



MINUTES
BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE
March 15, 2012

The Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence conducted their meeting on **Thursday, March 15, 2012**, at the West Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Center, 2750 North Westport, Port Allen, LA 70767.

The following members were acknowledged as present by the sign-in sheet:

MEMBERS

Glenny Lee Buquet, Co-Chair
Kerry Davidson
Linda Greene
Kathleen Harris
Walter Lee
Kenneth Rea
Kyle Scott
Jacqueline Smith

Charlotte Bollinger, Co-Chair
Wayne Fetter
Rosalind Hale
Vickie Krutzer
Derrick Manns
Victor Schneider
Tara Soudelier

STAFF

Jeanne Burns
Scott Norton
Linda Marino
Catherine Pozniak
(Proxy: Shan Davis)

SPEAKERS/GUESTS

Susan Van Gundy
Carol Mosley
Judith Vail

Co-Chair Glenny Lee Buquet called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. Co-Chair Charlotte Bollinger requested a motion for the minutes from the February 16, 2012 meeting to be approved as submitted. The motion was made by Wayne Fetter, seconded by Vickie Krutzer, and the minutes were approved.

Co-Director Jeanne Burns informed members that Commission responses from the February 16, 2011 meeting were provided in their packets. In addition, revised recommendations based upon February 16, 2012 responses were also provided in the packet. These recommendations will continue to undergo revisions between now and May 2012.

Co-Director Burns reminded Commission members that the Commission will not meet during April due to state testing occurring the week of the Commission meeting. Instead, Commission members will use the time to review the draft Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations and provide feedback. The Commission discussed using the May 10, 2012 meeting to identify relevant Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Partnership of the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) resources that are available for educators and to finalize the Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations.

Co-chair Bollinger and Co-chair Buquet asked Commission members if they would like to adjust work planned for the afternoon to provide time for discussion about educational issues being impacted by new legislation that Commission members had been discussing informally prior to the start of the Commission meeting. The Commission expressed support.

Co-Director Burns read the charge for the 2011-2012 Blue Ribbon Commission. The Commission members were informed that during the meeting they would be addressing the following three questions: 1) What will need to occur to help schools in Louisiana develop the necessary technological infrastructure for students to naturally apply knowledge through the use of technology when completing learning activities throughout the school year and when completing formal PARCC assessments?; 2) How can technology be used to help teachers develop the knowledge and skills that they will need to help students successfully address the Common Core State Standards and PARCC assessments?; 3) What additional recommendations should be added to the draft recommendations to address other needs?.

Co-Director Burns introduced members of the panel who were addressing the topic “CCSS & PARCC Technology and Other Challenges that Need to be Addressed for Students and Teachers to be Successful.” Susan Van Gundy from Achieve provided Commission members with information from a national perspective and identified the specific types of activities that are taking place through Achieve for PARCC states to be prepared for the implementation of the new PARCC assessments. Carol Mosley with the Louisiana Department of Education discussed work that is occurring in Louisiana to determine district capacity to implement the new PARCC assessments. In addition, she identified other types of activities that need to occur in the State for students to develop new knowledge and skills. Judith Vail, Accountability and Common Core Specialist, Calcasieu Parish School Board discussed the work that has already occurred in Calcasieu Parish to prepare teachers and students for the new Common Core State Standards. She also identified specific needs that school districts will have in the future as the new standards and assessments are implemented. Commission members asked the panel members questions and they responded during a question and answer period. In addition, Co-Director Scott Norton responded to questions from the perspective of the Louisiana Department of Education.

After lunch Co-chair Buquet and Co-chair Bollinger provided Commission members with the opportunity to discuss issues being discussed by educators in the State that were related to new legislation, Common Core State Standards, and PARCC. A major need that surfaced was for educators and the public to have access to accurate information about State plans for teacher evaluation, Common Core State Standards, and PARCC assessments. It was noted that fear was being felt by many educators and they lacked important information to understand what will be occurring. The Commission discussed the idea of creating a resolution that would address some of the concerns, but it was not clear how the resolution would fully address the needs. The decision was made to not create a resolution but find other ways, perhaps within the Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations, to recommend and implement strategies to address the concerns.

Commission members were provided time to reflect on the information provided during the meeting and respond to the three questions. There was not sufficient time for the Commission members to share their responses. Co-Director Burns indicated that the responses would be integrated into the draft recommendations, thanked members for their input, and advised the new draft recommendations would be sent via e-mail to the Commission members.

Co-chair Bollinger requested comments from the public. With there being no further business, Co-Chair Bollinger adjourned the meeting.