

JOINT MEETING
BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
AND
BOARD OF REGENTS

August 20, 2025

MINUTES

In accordance with the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, Article VIII, Section 5(D), a joint meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Board of Regents (BOR) was called to order at 9:05 a.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ronnie Morris, President of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The rolls were called with quorums established for the Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Board of Regents

Present

Mr. David Aubrey
Mr. Christian Creed
Mr. Blake David
Mr. Ted Glaser, III
Mr. Dallas Hixson
Mr. Darren Mire
Mr. Wilbert Pryor
Ms. Christy Reeves
Mr. Devesh Sarda
Dr. Samer Shamieh
Ms. Terrie Sterling, Vice Chair
Mr. Collis Temple, III
Ms. Judy Williams-Brown

Absent

Ms. Misti Cordell, Chair
Ms. Stephanie Finley
Mr. Phillip May, Jr., Secretary

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

Present

Mr. Ronnie Morris, President
Mr. Lance Harris, Vice President
Ms. Stacey Melerine, Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Conrad Appel
Dr. Judy Armstrong
Mr. Kevin Berken
Mr. Preston Castille
Ms. Simone Champagne
Ms. Sandy Holloway

Absent

Dr. Sharon Clark
Mr. Paul Hollis

Mr. Ronnie Morris, President of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, welcomed those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2024

On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Boards approved the minutes of the joint meeting held December 11, 2024.

Board members in attendance expressed no objections to the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF AN UPDATE REPORT REGARDING COURSE ADDITIONS TO THE TOPS UNIVERSITY CORE REQUIREMENTS

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, requested the approval of additions to the Foreign Language Category and Social Science Category, as outlined.

On motion of Ms. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Boards approved the course additions to the TOPS University Core Requirements.

Board members in attendance expressed no objections to the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF AN UPDATE REPORT REGARDING ACT 347 OF THE 2025 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION (TOPS EXCELLENCE)

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, shared information regarding the new TOPS Excellence category to the Boards.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Boards received the update report regarding Act 347 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

Board members in attendance expressed no objections to the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF AN UPDATE REPORT REGARDING THE TRI-AGENCY TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP INITIATIVE

Dr. Paula Calderon, College of Education Dean, Southeastern Louisiana University, and Dr. Arthur Joffrion, Deputy Assistant Superintendent, shared information regarding the following in the report to the Boards:

- the current Resident model through a four-year Teacher Preparation Program;
- the proposed Apprenticeship model; and
- the desired outcomes for an Apprentice compared to a Resident.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Boards received the update report regarding the Tri-Agency Teacher Apprenticeship Initiative.

Board members in attendance expressed no objections to the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF AN UPDATE REPORT REGARDING THE TASK FORCE ON CAREER ALIGNMENT

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, shared the following goals of the Task Force in the report to the Boards:

- expand work-based learning opportunities and improve career coaching;
- develop accountability measures; and
- convene to develop detailed recommendations.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Holloway, the Boards received the update report regarding the Task Force on Career Alignment.

Board members in attendance expressed no objections to the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF EXTENSION ACADEMY HELIX MENTORSHIP STEAM ACADEMY IN CITY OF BAKER SCHOOLS

Dr. Brumley recommended the Extension Academy for approval.

On motion of Dr. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Appel, the Boards approved Extension Academy Helix Mentorship STEAM Academy in City of Baker Schools.

Board members in attendance expressed no objections to the motion.

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Boards, the joint meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Regents adjourned at 10:05 a.m.