

## House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
March 21, 2024

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### II. ROLL CALL

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair  
Representative Beryl A. Amedée, vice chair  
Representative Kendrick "Ken" Brass  
Representative Josh Carlson  
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter  
Representative Kim Carver  
Representative Kathy Edmonston  
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg  
Representative Michael Melerine  
Representative Charles Anthony Owen  
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III  
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor  
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver  
Representative Rashid Armand Young

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

#### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borne, legislative analyst  
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst  
Alexandra Cravins, committee administrative assistant  
Natayveon Howard-Williams, committee assistant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

**III. BUSINESS****House Bill No. 244 by Representative Hughes**

Representative Hughes presented House Bill No. 244, which expands the purpose of the Steve Carter Literacy Program to include educational services in math.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 244 that:

1. Expanded the pool of people eligible to provide tutoring services to also include students pursuing a degree at a postsecondary education institution, those who hold any associate or baccalaureate degree, paraprofessionals employed by a public school governing authority, and certified math teachers.
2. Required people providing tutoring services in reading to have successfully completed a DOE-approved science of reading training.
3. Specified that a participating student may receive tutoring services in both reading and math, but the total for all services may not exceed \$1,500.
4. Added results of a parental satisfaction survey to measures the Department of Education is required to use for evaluating the effectiveness of providers of supplemental educational services.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

Jenna Chiasson, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 244.

Cynthia Posey, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 244.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 244.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 244.

Ben Lemoine, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 244.

Representative Carver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 244 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 244 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 267 by Representative Hughes**

Representative Hughes presented House Bill No. 267, which provides relative to numeracy education to students in kindergarten through third grade.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to change the lead author of House Bill No. 267 from Representative Hughes to Representative Carver. Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

Ben Lemoine, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 267.

Cynthia Posey, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 267.

Jenna Chiasson, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 267.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 267.

Representative Carver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 267 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 267 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 8 by Representative Melerine**

Representative Melerine presented House Bill No. 8, which prohibits the use of an appeals process for certain students who fail to pass state-administered tests required for high school graduation.

Ben Lemoine, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 8.

Millie Harris, JCFA, 475 Manhattan Boulevard, Harvey, LA 70058, spoke in support of House Bill No. 8.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Charter School Association, Metairie, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 8.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 8.

Ken Bradford Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 8.

Dr. Ken Oertling, Saint Charles Parish Public Schools, 810 Beau Place Boulevard, Des Allemands, LA 70030, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 8.

Tania Nyman, 4669 Bennett Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 8.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 8.

Representative Melerine offered a motion to report House Bill No. 8 favorably, to which Representative Young objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 8 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass, Taylor, and Young voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 7 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 8 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

**House Bill No. 320 by Representative Owen**

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 320, which repeals certain student instruction and teacher training requirements and authorizes the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to adopt policies requiring the inclusion of certain topics in such instruction and training. Representative Owen provided a handout, "Letter from Amanda Bealer", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Owen offered amendments to House Bill No. 320 that reinstated the present law cursive writing requirement and added a requirement that BESE consider topics contained in requirements repealed by proposed law in rule promulgation authorized by proposed law. Representative Owen offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

Ben Lemoine, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 320.

Marcus Thomas, Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 320.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke in support of House Bill No. 320.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 320.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Bill No. 320 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 320 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 78 by Representative Carver**

Representative Carver presented House Bill No. 78, which authorizes initial proposals for charter schools with corporate partners to be made to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as Type 2 charter school proposals.

Mary Beth Hughes, Louisiana Association of Business & Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 78.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Private Colleges and Schools, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 78.

Ben Lemoine, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 78.

Dr. Kevin Guitterez, Discovery Health Sciences Foundation, 130 West Esplanadé Avenue, spoke in support of House Bill No. 78.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 78.

Tania Nyman, 4669 Bennett Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 78.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Bill No. 78 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 78 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support, 5 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 78 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 by Representative Schlegel**

Representative Schlegel presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 17, which requests the state Department of Education, Department of Children and Family Services, and Louisiana Department of Health to collaborate to increase mental health counseling in public schools.

*Vice Chair Beryl Amedée in chair.*

James Caillier, no address provided, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 17.

Millie Harris, JCFA, 475 Manhattan Boulevard, Harvey, LA 70058, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 17.

Jennifer Underwood, Peer Initiative, no address provided, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 17.

Zoë Mouton, Peer Initiative, no address provided, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 17.

Dr. Felicia Coleman, Calcasieu Parish Schools, 600 South Shattuck Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 17.

*Chair Schlegel in the chair.*

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **House Bill No. 708 by Representative Freiberg**

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 708, which removes requirements that charter schools meet a certain threshold with respect to the number of students with exceptionalities and economically disadvantaged students relative to total student enrollment.

Representative Schlegel offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 708. Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Charter Schools Association, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Sarah Vandergriff Kelly, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 4722 Miles Drive, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Ben Lemoine, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Dr. Kevin Guitierrez, Discovery Health Sciences Foundation, 130 West Esplanade Avenue, New Orleans, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Millie Harris, JCFA, 475 Manhattan Boulevard, Harvey, LA 70078, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Dr. Ken Ducotte, Greater New Orleans Collaborative of Charter Schools, 2401 Westbend Parkway, #3040, New Orleans, LA 70114, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Samantha Mann, Beekman Charter School, 319 Patriots Beak, Sterlington, LA 71280, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Clint Ebey, 14012 Woodland Ridge Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Dana Henry, 7600 Hansbrough Street, New Orleans, LA 70127, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Ken Campbell 12263 Canterbury Park Drive, Geismar, LA 70734, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Dan Claitor, 6513 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 708.

Ashley McReynolds, Arc of Louisiana, 600 Colonial Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 708.

Tania Nyman, 4669 Bennett Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 708.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 708 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 708 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support, 7 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 708 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.



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

##### **Introductory remarks**

Lance Harris, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, no address provided, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke.

Dr. Cade Brumley, no address provided, spoke.

##### **Consideration and adoption of committee rules**

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the rules of the committee. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, St. Blanc, Taylor, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

##### **Adoption of minutes of the House Committee on Education from the 2023 Regular Session dated April 20, April 25, April 26, May 2, May 10, May 16, May 23, May 31, and June 4, 2023, and from the 2023-2024 Interim dated December 14, 2023**

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt previous committee meeting minutes as published on this meeting's Agenda. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, St. Blanc, Taylor, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Carlson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel  
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: