

**House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education**

Minutes of Meeting
2017 Regular Session
April 11, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Patricia Haynes Smith, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education, called the meeting to order at 1:22 p.m. in Room 5, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Patricia Haynes Smith, Chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.
Representative Jerome Richard
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Katie Andress, Secretary
Mr. Tim Mathis, Budget Analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Polly Thomas
Ms. Faye Talbot, Sergeant at Arms
Ms. Vivian Hurst, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION

House Bill No. 1 by Representative Henry

The following agencies contained in House Bill No. 1 were presented and discussed:

Special Schools and Commissions

Mr. Tim Mathis, Budget Analyst for the House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-9101, presented an overview of the Special Schools and Commissions.

Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts (LSMSA)

Mr. Mathis presented an overview and discussed the school's FY17-18 budget.

Dr. Steve Horton, Executive Director of LSMSA, 715 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA, 71457, (318) 357-2520, discussed some of the accomplishments of LSMSA students. (See Exhibit A)

Dr. Horton discussed the reasons why many of the school's graduates go to college outside of Louisiana and the cost per student ratio with Representative Bagley.

Dr. Horton and Mr. Mathis discussed the differences between the living and learning community versus the virtual learning school, and the school's admission requirements with Representative Amedée.

Dr. Horton and Mr. John A. Allen, Director of Finance and Operations at LSMSA, 715 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA, 71457, (318) 357-2520, discussed the breakdown of tuition and fees for LSMSA students, the Excel Program, and the types of educational programs offered at LSMSA, and Mr. Mathis compared the breakdown of the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula to LSMSA's cost per student with Representative Carter.

Dr. Horton responded to Representative Smith regarding the ethnic breakdown of LSMSA students. He also discussed the requirements for faculty and their salary ranges with Representative Bagley.

Mr. Allen discussed the school's student retention rate with Representative Schroder. He also discussed merit increases with Representative Smith.

Representative Smith took a point of personal privilege to recognize her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha.

New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA)

Mr. Mathis presented an overview of the school and discussed the FY17-18 budget.

Mr. Kyle Wedberg, President of NOCCA, 2800 Chartres Street, New Orleans, LA, 70117, (504) 940-2787, discussed some of the school's accomplishments and the FY17-18 budget. (See Exhibit B)

Mr. Wedberg discussed the school's deferred maintenance backlog with Representative Amedée. He also discussed the cost per student breakdown, as compared to the MFP, and student diversity with Representative Carter.

Mr. Wedberg discussed the admissions requirements for students, the PREP Program, and the funding mechanism for the school's outreach programs with Representative Thomas. He also discussed merit increases and the school's procurement contracts with Representative Smith.

Louisiana Schools for the Deaf and Visually Impaired (LSDVI)

Mr. Mathis presented an overview of the schools and discussed the FY17-18 budgets.

Mr. Ralph Thibodeaux, Superintendent of LSDVI, 2888 Brightside Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 757-3200, gave an overview and discussed the schools' FY17-18 budgets. (See Exhibit C)

Mr. Thibodeaux discussed the schools' student faculty ratio and the types of services offered on campus compared to traditional public schools with Representative Carter.

Mr. Monte Burke, Superintendent of the Special School District, P.O. Box 94094, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 763-5539, discussed the reasons for not including the schools in the MFP formula with Representative Amedée. Mr. Thibodeaux discussed potentially offering American Sign Language (ASL) for college credit with Representative Amedée.

Mr. Thibodeaux discussed the amount of funding allocated for outreach programs, the cost difference between in-house students and community-based students, the number of counselors and teachers that come into the school with an ASL certification, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Medicaid funding, the types of Jump Start programs offered to students, the impact of losing five Table of Organization (T.O.) positions to the schools, the purchase of a new Public Address system, and his view of LSDVI reform to improve test scores with Representative Smith.

Dr. Donna Alleman, Director of Louisiana School for the Deaf, 2888 Brightside Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 757-3201, discussed the use of iPads assigned to students at the school with Representative Smith.

Louisiana Special Education Center (LSEC)

Mr. Mathis presented an overview and discussed the FY17-18 budget for the school.

Mr. Thibodeaux discussed the functions of the center and the need for additional T.O. at the Transitional Family Life Center to maintain student-faculty ratios with Representatives Smith and Amedée. (See Exhibit D)

Mr. John Burch, Budget Manager, Office of Planning and Budget, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-150 Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7005, discussed the elimination of 20 vacant T.O. positions with Representative Amedée.

Mr. Daniel Debevec, Director of Administration for LSEC, no address provided, (318) 427-5388, discussed the amount of Medicaid funding received for each student with Representative Thomas. Mr. Thibodeaux and Mr. Richard Bushnell, Director of LSEC, 3400 Coliseum Boulevard, Alexandria, LA 71303, (318) 484-2223, discussed the process for transitioning students out of LSEC after aging out of the program with Representative Thomas.

Louisiana Educational Television Authority (LETA)

Mr. Mathis presented an overview of the agency and discussed the FY17-18 budget.

Ms. Beth Courtney, President of LETA, 7733 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA, 70810, (225) 767-4200, discussed the functions and benefits of Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) and the FY17-18 budget. (See Exhibit E)

Board of Elementary & Secondary Education (BESE)

Mr. Mathis presented an overview of the board and discussed the FY17-18 budget.

Ms. Shan Davis, Executive Director of BESE, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802, (225) 342-5840, discussed the board's FY17-18 budget. She also discussed using 8G funding for state testing with Representative Smith.

Thrive Academy

Mr. Mathis presented an overview and discussed the school's FY17-18 budget.

Ms. Sarah Broome, Executive Director of Thrive Academy, 2585 Brightside Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 726-3355, presented an overview and the demographics of the school. (See Exhibit F) She also discussed the total cost per student, MFP funding, the activities offered at the school, and student demographics with Representative Amedée.

Department of Education

Mr. Mathis presented an overview and discussed the department's FY17-18 budget.

Dr. John White, Superintendent of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7279, discussed the correlation between the department and BESE with Representative Richard. He also discussed teacher layoffs, the status of the Broadband Initiative, and the sources of funding for high school students dually enrolled in college courses with Representative Amedée.

Mr. Mathis discussed the percentage of children eligible to enroll in an Early Childhood Education program with Representatives Amedée and Carter.

Dr. White discussed the Teacher's Retirement System, the total funding for high school testing, and his view of the amount of testing in the state's school system with Representative Bagley. He also discussed dual enrollment with Representative Billiot.

Dr. White discussed the impact of the FY17-18 budget reduction to the department and the Jump Start Program with Representative Carter.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Amedée offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, adjourn by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Smith, Amedée, Carter, Richard, and Schroder voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Patricia Haynes Smith
Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education