

Louisiana Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline

Friday, September 15, 2017
Claiborne Building, Room 1-153, Iowa Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Official Minutes

The September 15, 2017 meeting of the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline was called to order at 12:33 p.m. by Ms. Jennifer Coco, council chair. Members present were: Ms. JoAnn Achord, Ms. Anna Arkin-Gallagher, Ms. Katie Barras, Ms. Jennifer Coco, Ms. Julie Comeaux, Ms. Brenda Cosse', Ms. Gina Easterly, Mr. Shawn Fleming, Ms. Liz Gary, Supt. Kevin George, Mr. Michael Ortego, Ms. Laci Polotzola, Mr. Brad Prudhomme, Ms. Caroline Roemer, Ms. Cyndy Rutherford, and Judge Kim Stansbury.

Ms. Lakesha Beauchamp, Ms. Christina Conforto, Mr. Larry Gage, Ms. Angela Reams-Brown, Mr. Scott Richard, Mr. Rob Schlicher, Mr. Al Simmons and Ms. Debra Weinberg were absent.

Public comments were received from Ms. Gina Womack, Ms. Damekia Morgan, Ms. Gretchen Lampe, Ms. Sherry Guarisco and Ms. Sarah Omojola.

- 1 A motion was made by Ms. Achord to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2017 meeting, and was seconded by Mr. Prudhomme. The minutes were approved without objection.

A discussion on the draft of state discipline law was led by the chair, Ms. Coco. The council reviewed a slide presentation of recommendations by the chair in an effort to determine how the council would like to move forward with the draft.

- 2 A motion was made by Ms. Coco to align R.S. 17:416 with R.S. 17:252 and was seconded by Judge Stansbury. The motion passed without objection.
- 3 A recommendation to remove explicit zero tolerance mandates that tie the hands of teachers, administrators, and school boards was discussed by the council members. The chair, Ms. Coco, asked the council members if they all agreed with this recommendation. The group voted to approve the recommendation without objection.
- 4 A motion was made by Mr. Fleming and seconded by Ms. Comeaux to ensure all disciplinary statutes apply to charter schools, including charter schools that are their own LEAs. Ms. Roemer opposed the motion noting that charter schools appear to be singled out and there are other schools such as state schools, the special school district, and juvenile justice schools that are not included.

A vote was taken.

Yeas: Ms. Achord, Ms. Arkin-Gallagher, Ms. Coco Ms. Comeaux, Ms. Easterly, Mr. Fleming, Ms. Gary, Mr. Ortego, Ms. Polotzola, Mr. Prudhomme .

Nays: Supt. George, Ms. Roemer, Judge Stansbury.

Abstained: Ms. Barras, Ms. Cosse', Ms. Rutherford.

The motion was approved.

5 A recommendation to identify areas of current law best left to BESE for promulgating regulations and issuing guidance. Ms. Coco, asked the council members if they all agreed with this recommendation. The group voted to approve the recommendation without objection.

6 A motion was made by Ms. Coco and seconded by Mr. Prudhomme to establish an appropriate role for the Louisiana Department of Education to provide leadership and support for schools with regards to student behavior and discipline. The motion passed without objection.

7 A motion was made by Ms. Comeaux to amend the previous motion to add "school climate" to the language and was seconded by Ms. Coco. The motion was approved without objection. The previous draft recommendation will now read "To establish an appropriate role for the Louisiana Department of Education to provide leadership and support for schools with regards to student behavior, discipline and school climate."

8 A motion was made by Mr. Prudhomme to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Fleming. The motion was approved without objection. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.