

Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE)  
Early Childhood Care and Education Commission

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Minutes – Unofficial

The October 5, 2021 meeting of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Commission was called to order at 12:06 p.m.

Members present were: Cindy Rushing, Dionne Frost, Paula Polito, Mary Mills, Anthony C. “Buddy” Leach, Maria Blanco, Michael Tipton, Susan Spring, Ph.D., Alan Young, Illeana Ledet, Libbie Sonnier, Ph.D., Linda Flynn, Ph.D., Melissa Stille, Representative Stephanie Hilferty, Jenna Chiasson, Ph.D., Kahree Wahid, Brenda Sharp, Gina Easterly, Ph.D., First Lady Donna Edwards, Stacey Neal, Toni Buxton, Lindsey Fisher, Melissa Goudeau, Monique Rouege, and Monique Scott-Spaulding.

Michelle DeMeulenaere served as a proxy for Susannah Craig, Ph.D.

Keith Perrin, M.D., Michael Melerine, Cynthia DiCarlo, Ph.D., Michelle Fazio-Brunson, Ph.D., Charles Zeanah, M.D., Judy Thompson, Sherry Guarisco, Representative Gary Carter, Theon Julien, Christina Melton, Scott Richard, Liz Smith, Senator Beth Mizell, and Senator Regina Barrow were absent.

Representing the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) were Jenna Chiasson, Ph.D. and Karen Powell.

Public comment was received by Representative Barbara Freiberg.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Representative Stephanie Hilferty.

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The Chair requested a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2021 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission meeting. The Commission’s response was as follows:

- 1 On motion of Mr. Young, and seconded by Ms. Frost, the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission approved the minutes of the March 2, 2021 meeting of the Commission.

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The LDOE presented a report on the Current Landscape of Early Childhood Care and Education in Louisiana.

- 2 On motion of Dr. Sonnier, and seconded by Ms. Spaulding, the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission received a report on the Current Landscape of Early Childhood Care and Education

in Louisiana.

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The LDOE presented a report on the Purpose of the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission and a Recap from the 2020-2021 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.

- 3 On motion of Ms. Rouege, and seconded by Dr. Sonnier, the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission received a report on the Purpose of the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission and a Recap from the 2020-2021 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.

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Dr. Libbie Sonnier presented Updates from the 2021 Legislative Session.

- 4 On motion of Mr. Young, and seconded by Ms. Goudeau, the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission received Updates from the 2021 Legislative Session.

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The LDOE presented a report of Louisiana's Plan for Supporting Early Care and Education with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

- 5 On motion of Mr. Tipton, and seconded by Ms. Polito, the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission received a report of Louisiana's Plan for Supporting Early Care and Education with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

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The LDOE presented an update of the Goals and Objectives for the 2021-2022 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.

- 6 On motion of Mr. Tipton, and seconded by Ms. Polito, the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission received an update of the Goals and Objectives for the 2021-2022 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.

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- 5 On motion of Mr. Tipton, and seconded by Mr. Young, and with no further business to come before the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission, the October 5, 2021 meeting of the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.