

Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
NONPUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL
Tuesday, November 13, 2012
10:00 a.m.

Minutes

The Nonpublic School Council was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Ms. Anna Larriviere, Chair. Members present were Ms. Marian Fertitta, Ms. Kimberlee Gazzolo, Mr. Ed Hearron, Dr. Jan Lancaster, Dr. Tom Middleton, Mr. Joseph Peychaud, Sr. Carol Shively, and Dr. Melanie Verges.

Dr. Laurita Guillory and Mr. Bobby Welch were recorded as excused.

Dr. Carol Rowe served as proxy for Dr. Laurita Guillory.

Representing the Louisiana Department of Education were State Superintendent of Education John White, Mr. Raphael Gang, and Ms. Jenna Conway.

The Board staff was represented by Ms. Shan Davis and Ms. Nina Ford, who recorded the minutes.

1 On motion of Sr. Carol, seconded by Dr. Verges, the Nonpublic School Council elected Ms. Anna Larriviere as Chair of the Nonpublic School Council for FY 2012-2013.

2 On motion of Dr. Verges, seconded by Mr. Hearron, the Nonpublic School Council elected Sr. Carol Shively as Vice-Chair of the Nonpublic School Council for FY 2012-2013.

3 On motion of Ms. Fertitta, seconded by Mr. Peychaud, the Nonpublic School Council approved the minutes of the meeting held September 11, 2012.

4 On motion of Mr. Peychaud, seconded by Sr. Carol, the Nonpublic School Council received the BESE response to the minutes of September 11, 2012.

At this point in the meeting, the Council agreed to take Agenda Item 7.1., "Consideration of the Early Childhood Education Act Implementation Plan," out of order.

The LDE provided Council members with a handout addressing Agenda Items 7.1., concerning the Early Childhood Care + Education Network Framework and Recommendations; 6.1., concerning implementation of the revised Nonpublic School Approval Process; and 6.2., regarding possible revisions to Nonpublic Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for Nonpublic School Administrators*.

State Superintendent of Education White reviewed the PowerPoint Presentation entitled, "Early Childhood Care + Education Network – Framework and Recommendations," with Council members.

- 5 On motion of Ms. Fertitta, seconded by Ms. Gazzolo, the Nonpublic School Council received the report regarding the Early Childhood Education Act Implementation Plan. **(Added to the agenda by the State Superintendent's office)**

At this point in the meeting, the Council returned to the regular agenda order.

The LDE provided Council members with an additional handout entitled, "Nonpublic School Eligibility Confirmation Questionnaire," and State Superintendent of Education White reviewed the information with the Council.

- 6 On motion of Ms. Gazzolo, seconded by Sr. Carol, the Nonpublic School Council received the report regarding the implementation of the revised Nonpublic School Approval Process. **(Added to the agenda by the State Superintendent's office)**

The LDE provided Council members with an additional handout that included more detailed information concerning identification of Nonpublic Bulletin 741 requirements and policies that place burdens on nonpublic schools without positively impacting student achievement, as well as technical revisions.

- 7 On motion of Dr. Verges, seconded by Dr. Middleton, the Nonpublic School Council received the report regarding possible revisions to Nonpublic Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for Nonpublic School Administrators*. **(Added to the agenda by the State Superintendent's office)**

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At this point in the meeting, the LDE provided the Council with a draft document entitled, "Comments and Recommendations from the Nonpublic School Commission," relative to Agenda Item 7.1., "Consideration of the Early Childhood Education Act Implementation Plan." The Council was asked to review the information for accuracy, and the Council recommended technical edits to paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft document.

8 On motion Sr. Carol, seconded by Ms. Gazzolo, the Nonpublic School Council supported the following elements of the Early Childhood Care + Education Network Framework and Recommendations:

- Developing a system of coordinated enrollment within communities. Such a system would enable families to learning about all available programs and would simplify the application and enrollment processes.
- Creation of one coordinated system where there is a common understanding of the entire provider network. This will be less confusing for parents and providers.
- Coordination of funding, specifically looking to see how funding can be coordinated to serving children geographic, performance and age-wise.
- Mechanisms to include all children as part of one early childhood system which will help ensure early detection of special needs.
- Implementation approach that includes pilots of elements of the network and then rolls out the changes in phases.

Further, the Council approved the following recommendations:

- Encourage network to look closely at coordination of funding, especially between 3- and 4-year-olds. Both age groups are a critical part of the kindergarten readiness picture. There may be a need to increase emphasis on 3-year-olds in addition to the 4-year-olds.
- Recognize that children grow and develop at different stages and paces. Ensure that we use developmentally-appropriate, valid and reliable standards and assessments. Use assessments are informative for educators. Exercise reason and flexibility in using assessments.
- Be thoughtful in how letter grades are developed as a means for evaluating programs. Ensure appropriate safeguards to ensure integrity of the assessment process.
- Ensure that programs have appropriate time and supports to make improvements.
- Provide access to professional development supports across programs to help educators make improvements.

With no further business to come before the Nonpublic School Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

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