

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
April 15, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair
Representative Beryl A. Amedée, vice chair
Representative Reese "Skip" Broussard
Representative Josh Carlson
Representative Kim Carver
Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Terry Landry, Jr.
Representative Chasity Martinez
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Chance Simpson, committee clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

House Bill No. 1079 by Representative Boudreaux

Representative Boudreaux presented House Bill No. 1079, which authorizes a charter school to give enrollment preference to students who attended a licensed early learning center operated by the charter school or operated by another entity under certain circumstances.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 1079 that authorized a charter school to give enrollment preference to children in military families, children in foster care, and children in a custody agreement. Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 1079 that excluded a charter school in a school district where the majority of schools were transferred from a local school district to the Recovery School District from the authorization to provide proposed law enrollment preferences. Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Dr. Mary Cook, Charter Schools USA and Lafayette Charter Foundation, 617 East Alexander Street, Lafayette, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1079.

Brigitte Nieland, Charter Schools USA, 2225 Kleinert Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1079.

Gary McGoffin, Lafayette Charter Foundation, P.O. Box 51308, no city or state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1079.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1079 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1079 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 737 by Representative Amedée

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 737, which provides relative to the requirement that certain students present evidence of immunization against meningococcal disease as a condition of school entry.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, spoke in support of House Bill No. 737.

Dr. Mikki Bouquet, Louisiana American Association of Pediatrics, and Louisiana Families for Vaccines, 18534 Surrey Court, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 737.

Sarah Kelley, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 4722 Miles Drive, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 737.

Eric Johnson, Louisiana Families for Vaccines, 1030 Springlake Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 737.

Krystle Beauchamp, 6129 Kateland Circle, Bossier City, LA 71111, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 737.

Nicholas Soirez, 646 South Airport Road, Abbeville, LA 70510, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 737.

Elizabeth Esthay, 121 Bent Tree Court, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 737.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Bill No. 737 favorably, to which Representative Terry Landry objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Amedée, Carlson, Edmonston, and Owen voted yea. Representatives Schlegel, Broussard, Carver, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, and 33 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 737.

House Bill No. 628 by Representative Terry Landry

Representative Terry Landry presented House Bill No. 628, which authorizes a school board to engage in a cooperative endeavor with a licensed early learning center to operate a microcenter at a school.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Tessa Holloway, Kidz Karousel, 2300 Belfleur Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 628.

Ashley Townsend, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 628.

Carlos Harvin, Child Care Association of Louisiana and New Beginnings Early Learning Center, 113 Goldman Street, Lafayette, LA 70501, spoke in support of House Bill No. 628.

Representative Martinez offered a motion to report House Bill No. 628 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 628 was reported by substitute by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 17 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1008 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 1008, which prohibits public postsecondary education institutions from retaliating against faculty members for disclosing certain alleged violations or exercising academic freedom or free speech.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 1008 that revised the definition of "free speech". Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 1008 that:

1. Made damages with respect to reinstatement, back pay, and restoration of benefits or tenure status conditional on the faculty member proving by a preponderance of the evidence that an adverse action against him was retaliation for conduct provided for in proposed law.
2. Added that nothing in proposed law shall be construed to:
 - (a) Limit or restrict the authority of an institution to make legitimate, merit-based personnel decisions.
 - (b) Prohibit an institution from denying tenure, promotion, or any other benefit as long as such decision is not made in retaliation for conduct provided for in proposed law.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Jeffrey Sadow, 123 Rosemont Place, Bossier City, LA 71112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1008.

Tyler Coward, Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, 570 Walnut Street, Suite 900, Philadelphia, PA 19106, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1008.

Scott L. Sternberg, 935 Gravier Street, Suite 1800, New Orleans, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1008.

Representative Owen offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1008 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1008 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 1008.

House Bill No. 1062 by Representative Edmonston

Representative Edmonston presented House Bill No. 1062, which provides relative to the membership, powers, and duties of the board of directors of the Special School District.

Liam Doyle, Louisiana Special School District, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1062.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1062 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1062 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Broussard, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 47 by Representative Freeman

On behalf of Representative Freeman, Sarah Kelley, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 4722 Miles Drive, New Orleans, LA 70122, presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 47, which requests that the Department of Children and Family Services, in consultation with the state Department of Education, study the implementation of online training requirements for school employees relative to reporting child abuse.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 47 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 47 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, Owen, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

House Bill No. 1112 by Representative Chenevert

Representative Chenevert presented House Bill No. 1112, which provides relative to prekindergarten programs.

Representative Schlegel offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 1112. Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, Owen, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Representative Carver offered amendments to House Bill No. 1112 that:

1. Exempted prekindergarten programs operated by Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)-approved nonpublic schools from present law and proposed law requirements pertaining to child safety and welfare standards.
2. Authorized BESE to revoke its approval of a nonpublic school that jeopardizes the health, safety, or welfare of students instead of providing that if an approved nonpublic school demonstrates egregious noncompliance with the standards, Louisiana Department of Education shall recommend that BESE deny the approval request for the subsequent school year unless substantive assurance is provided by the school that it will comply with such standards.

Representative Carver offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, Owen, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Dr. Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1112.

Steve Eagleton, Dunham School, 11111 Roy Emerson, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1112.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1112.

Gene Mills, Louisiana Family Forum, 655 Saint Ferdinand, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1112.

Cindy Bishop, Child Care Association of Louisiana, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1112.

Roger Williams, 3722 Jean Place, Metairie, LA 70002, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1112.

Megan Garretson, Young Scholars Academy, 2390 O'Neal Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1112.

Charlene Jenkins, A Garden of Angels, 78045 Wheelock Lane, Maringouin, LA 70757, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1112.

Rockeisha Walker, Bright Star of Iberville Parish, 23640 Peters Street, Plaquemine, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1112.

Representative Carver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1112 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1112 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support, and 15 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 1112.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Carlson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: