

ACT 833 LEADERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE
December 10, 2014
MEETING SUMMARY

Claiborne Building
Baton Rouge, LA

1:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sen. Dan Claitor
Alan Coulter, LSU-HDC
April Dunn, Self-Advocate
Rebecca Ellis, Northshore FHF
Shawn Fleming, LaDDC
Liz Gary, Parent
Sherri Houin, Parent
Shelia Jackson, Superintendent, Grant Parish Schools
Kelli Joseph, Superintendent, St. Helena Parish Schools
Laureen Mayfield, President, LaSEA, Bienville Parish
Ashley McReynolds, LaTEACH
Scott Richard, La. Schools Boards Assoc.
Debra Schum, La. Assoc. of Principals
Jamie Wong, LDE

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rep. John Schroder, Chair
Donnica Conway, LaDDC
Rebecca Hanberry, Bossier Parish Community College Program for Successful Employment
Carolyn Hill, BESE
Mauricia Ledet-Walters, FHF of Acadiana
Carol Tall, Vice Pres., LaSEA, Acadia Parish
Sarah Voigt, Advocacy Center
Patsy White, LaDDC

LaDDC Supporting Staff

Robbie Gray, Program Monitor

GUESTS PRESENT

Quinn Adams, Bossier Schools
Erin Bendily, LDE
Andrea Bond, Collegiate Academics

GUESTS PRESENT (cont.)

Jeanne Bower, St. Tammany Parish
Rebecca Bradford, Terrebonne Parish
Celeste Chiasson, St. Charles Parish
Kim Comeaux, Assumption Schools
Emilie Coulter
Pam Crook, Caddo Schools
Cindy Daigle, Assumption Schools
Bridget Devlin, LDE
Joanette Dunn, Parent
Flavia Eldridge, Iberia Parish
Victoria Flis, Deaf Focus
Robert Garcia, EBR Schools
Brandy Golston-Neal, Caddo Schools
Danny Guillory, St. Tammany Parish
Michael Hebert, St. Martin Schools
Shanee Holmes, LaTEACH
Jeanne Johnston, State Legislature
Cheremie Kerth, St. Bernard Parish
Shelia Lockett, Caddo Schools
Deborah Lord, St. Bernard Parish
Melissa Mainiero, LDE
Chauncey McElwee, EBR Schools
Marsha Medine, Assumption Schools
Venesa Myers, EBR Schools
Stephanie Patrick (for Sarah Voigt)
Erin Redlich, Iberia Parish
Paula Rodriguez, Deaf Focus
Lillie Smith, EBR Schools
Susan Vaughn, Ascension Parish
Ann Verret, Iberia Parish
Regina Washington, Caddo Schools
Roxane West, Evangeline Sped Superv.
John Weymann, Governor's Office of Disability Affairs
Naomi Whitney, Terrebonne Parish
Sandee Winchell, LaDDC Exec. Director

Senator Dan Claitor, co-chair, called the meeting to order with a quorum at 1:03 p.m.

Motion passed: Motion to accept the summary from the November 12th meeting made by April Dunn, second by Shawn Fleming, passed without objection.

The Committee received and discussed a list of “Special Education Course Codes as of July 5, 2012” from the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) and a document of “Special Education Course Code Explanations (July 2012).” The Committee discussed concerns about the level of segregation of students, the use of Special Education Course Codes in general and requested data for the number of students enrolled in each course.

Jamie Wong provided two graphs for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 years indicating the numbers of students enrolled in four applied courses (ELA, Math, Science, and Social studies). The number of students in these classes was broken up by those eligible for LAA-1, LAA-2, Special education (not taking alternative assessments), and students without IEPs. Various members of the Committee from local school systems described how applied course codes are used (e.g., enrollment of students who had not met eighth grade proficiency but due to age, turned 16 years old, were promoted to transitional ninth grade). The need for policy guidance and monitoring of the use of Special Education Course Codes was expressed.

Motion passed: Motion to recommend that the six special education Applied Course Codes (i.e., 500050 Applied Communication; 500051 Applied ELA; 500052 Applied Math; 500053 Applied Science; 500054 Applied Social Studies; and 500055 Applied Elective) not be used to expand the list of Course Codes required for earning Carnegie Credits toward a Louisiana High School Diploma made by Shawn Fleming, second by Alan Coulter, passed without objection.

Motion passed: Motion to recommend that LDOE provide guidance to LEAs on: 1) the utilization of the applied level courses contained on the Special Education Course Codes list as of July 5, 2012; 2) update the list of course codes and supporting guidance documents as necessary; and 3) monitor utilization and enrollment of students in these courses across the state to ensure implementation is in accordance with LDOE guidance made by Shawn Fleming, second by Jamie Wong, passed without objection.

Motion passed: Motion to recommend LDOE provide data on the placement of students enrolled in applied level courses listed on the Special Education Course Code list made by Alan Coulter, second by Shawn Fleming, passed without objection.

The Committee received LDOE updates, overview and timeline on Act 833 implementation from Jamie Wong and discussed IEP forms and LAA-1 eligibility criteria.

Motion passed: Motion to receive report for LDOE made by Scott Richard, second by Shawn Fleming, passed without objection.

The Committee received information from Melissa Mainiero regarding flexibility related to course work and JumpStart for Act 833. Discussion focused on career components due

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to the industry side having a more clear tiered system that was lacking with academic course work requirements. Committee members expressed concern over lack of information/education to parents on Act 833 and lack of planning from the beginning to include the interests and abilities of students with disabilities.

Motion passed: Motion to recommend that the committee add the discussion of flexibility of Carnegie Credits as the primary agenda item for the January 7, 2015 Act 833 Committee meeting made by Shawn Fleming, second by April Dunn, passed without objection.

Motion passed: Motion to recommend January 7, 2015 Act 833 Committee meeting agenda include strategies to inform stakeholders (i.e., School personnel, parents, and others) based on specific student examples and a discussion of the timeline of Act 833 passage and process of implementation strategies made by Laureen Mayfield, second by Scott Richard, passed without objection.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.