

## **House Committee on Education**

Minutes of Meeting  
2020 First Extraordinary Session  
June 11, 2020

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Raymond E. Garofalo, Jr., chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Raymond E. Garofalo, Jr., chairman  
Representative Beryl A. Amedée  
Representative Kendrick "Ken" Brass  
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.  
Representative Rick Edmonds  
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman  
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg  
Representative Stephanie Hilferty  
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson  
Representative Charles Anthony Owen  
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III  
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver  
Representative Polly Thomas

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Blake Miguez  
Representative Tammy T. Phelps  
Representative Mark Wright, vice chairman

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Elizabeth L. Borne, legislative analyst  
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst  
Jacqueline Snowden, committee administrative assistant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Resolution No. 1 by Representative Lyons**

Representative Lyons presented House Resolution No. 1, which requests that the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education coordinate data relative to the early childhood care and education network and submit an annual report relative thereto.

Representative Lyons requested to voluntarily defer House Resolution No. 1 due to COVID-19.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Resolution No. 1. Without objection, action on House Resolution No. 1 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Resolution No. 2 by Representative Lyons**

Representative Lyons presented House Resolution No. 2, which requests that the governing authority of each public high school provide for an annual student voter registration drive.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Resolution No. 2. Without objection, action on House Resolution No. 2 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 by Representative Bagley**

Representative Bagley presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 10, which requests governing authorities of public schools to continue operational pay for school bus operators during emergencies.

Mary-Patricia Wray, Louisiana School Bus Operators Association, 711 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 10.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 26 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 26, which extends, with limitations, the authority of public postsecondary education management boards to establish and increase student fees.

Representative Garofalo offered amendments to House Bill No. 26 that reduce the duration of the extension of fee authority from three years to one year and add a special effective date. Representative Garofalo offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Louisiana Board of Regents, no address given, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 26.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Bill No. 26 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 26 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 12 by Representative Garofalo**

Representative Garofalo presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 12, which directs the Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Board of Regents to study and submit a report to the legislature relative to funding and programs for workforce development.

Representative Garofalo offered amendments to House Concurrent Resolution No. 12 that would:

1. Change agencies directed to undertake the study from the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Commission to the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council.

2. Remove the requirement for holding public hearings.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Camille Conaway, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 451 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70818, (225) 620-5711, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 12.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 12 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 12 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **Introduction of Dr. Cade Brumley, State Superintendent of Education**

Representative Garofalo asked the newly appointed state superintendent of education to address the members.

Dr. Brumley said he looked forward to meeting the committee members. He told the committee that he is a Converse, Louisiana, native. Dr. Brumley observed that the state had made great strides during the last three years, and he wanted to continue to move forward and make it possible for students, families, and communities to secure their educational needs.

Dr. Brumley said his career began as a middle school teacher in Caddo Parish; he moved to Sabine Parish where he taught and coached, became an assistant principal, then became a principal. He moved to DeSoto Parish and was superintendent of schools for six years. During his tenure, DeSoto school performance scores rose from 49<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>. The system was in the top 10 in the state for outcomes for minorities and disabled students. As superintendent of schools in Jefferson Parish, a parish with 51,000 students, over 80 schools, and nearly 7,000 employees, he helped elevate all indicators in the parish from graduation rates to student performances on test scores to career and technical education. He noted that endorsements to advance placement rates have all improved in Jefferson Parish.

Dr. Brumley said he was grateful for the opportunity to lead the Jefferson Parish school system and was excited to get the community in Jefferson to invest in the school system and to realize the importance of a public school system. He highlighted the portfolio model that had been developed for the system.

He shared his excitement at his appointment as state superintendent of schools. He expressed his belief that Louisiana had an opportunity to capitalize on the strengths of the past and move forward where there are opportunities for improvement.

Dr. Brumley named early childhood education as the greatest educational challenge of our generation. He said he was concerned about the percentage of children who began school and were not kindergarten-ready. He stated that an investment must be made from birth to four years. He said the next area was to make sure all students were reading on grade level by the end of the third grade. He pointed out that research showed that children who cannot read on grade level by the end of third grade were more likely to become dropouts in high school. The last area he said he would focus on was career and college readiness with an emphasis on occupational/vocational needs.

Dr. Brumley said other important areas of concern were edification of the teacher and building the leadership capacity of aspiring teachers and principals.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Raymond E. Garofalo, Jr.  
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: