

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2019 Regular Session
April 16, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Cameron Henry, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Cameron Henry, chairman
Representative Franklin J. Foil, vice chairman
Representative Mark Abraham
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative James K. Armes, III
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley
Representative John A. Berthelot
Representative Robert E. Billiot
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.
Representative Charles R. Chaney
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Reid Falconer
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Lance Harris
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Steve E. Pylant
Representative Jerome Richard
Representative Scott M. Simon

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alexis Normand, attorney
Adrienne Wood, attorney
Jane Schoen, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**IV. BUSINESS**

Discussion of the appropriations proposed in House Bill No. 105 of the 2019 Regular Session.

Department of Education

Mr. Tim Mathis, Budget Analyst, House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, 11th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-9101, presented an overview of the agency's FY18-19 Department of Education, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee's records.

Mr. John White, State Superintendent, Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3974, highlighted four things: (1) teacher pay raises; (2) the agency's general funds decrease of \$2.3 million cut to the superintendent's office; (3) state-responsible special schools that have taken a \$9 million cut; and (4) no increase in early childhood education, while 5,000 families are on a waiting list to receive services.

Representative Edmonds and Mr. White discussed national statistics on the individual's education national average as compared to costs spent in Louisiana.

Representative Hodges and Mr. White discussed Louisiana's progress and struggles for the 800,000 students across the state.

Representative Smith and Mr. White discussed matters related to the number of tests students are given, the decrease in the number of assessments over the course of the year, per-pupil allotment, and comparisons with other states.

Representative Bagley and Mr. White discussed certified teachers, economic prosperity within a parish, test scores in Louisiana, and the Jefferson school superintendent's visits to various schools across the state.

Representative Hodges stated Zachary has three of the top schools in the state. Mr. White and Mr. Mathis shared total expenditures for the DOE and evidenced-based curriculum.

Representative Abraham and Mr. White discussed public funding, including unfunded accrued liability (UAL).

Representative Dustin Miller and Mr. White discussed school choice programs. Mr. White said the state appropriates roughly \$40 million to qualifying schools or diocesan schools, as they serve students who are low income and who attend currently struggling schools.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The House Appropriations Committee will meet tomorrow for public testimony at 9 a.m. in House Committee Room 5.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Falconer offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Foil, Abraham, Bacala, Bagley, Chaney, Emerson, Falconer, Hodges, Dustin Miller, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations