

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
April 23, 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 Barbara W. Carpenter
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:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Chance Simpson, clerk
Hannah Tassin, clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**Senate Bill No. 206 by Senator Miller**

Senator Miller presented Senate Bill No. 206, which provides for blood pressure testing in schools.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 206 that:

1. Removed the requirement that each public school student have his blood pressure tested.
2. Removed the requirement that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopt rules.
3. Made technical changes.

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, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Marcus Scott, 119 Wisteria Lane, Luling, LA 70070, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 206.

Erica Williams, American Heart Association, 90 Chamale Cove, Slidell, LA 70460, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 206.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 206 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 206 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 305 by Senator Edmonds

Senator Edmonds presented Senate Bill No. 305, which requires the Board of Regents, Louisiana Works, and other state agencies to develop a publicly available statewide dashboard for career alignment that provides information related to educational and career opportunities, and provided a handout, "Education-To-Career Alignment in Louisiana", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Cruz Cassard, Nicholls Student Government Association / Council of Student Body Presidents, 406 East First Street, no city or state provided, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 305.

Sheree Blanchard, Leaders for a Better Louisiana, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1900, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 305.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 305 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 305 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 624 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 624, which provides relative to emergency operations plans at public schools.

Jackie Manton, Louisiana Council for the Social Studies, 7667 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 624.

Robert Martin, Louisiana Council for the Social Studies, 7667 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 624.

Barry Milligan, 326 St. Charles Boulevard, Shreveport, LA 71106, spoke in support of House Bill No. 624.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 624 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 624 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, 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: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1022 by Representative Jackson

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 1022, which provides relative to health services provided to students.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Willie White, David Raines Community Health Center, 3041 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Shreveport, LA 71107, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1022.

Yolanda Green, David Raines Community Health Center, 11670 Diane Drive, Stonewall, LA 71078, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1022.

Faith Boudreaux, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1022.

Christi Hunt, RKM Primary Care, 11990 Jackson Street, Clinton, LA 70722, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1022.

Dr. Alicia Cyprian, Southeast Community Health System, 6351 Main Street, Zachary, LA 70791, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1022.

Sarah Kelley, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 4722 Miles Drive, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1022.

Ashley Townsend, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1022.

Representative Terry Landry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1022 by substitute, to which Representative Tarver objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 1022 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Broussard, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, St. Blanc, and Taylor voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Carlson, Owen, and Tarver voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support, 1 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1203 by Representative Edmonston

Representative Edmonston presented House Bill No. 1203, which provides relative to parent-driven learning cooperatives.

Tiffany Schatzle, Journey Learning Academy, 40513 Kathy Street, Gonzales, LA 70737, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1203.

Kelly Landry, 312 Opus One Drive, Broussard, LA 70518, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1203, and provided a handout, "About Education Destination", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Ashley Townsend, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1203.

Laurie Aucoin, 11179 Savoy Road, St. Amant, LA 70774, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1203.

Sophia Richey, Journey Learning Academy, 17020 Fox Ridge Drive, Prairieville, LA 70769, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1203.

Doretha Richey, Journey Learning Academy, 17020 Fox Ridge Drive, Prairieville, LA 70769, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1203.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1203 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1203 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 376 by Senator Mizell

Senator Mizell presented Senate Bill No. 376, which provides for the Learn and Earn Act.

B. Trey Godfrey, Greater Baton Rouge Economic Partnership, 564 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 376.

Representative Terry Landry offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 376 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 376 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 82 by Senator Mizell

Representative Kim Carver in the chair.

Senator Mizell presented Senate Bill No. 82, which provides for a five-day school week for public schools with exceptions.

Keisha Netterville, East Feliciana Public Schools, 12732 Silliman Street, Clinton, LA, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 82.

Jennifer Thornton, East Feliciana Public Schools, Slaughter, LA, 70722, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 82.

Jherica Kelly, East Feliciana Public Schools, 10584 Highway 959, Slaughter, LA 70777, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 82.

Megan Phillips, East Feliciana Public Schools, 3505 Highway 10, Jackson, LA 70748, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 82.

Chair Schlegel in the chair.

Dr. Tonoia Sanders, East Feliciana, 12132 Silliman Street, Clinton, LA 70722, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 82.

Jonathan Loveall, East Feliciana Association of Educators, 10584 Elm Street, Clinton, LA 70722, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 82.

Maria Newman, East Feliciana Public Schools, 7400 Port Hudson Pride Road, no city or state provided, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 82.

Shockeata Matthews, East Feliciana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 82.

Dr. Byron Hurst, Bogalusa City Schools, 1705 Sullivan Drive, Bogaloussa, LA, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 82.

Representative Terry Landry offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 82 favorably, to which Representative Owen objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 82 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, St. Blanc, and Taylor voted yea. Representatives Edmonston, Owen, and Tarver voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 7 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 82.

Senate Bill No. 441 by Senator Mizell

Senator Mizell presented Senate Bill No. 441, which provides relative to programs for prekindergarten-aged children.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 441 that:

1. Instead of requiring parents to sign a form acknowledging certain information about prekindergarten programs, required that they be provided with the information.
2. Removed specific child-to-staff ratios and instead required Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to set ratio requirements in BESE rules.
3. Authorized BESE to waive ratio rules under certain circumstances.
4. Revised conditions under which a BESE-approved, nonaccredited nonpublic school is exempt from monitoring for compliance with child welfare and safety standards.
5. Added that BESE may revoke its approval of a prekindergarten program operated by a nonpublic school at any time if BESE determines that it has jeopardized the health, safety, or welfare of its students.

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

Ashley Townsend, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 441.

President Pro Tempore Regina A. Barrow, Senate District 15, spoke in for information only on Senate Bill No. 441.

Dr. Raenell Houston, Archdiocese of New Orleans Catholic Schools, 7887 Walmsley Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 441.

Sister Mary Ellen Wheelahan, Archdiocese of New Orleans, 7887 Walmsley Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 441.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 441.

Brianna Nelson, Archdiocese of New Orleans, 7887 Walmsley Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 441.

Roy H. Delaney, St. Dominic School, 6326 Memphis Street, New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 441.

Kirsch J. Williams, Holy Name of Jesus School, 6325 Cromwell Place, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 441.

Julie Zaunbrecher, St. Genevieve Catholic School, 91 Teurlings Drive, Lafayette, LA 70501, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 441.

Natalie Breaux Bolotte, St. Genevieve Catholic School, 201 Elizabeth Avenue, Lafayette, LA 70501, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 441.

Michelle Fontenot, Parents and Staff at St. Thomas More, 12763 Warwick Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 441.

Ashlyn Blanchard, 429 Labarre Drive, Metairie, LA 70001, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 441.

Dr. Jules Boquet, Louisiana Montessori Association, P.O. Box 20005, Houma, LA 70360, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 441.

Jana Podret, 3722 Jean Place, Metairie, LA 70002, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 441.

Roger Williams, 3722 Jean Place, Metairie, LA 70002, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 441.

Lynn Mouton Carmouche, Child Care Association of Louisiana and The Learning Center, 10689 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 441.

Megan Garretson, Young Scholars Academy, 16013 Firewood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 441.

Mark Pellegrin, Ascension Christian Schools, 10469 Airline Highway, Gonzales, LA 70737, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 441.

Jonathan Pearce, Child Care Association of Louisiana, For Providers By Providers, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 441.

Carlos Harvin, New Beginnings Early Learning Center and Child Care Association of Louisiana, 113 Goldman Street, Lafayette, LA 70501, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 441.

Tara Emery, London Bridge Early Learning Center, no address provided, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 441.

Jennifer Stevenson, Child Care Association of Louisiana and The Garden of Knowledge, 63378 Pigott Crossing Road, Bogalusa, LA 70427, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 441.

Cindy Bishop, Child Care Association of Louisiana, P.O. Box 80053, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 441.

Laurie Adams, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 441.

Dr. Will Hall, Louisiana Baptist Office of Public Policy, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71303, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 441.

Caitlin Lewis, Mary Jo's Play Place and Early Learning, 32830 Lee Street, White Castle, LA 70788, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 441.

Rockeisha Walker, For Providers by Providers, Child Care Association of Louisiana, National Association for the Education of Young Children, Bright Star Learning Center, 23640 Peters Street, Plaquemine, LA 70764, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 441.

Xavier Anderson, A Garden of Angels Learning Center, Child Care Association of Louisiana, For Providers by Providers, 78055 Wheelock Lane, Maringouin, LA 70757, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 441.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 441 with amendments, to which Representative Taylor objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 441 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Terry Landry, Martinez, and Taylor voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 27 in support, and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 441.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Carlson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: