

## **House Committee on Education**

Minutes of Meeting  
2023 Regular Session  
May 31, 2023

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

Representative Lance Harris, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Lance Harris, chairman  
Representative Beryl A. Amedée  
Representative Kendrick "Ken" Brass  
Representative Julie Emerson  
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman  
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg  
Representative Brett F. Geymann  
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson, vice chairman  
Representative Charles Anthony Owen  
Representative Tammy T. Phelps  
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III  
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Elizabeth L. Borne, legislative analyst  
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst  
Alexandra Cravins, committee administrative assistant  
Sarah Baker, committee assistant

#### **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms  
Frank Meyer, IV, clerk

### III. BUSINESS

Chairman Harris announced that the committee would observe a three-minute rule for presenters and speakers on ensuing instruments.

#### **House Resolution No. 190 by Representative Freiberg**

Representative Freiberg presented House Resolution No. 190, which requests the state Department of Education, in consultation with the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, to study pathways to the teaching profession.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 190 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 190 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

#### **House Resolution No. 13 by Representative Hodges**

Representative Hodges presented House Resolution No. 13, which requests school-level reporting by public elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools relative to programs and activities related to critical race theory; diversity, equity, and inclusion; or transformative social emotional learning.

Representative Charles Owen offered amendments that limited the request for reporting relative to critical race theory (CRT) to the use of CRT as a foundational pedagogy. Representative Charles Owen offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 333-6434, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 13.

Katie Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 408-9498, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 13.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Resolution No. 13.

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Louisiana Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 6-200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-4253, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 13.

Dr. Jim Henderson, University of Louisiana System, 1201 North Third Street, 7-300, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (318) 426-7104, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 13.

Monty Sullivan, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, 265 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 922-1643, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 13.

Andrés Vásquez, Louisiana State University Student Government, 9904 Keanland Court, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 239-0123, spoke in opposition to House Resolution No. 13.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to call the question on House Resolution No. 13, to which Representative Tarver objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, and Phelps voted yea. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted nay.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 13 favorably, to which Representative Jefferson objected. Representative Jefferson offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Resolution No. 13, to which Representative Amedée objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on House Resolution No. 13 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Phelps, and St. Blanc voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Emerson, Geymann, Charles Owen, and Tarver voted nay. Representative Harris abstained.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **House Resolution No. 192 by Representative Amedée**

Representative Amedée presented House Resolution No. 192, which requests that the state Department of Education revise the proposed early learning and development standards and submit its version to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for consideration.

Representative Charles Owen offered a motion to call the question on House Resolution No. 192. Without objection, by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention, the question was called. Representatives Amedée, Emerson, Freeman, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, and St. Blanc voted yea. Representative Harris abstained.

Katie Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 408-9498, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 192.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Resolution No. 192.

Representative Charles Owen offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 192 favorably, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Resolution No. 192 was reported favorably by a vote of 5 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée, Emerson, Geymann, Charles Owen, and St. Blanc voted yea. Representatives Freeman, Jefferson, and Phelps voted nay. Representative Harris abstained.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Resolution No. 199 by Representative Amedée**

Representative Amedée presented House Resolution No. 199, which requests that the state Department of Education conduct a survey relative to recess at charter schools.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 199 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 199 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, and St. Blanc voted yea.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Geymann offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, and St. Blanc voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Lance Harris  
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: