

MINUTES

**College and Career Readiness Commission
Monday, September 12, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.
East Baton Rouge Career & Technical Education Center
2101 Lobdell Boulevard
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

The College and Career Readiness Commission met at the East Baton Rouge Career & Technical Education Center, 2101 Lobdell Boulevard, Baton Rouge, at 10:12 a.m.

Welcome and Roll Call

Chair Jim Henderson welcomed the members and the roll was taken:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Robert “Paul” Baker
Mr. Ronnie Morris (proxy for Mr. Preston Castille)
Ms. Shelly Gaydos (proxy for Ms. Angelina Drago)
Mr. James Garvey, Jr.
Dr. James Henderson, Chair
Ms. Elizabeth “Beth” O’Quinn
Mr. Marcus Thomas (proxy for Dr. Fredrick Pinkney)
Ms. Bambi Polotzola
Dr. Janet Pope
Ms. Cynthia Posey
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed
Dr. Nathan Roberts
Mr. Darren Rutledge
Dr. Ernise Singleton
Mr. Jason St. Pierre
Dr. Monty Sullivan
Ms. Christal Sylvain
Ms. Kellie Taylor-White
Dr. Belinda Davis (proxy for Ms. Doris Voitier)
Dr. Lisa Vosper

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. Cade Brumley
Representative Gary Carter
Dr. Keith Courville
Ms. Ashley Ellis
Mr. Michael Faulk
Ms. Cheramie B. Kerth
Ms. Nicole Learson
Ms. Kim Mims
Ms. Breanna Self
Ms. Jamie Tindle

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

East Baton Rouge Career & Technical Education Center

Ms. Martha Sealy

Career Compass of Louisiana

Ms. Crystal Burch McKnight

Board of Regents

Dr. Tristan Denley

Ms. Mellynn Baker

Ms. Allison Vicknair

University of Louisiana System

Dr. Jeannine Kahn

Ms. Katelyn Wilkerson

Mrs. Carol Slaght

State Representative

The Honorable Buddy Mincey, Jr., District 71

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Ms. Martha Sealy, Executive Director of the East Baton Rouge Career & Technical Education Center (CTEC), welcomed the Commission members to the Center. She invited them to tour the facility, which offers program instruction to East Baton Rouge Parish high school students in the areas of computer sciences, construction crafts, medical, and manufacturing.

Approval of Minutes from March 30, 2021

On motion of Dr. Kim Reed, seconded by Dr. Belinda Davis, the minutes from the last meeting of the Commission were unanimously approved.

Presentation by Career Compass

Ms. Crystal Burch McKnight, Director of Development & Strategic Partnerships for Career Compass of Louisiana, introduced the work of Career Compass. She indicated that the purpose of the organization is to assist all students, middle school through high school, by mentoring, providing awareness of career opportunities, as well as identifying obstacles to success. She described scenarios of three college students of varying circumstances, including, among others, grade point averages, ACT scores, applicable finances, and academic ability. In each case, the student had a substantial cost, even after grants and scholarships had been applied. Ms. McKnight stated the need to find solutions to making college attendance affordable for all.

Board of Regents Updates

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, reported on proposed revisions to Academic Affairs Policy 2.18 regarding Expanded Admissions Pathways for Mathematics and English. The changes are intended to increase students' access and success in these two areas; increase retention and graduations rates; and eliminate barriers to access and outcomes for all. Dr. Denley also gave an update on dual enrollment.

Dr. Jeannine Kahn, UL System Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, explained *Core Competencies – Preparing Graduates for Life and Career Success*, a document developed by the University of Louisiana System's Core Competencies Task Force. The core competencies identified are communication competence; critical and creative problem solving; adaptable resilience; cultural competence; and self-reflective awareness.

Definition of College and Career Readiness

Chair Jim Henderson began the discussion of College and Career Readiness, and BESE member Ronnie Morris asked for clarification of a definition. As they discussed the draft definition that was included in their folders, it was decided that the final, more comprehensive definition be presented as a recommendation to the joint meeting of Board of Regents and BESE.

Dr. Janet Pope stressed that the focus must be on children – alignment, continuity, and equity for all. She commended the Dual Enrollment Task Force and Dr. Kim Hunter-Reed as well as the legislature for the work and attention to education. State Representative (District 71) “Buddy” Mincey, Jr. was present at the meeting, and made a few comments about the future of education. Areas of needed consideration include teachers, the workforce, and accountability, including career and college. Dr. Henderson gave special thanks to the legislators for the successful session.

As for student educational success, Member Jason St. Pierre added that children need occasions to remain engaged and interested. These opportunities must be provided by the schools.

Next Steps

Dr. Henderson stated that he will email the link to the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) College and Career Readiness Definitions in order to give the members background on what other Southern states view as readiness. This can further aid in finalizing the suitable definition of the term for Louisiana.

Adjournment

At 12:09 p.m., upon motion of Dr. Belinda Davis, seconded by Dr. Janet Pope, the Commission voted to adjourn.