

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

June 12, 2024

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 9:07 a.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 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. Gary Solomon, Jr., Chair
Mr. Darren Mire, Secretary
Mr. David Aubrey
Ms. Misti Cordell
Mr. Christian Creed
Mr. Blake David
Mr. Robert Levy
Mr. Phillip May, Jr.
Ms. Kennedy Orr
Mr. Wilbert Pryor
Ms. Terrie Sterling
Mr. Collis Temple, III
Mr. Felix Weill
Ms. Judy Williams-Brown

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
Dr. Sharon Clark
Mr. Paul Hollis
Ms. Sandy Holloway

Absent

Ms. Stephanie Finley
Mr. Thomas Seale, III

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2023

On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Boards approved the minutes of the joint meeting held December 13, 2023.

Board members in attendance expressed no objections to the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF AN UPDATE REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT AND CONNECTIVITY

Mr. Veneeth Iyengar, Executive Director of Broadband Development and Connectivity for the state of Louisiana, highlighted the following in his report to the Boards:

- Over the last three years, 65% improvement to high speed affordable reliable internet;
- approximately 140,000 households and small businesses that lack internet access;
- Partnership through the administration of federal funds, the Gumbo Program which was \$176 million from the American Rescue Plan, funds from the Federal Communications Commission, as well as a partnership with Board of Regent Member Davis Aubrey and AT&T;
- \$1.35 billion to obligate by the end of 2024 and must spend by December 2028; and
- HB700 signed into law by the governor stating Gumbo 3.0 Program could be created in the event there are excess funds.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Ms. Melerine, seconded by Mr. Castille, the Boards received the update report from the Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity.

Board members in attendance expressed no objections to the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF EXTENSION ACADEMY RENEWAL ORLEANS PARISH

Ms. Cate Swinburn, Youth Force NOLA, highlighted the following in the report to the Boards:

- Serves students meeting the requirements to graduate from high school but do not qualify for TOPS and have not yet earned an advanced industry credential to defer graduation to earn dual enrollment credits, complete industry-based work credentials, participate in work-based learning, and develop a five year plan to successfully transition into adulthood; and
- Expressed gratitude for the continued authorization of the program.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Boards approved Extension Academy renewal Orleans Parish.

Board members in attendance expressed no objections to the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF AN UPDATE REPORT REGARDING TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Dr. Arthur Joffrion, Deputy Assistant Superintendent, shared information regarding the following in the report to the Boards:

- LDOE is making funding available to reduce barriers for certified teachers teaching out of their field;
- LDOE will be covering Praxis exam costs and certification costs;
- The Louisiana Workforce Commission approved an LDOE-sponsored Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program, an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway;
- Southeastern has been approved as the related instruction provider, and Tangipahoa Parish School Board is the approved employer; and
- Will work with other school systems as well as universities to replicate this model to provide the same thing for yearlong residents across the state of Louisiana.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Ms. Melerine, seconded by Ms. Holloway, the Boards received the update report regarding Teacher Recruitment and Retention.

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 9:54 a.m.