

## **House Committee on Education**

Minutes of Meeting  
2024-2025 Interim  
December 12, 2024

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

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.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 Kim Carver  
Representative Kathy Edmonston  
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg  
Representative Michael Melerine  
Representative Charles Anthony Owen  
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III  
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver  
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor  
Representative Rashid Armand Young  
Representative Michael T. Johnson, ex officio

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter

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

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

**III. BUSINESS****Pursuant to Article VII, Section 10.8(C)(3)(g) of the state constitution and R.S. 17:3805, consider for legislative approval the plans submitted by schools and school systems for the expenditure of Education Excellence Fund (EEF) monies.**

Handouts pertaining to EEF that were provided to the members before the meeting are included in the committee records.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to to approve the EEF expenditure plans as presented by the state department of education in globo. 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, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Beth Scioneaux, Louisiana Department of Education, Claiborne Building, 5th floor, no city or state provided, spoke for information only and presented a PowerPoint, "Education Excellence Fund", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Bernell Cook, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, no city or state provided, spoke for information only.

**To receive an update from representatives of early childhood education, including but not limited to the implementation of laws pertaining to early childhood education passed during the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, and related matters.**

Mellynn Baker, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only.

Karen Powell, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only.

Conrad Appel, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 531 Topaz Street, New Orleans, LA, spoke for information only.

Barry Erwin, Council For A Better Louisiana, P.O. Box 4388, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only.

Patrick Moore, Rotary Club of Alexandria, 5400 Bayou Rapides Road, Alexandria, LA 71303, spoke for information only and presented a PowerPoint, "Rotary Club of Alexandria Early Childhood Education Initiative - Signature Project", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Mattilyn Baston, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, no address provided, spoke for information only and presented a PowerPoint, "The Efficacy of Access to Early Childhood Education", Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Cindy Bishop, Childcare Association of Louisiana, P.O. Box 80053, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only and presented a PowerPoint, "Children Are Worth the Investment", Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

Jennifer Stevenson, no witness card provided, spoke for information only.

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

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Young offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel  
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: