

## **House Committee on Appropriations**

Minutes of Meeting  
2016 Regular Session  
April 13, 2016

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

Representative Franklin J. Foil, Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Mark Abraham  
Representative Beryl A. Amedée  
Representative Tony Bacala  
Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley  
Representative Robert E. Billiot  
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.  
Representative Charles R. Chaney  
Representative Rick Edmonds  
Representative Franklin J. Foil, Vice Chairman  
Representative Lance Harris  
Representative Walt Leger, III  
Representative Jack G. McFarland  
Representative Blake Miguez  
Representative Dustin Miller  
Representative Jerome Richard  
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.  
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith  
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Cameron Henry, chairman  
Representative James K. Armes, III  
Representative John A. Berthelot  
Representative Bob Hensgens  
Representative Valarie Hodges  
Representative Steve E. Pylant  
Representative Scott M. Simon

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Penny B. Bouquet, administrative secretary

Mr. Peter G. E. Conroy, legislative analyst

Ms. Nancy Keaton, legislative analyst

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

None

**III. DISCUSSION****House Bill No. 1 by Representative Henry**

The following agencies contained in House Bill No. 1 were presented and discussed:

**Special Schools and Commissions****Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts**

Dr. Patrick Widhalm, executive director of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts (LSMSA), 715 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA 71457, (318) 357-2520, presented an overview of the school's FY16-17 budget.

**New Orleans Center for Creative Arts**

Mr. Kyle Wedberg, president and chief executive officer of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), 2800 Chartres Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 940-2787, presented an overview of the school's FY16-17 budget.

**Louisiana Educational Television Authority**

Ms. Beth Courtney, president and chief executive officer of Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) and executive director of the Louisiana Educational Television Authority (LETA), 7733 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 767-4200, presented an overview of the agency's FY16-17 budget and a status update on fund-raising efforts for equipment maintenance.

**Louisiana Special Schools**

Mr. Ralph Thibodeaux, superintendent of Louisiana Specials Schools, 2888 Brightside Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 757-3200, presented an overview of the schools' FY16-17 budgets. He also expressed concern for differed maintenance costs and inadequate funding for the enrollment of additional students during the fiscal year.

Mr. Thibodeaux discussed the total number of students enrolled in Louisiana Special Schools and those receiving services through outreach efforts with Representative Amedée. He also discussed the types funding sources the schools receive with Representatives Chaney and Smith.

### **Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

Ms. Shan Davis, Executive Director of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), 1201 North Third Street, Suite 5-190, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-5840, discussed the board's FY16-17 budget with the committee, and merit increases with Representative Smith.

### **Department of Education**

Dr. John White, Superintendent of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3617, presented an overview of the department's FY16-17 budget and adjustments to the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula.

Dr. White and Ms. Beth Scioneaux, Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3617, discussed the budget reduction to the Louisiana Scholarship Program and school tuition increases with Representatives Foil, Smith, and Carter.

Dr. White discussed the department's professional and testing contracts, and pay raises for teachers with Representatives Schroder and Smith. He also discussed the lack of MFP funding for special schools and the LA4 Program with Representatives Amedée and Carter.

Dr. White discussed his plan to utilize funds in the department's originally proposed FY16-17 budget, returning the schools in the Recovery School District to their respective school boards, and the functions of Recovery School District employees with Representatives Bacala and Smith.

Mr. Tim Mathis, Budget Analyst for the House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9101, and Dr. White discussed Louisiana's average ranking of federal revenue per-student with Representative Abraham.

## **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Leger offered a motion to adjourn, to which there was no objection. The motion passed by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Richard, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vice Chairman Franklin Foil  
House Committee on Appropriations