teaching and learning and to prepare students to be technology proficient and competitive in the digital age;
13. Fostering and maintaining a system of choice options for families

that includes accountability and promotes excellence and equity for every child;

14. Maintaining and expanding a high-quality early childhood education system that focuses on quality seats, kindergarten readiness, and accountability;

15. Enabling systems and schools to take the actions necessary to provide for the safety of all students and staff; and

16. Retaining its role as Louisiana's elementary and secondary education policymaking body.

3.3 On motion of Mr. Melerine, seconded by Ms. Holloway, the Board approved Resolutions one and two regarding school safety officers, as presented, and directed the BESE Executive Director to process accordingly.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.