

Mr. Ronnie Morris, President

BESSE



**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 July 31, 2024

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

July 31, 2024

Thomas Jefferson Room Baton Rouge, LA

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met in special session on July 31, 2024, in the Thomas Jefferson Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Board President Mr. Ronnie Morris.

Board members present were Mr. Conrad Appel, Dr. Judy Armstrong, Mr. Preston Castille, Ms. Simone Champagne, Mr. Lance Harris, Mr. Paul Hollis, and Ms. Sandy Holloway.

Mr. Kevin Berken, Dr. Sharon Clark, and Ms. Stacey Melerine were not in attendance.

There were no public comments.

- Agenda Item 2. **Approval of the Agenda** (Schedule 1)
2.1 On motion of Ms. Champagne, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the agenda.
- Agenda Item 3. **Items for Consideration**
3.1 On motion of Ms. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Hollis, the Board considered a meet and greet with the applicants for the BESE Executive Director position.
- Agenda Item 4. **Executive Session (Pursuant to LA R.S. 42:16 and 42:17)**
On motion of Ms. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Hollis, the Board went into Executive Session at 1:53 p.m. to discuss the professional competence or character of the applicants for the BESE Executive Director position.
- A roll call vote was taken.
- Yeas: Mr. Appel, Dr. Armstrong, Mr. Castille, Ms. Champagne, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hollis, Ms. Holloway, and Mr. Morris.
- Nays: None.
- Abstentions: None.
- Absences: Mr. Berken, Dr. Clark, and Ms. Melerine.

The roll call vote to go into executive session passed. It was noted that no votes would be taken while the Board was in executive session; all votes would be made in public.

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On motion of Mr. Hollis, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board reconvened into Regular Session at 5:07 p.m.

Agenda
Item 5.

New Business

Mr. Harris offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Castille, that the Board offer employment to Mr. Tavares Walker for the BESE Executive Director position.

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Mr. Appel offered a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Champagne, that the Board offer employment to Dr. Allen Grant for the BESE Executive Director position.

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Mr. Appel, Dr. Armstrong, Ms. Champagne, and Ms. Holloway.

Nays: Mr. Castille, Mr. Harris, and Mr. Hollis.

Abstentions: Mr. Morris.

Absences: Mr. Berken, Dr. Clark, and Ms. Melerine.

The motion failed.

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5.1

On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Board offered employment to Mr. Tavares Walker for the BESE Executive Director position.

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Dr. Armstrong, Mr. Castille, Ms. Champagne, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hollis, and Mr. Morris.

Nays: Mr. Appel and Ms. Holloway.

Abstentions: None.

Absences: Mr. Berken, Dr. Clark, and Ms. Melerine.

The motion passed.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.