

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
AND  
BOARD OF REGENTS  
Joint Board Meeting

JUNE 19, 2012

MINUTES

In accordance with the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, Article VIII, Section 5(D), a joint meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Regents was called to order at 9:04 a.m. on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Penny Dastugue, President of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The rolls were called and quorums established.

Board of Regents

Present:

Mr. Robert W. Levy, Chair  
Ms. Charlotte A. Bollinger, Vice-Chair  
Mr. J. Scott Ballard  
Mr. Joseph P. Farr  
Mr. William Fenstermaker  
Mr. Chris D. Gorman  
Mr. Matthew Jewell  
Mr. W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr.  
Mr. Albert D. Sam, II

Absent:

Mr. Robert J. Bruno  
Ms. Maurice C. Durbin  
Ms. Donna Guinn Klein  
Mr. Roy Martin, III  
Dr. Harold M. Stokes  
Mr. Joseph C. Wiley

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

Present:

Ms. Penny Dastugue, President  
Ms. Lottie Beebe  
Ms. Holly Boffy,  
Ms. Connie Bradford  
Mr. Jay Guillot  
Ms. Carolyn Hill  
Mr. Walter Lee  
Ms. Kira Orange Jones

Absent:

Mr. John Bennett  
Mr. Chas Roemer, Vice-President  
Mr. Jim Garvey, Secretary-Treasurer

APPROVAL OF BoR/BESE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2011

**On motion of Regent Rasberry, seconded by BESE Member Bradford, the Boards approved the minutes of the joint meeting of the Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education held December 8, 2011.**

CONSIDERATION OF REMARKS FROM STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOHN WHITE AND COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION JAMES PURCELL

Dr. James Purcell, Commissioner of Higher Education, highlighted the following in his address to members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Regents.

"I thought I would take a minute this morning to talk about the value of the collaborative efforts between K-12 and higher education.

You hear a lot of discussion in our state and nationally about the educational pipeline—the continuum students travel along in their quest for learning.

Certainly, for higher education, a strong educational pipeline in our K-12 schools produces high school graduates that are well prepared to succeed in college. Last time we met jointly, I reported to you about the Remedial Education Commission and the robust recommendations that resulted from that work.

But thinking beyond that collaborative endeavor, it's important that our efforts focus on reinforcing the educational pipeline leading out of our higher education institutions as well...ensuring that our state has a well-trained workforce including teachers who ultimately circle back to influence the beginning of a child's journey through school. In other words, our ultimate success is tied directly to one another's endeavors.

The fact is, higher education and K-12 are better aligned in Louisiana than at any other point in the past. Much of that alignment is a result of using value-added data which tracks student learning---radically changing how our teacher preparation programs are structured.

Instead of being reactive to changes occurring in K-12 education, our universities are now proactive and able to quickly identify changes and make the necessary adjustments to continue improving student performance. The bottom line is, this data definitively shows that reforms implemented by BESE and Regents are working....making Louisiana a model for the nation...and ultimately strengthening our educational pipeline.

Additionally, all of our teacher preparation programs have already started to realign their curriculum to the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS). We are very aware that

teacher candidates will be expected to use the new standards immediately upon employment in order to improve student achievement at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Again, as learning improves at the K-12 level, the caliber of student entering our colleges and universities improves, resulting in higher levels of educational attainment for Louisiana.

Our state is also leading the way in engaging higher education in activities to create the new Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment. In fact, the work in our state has been identified as a model for other states, and Dr. Jeanne Burns is presenting information today in Washington, DC to university chancellors from other states who are serving on the PARCC Advisory Committee on College Readiness.

As you can tell, we are already doing a great deal of collaborative work that strengthens Louisiana's educational pipeline, but as is always the case, there is still a lot of progress that must be made to remain competitive and create that world class educational system our citizens deserve.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed getting to know and working with Superintendent White and I believe we each of us see areas in which our efforts can support one another's works. There is undoubtedly a common thread, a common goal, that both organizations agree is critical, and that is improved learning, leading to improved outcomes, leading to a stronger economy and a more vibrant Louisiana

On behalf of the Board of Regents, I pledge our continued commitment to our collaborative partnerships and look forward to working with the Department's leadership and staff to achieve our collective goals."

State Superintendent of Education John White highlighted the following in his address to members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Regents.

- Together, the LDE will work with the higher education system to recalibrate expectations for student learning. The divide that exists between K-12 and higher education is one of our own creation, not one of students' creation. Thus, when you inject expectations on one end, you have to do it on the other, whether it is PARCC assessments, adopting ACT across our system for all high school students, or adopting common core standards.
- State Superintendent of Education White stated that he is excited about the work that is taking place in the realm of preparing students specifically for the work force, as well as in the realm of working to prepare our students who are attending four-year universities for the best experience possible. He expressed the need to increase enrollment in Advanced Placement classes and the need to increase rigor and enrollment in Dual Enrollment.

- The career piece is equally important. The technical college system and community college system are critical in preparing students for the work force. K-12 needs the higher education system to help it keep pace with the evolving private sector demands.

- Superintendent White acknowledged that higher education has been under financial duress in many respects. He commended the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Board of Regents for stepping forward and ensuring that Dual Enrollment remains in place so that there is a bridge until it is fully funded by the MFP next year, thanks to BESE's policy shifts.

**On motion of BESE Member Guillot, seconded by BESE Member Bradford, the Boards received the remarks from Commissioner of Higher Education James Purcell and State Superintendent of Education John White.**

CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE BY CHARLOTTE BOLLINGER AND GLENNY LEE BUQUET, CO-CHAIRS OF THE COMMISSION

The Boards were provided with handouts entitled, "2011-2012 Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence Year Thirteen Report," and "2011-2012 Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence Recommendations - Year Thirteen Report."

Ms. Glenny Lee Buquet, Co-Chair of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence, highlighted the following in her report to members of the Boards.

During 2011-2012, the Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence was given the following charge:

To prepare students who are career and college ready as new CCSS and PARCC assessments are implemented in Louisiana.

At the last joint meeting of the two boards in December 2011, Dr. Jeanne Burns and Dr. Scott Norton made a presentation about the CCSS and PARCC. They are both serving as Louisiana's K-12 and higher education state contacts to work with PARCC on a national level to help develop the new assessments. They explained that the new standards and new PARCC assessments will be replacing our current K-12 standards and assessments in 2014-2015.

Dr. Burns and Dr. Norton co-directed the Commission this year.

This year the Commission members were asked to examine anticipated challenges and develop recommendations that would answer the following questions:

- Should the same cut-off scores on the new PARCC assessments for placement in entry-level credit-bearing courses in mathematics and English be the same for technical colleges, community colleges, and four year post-secondary programs?

- What options should be made available to high school students who attain readiness scores on the PARCC assessments for entry-level, credit bearing courses prior to their senior year in high school?
- What options should be made available to high school students who attain passing grades in Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry but do not attain readiness scores for entry-level, credit bearing courses prior to high school graduation?
- What support should be provided to experienced teachers who lack the depth of content knowledge and depth of pedagogical knowledge/skills to prepare students to successfully address the CCSS and PARCC assessments?
- How will schools in Louisiana develop the necessary technological infrastructure for students to naturally apply knowledge through the use of technology when completing learning activities throughout the school year and when completing formal PARCC assessments?

The Commission met on five occasions during 2011-2012. A listing of the Commission members can be found within the report.

The Commission members obtained new information at each meeting about the CCSS and PARCC from state and national experts representing schools, districts, and national organizations.

On June 13, 2012, the Blue Ribbon Commission members completed the development of their recommendations for inclusion in the 2011-2012 Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence Year Thirteen Report.

Ms. Mary Ellen Roy, Co-Chair of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence, highlighted the following in her report to members of the Boards.

The Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence is making two recommendations that involve 32 actions.

Parents, teachers, school and district leaders, university faculty, university leaders, community leaders, and state leaders will all need to play a major role in the successful implementation of the following recommendations.

The first recommendation is to support new efforts to prepare students, their families, educators, and the public to successfully address CCSS and PARCC assessments to help students be career and college ready.

The second recommendation is to continue to enhance and support existing efforts to prepare students, their families, educators, and the public to successfully address CCSS and PARCC assessments to help students be career and college ready.

The following is an overview of actions.

- First, it is going to be very important for the State to implement a communication campaign about PARCC and the new standards. Most parents, grandparents, guardians, business partners, and the public are not aware of the changes that will be occurring in the near future. The Commission identified different types of communication strategies that can help prevent a future fear of something that is currently unknown.
- Second, the Commission is recommending that the same cut-off scores on the new PARCC assessments be used to place students in entry-level credit bearing mathematics and English courses in two-year colleges and four-year colleges. Within Louisiana students can transfer entry-level credit-bearing college courses to any two- or four-year college; thus, the same expectations should exist for students to enter the courses.

The Commission is also recommending that the final cut-off scores that must be approved by the PARCC Governing Boards first be presented to the Board of Regents and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and endorsed by the two boards before Louisiana's representatives on the PARCC Governing Board vote to approve the scores. This vote will occur in 2015.

- Third, the Commission has determined that information will be available to schools much sooner regarding high school students who are not on track to be prepared for success in entry level, credit-bearing college courses in mathematics and English. In addition, high schools will have relevant information regarding students who are on track to take college courses while still in high school. The Commission has made recommendations for ways in which these students can be supported once the results become available to students and schools.
- Fourth, teachers and principals serving on the Commission made it very clear that they are going to need support as they change what and how their students are taught as the new CCSS and PARCC assessments are implemented. The Commission has identified actions that will help teachers and principals obtain the resources and professional development they will need to be successful.
- Fifth, the Commission learned that Louisiana has already started to survey the technological capacity of schools to implement the new PARCC assessments since many of the assessments will be administered electronically. The Commission has identified actions that need to be addressed once the results of the new survey become available.

Ms. Bollinger encouraged members of the Boards to closely examine the specific actions that have been identified within the 2011-2012 Blue Ribbon Commission Report.

Ms. Nancy Beben provided an overview of actions that the LDE has taken over the past year to prepare teachers and principals for the CCSS (CCSS), including:

- face-to-face trainings for district staff that will be re-delivered to teachers,
- professional development for teachers,
- one-day institutes for teams of 3 teachers from every school statewide to provide an overview of the shifts that are a result of the CCSS, and
- professional development for trainers on K-1 math curriculum.

State Superintendent of Education White stated that the LDE is using the Louisiana Believes platform to engage teachers, principals, and administrators regarding CCSS, assessments, School Choice, etc. The LDE is trying to meld the idea of COMPASS with the CCSS so that the idea of a shift in standards is part and parcel with a shift for students. Parent communication will be headed by a community and family task force that will be assembled over the next month. Educator advisory groups were recently announced.

**On motion of BESE Member Lee, seconded by Regent Rasberry, the Boards received and endorsed the 2011-2012 report of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence.**

CONSIDERATION OF RECOGNITION OF SOUTH LOUISIANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY BY JAMES PURCELL, COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Dr. Purcell provided the Boards with a video entitled, "Midsouth Community College (Arkansas) Concurrent Enrollment Testimonials." Dr. Purcell introduced Dr. Natalie J. Harder, Chancellor of South Louisiana Community College (SLCC).

Dr. Harder stated that SLCC houses the Early College Academy in partnership with the Lafayette Parish School System. Schools like the Early College Academy are an extremely important part of the way in which K-12 and higher education can work together to improve educational attainment in the state of Louisiana. Students enroll at the Academy in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and upon graduation from 12<sup>th</sup> grade they have earned an Associate's Degree. As they progress throughout grade levels, they take a larger and larger set of college courses. The Academy currently has an enrollment of 240 students, who were select through a lottery.

Dr. Harder introduced Dr. Pat Cooper, Superintendent of the Lafayette Parish School System; Mr. Robin Olivier, Associate Dean of the Early College Academy; Mr. Glynn Robin, Principal of the Early College Academy; and Ms. Brooke McMichael, Ms. Kaitlyn Champagne, and Mr. Josiah Price, students at the Early College Academy.

The Boards received comments from Ms. McMichael, Ms. Champagne, and Mr. Price, regarding their experiences at the Early College Academy.



**On motion of BESE Member Bradford, seconded by Regent Jewell, the Boards received the report regarding South Louisiana Community College Early College Academy.**

**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 10:00 a.m.