

ACT 833 LEADERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE
February 5, 2015
MEETING SUMMARY

Claiborne Building
Baton Rouge, LA

9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rep. John Schroder, Chair
Sen. Dan Claitor
Alan Coulter, LSU-HDC
April Dunn, Self-Advocate
Rebecca Ellis, Northshore FHF
Shawn Fleming, LaDDC
Liz Gary, Parent
Carolyn Hill, BESE
Sherri Houin, Parent
Shelia Jackson, Superint, Grant Parish
Laureen Mayfield, Pres., LaSEA, Bienville
Ashley McReynolds, LaTEACH
Debra Schum, La. Assoc. of Principals
Carol Tall, Vice Pres., LaSEA, Acadia Parish
Patsy White, LaDDC
Jamie Wong, LDE

MEMBERS ABSENT

Donnica Conway, LaDDC
Rebecca Hanberry, Bossier Parish Comm.
College Program for Successful Employment
Kelli Joseph, Superint, St. Helena
Mauricia Ledet-Walters, FHF of Acadiana
Scott Richard, La. Schools Boards Assoc.
Sarah Voigt, Advocacy Center

LaDDC Supporting Staff

Robbie Gray

GUESTS PRESENT

Quinn Adams, Bossier Schools
Andrea Bond, Collegiate Academies
Alison Boruhgrevink, BESE
Bonnie Boulton
Jeanne Bower, St. Tammany Parish
Rebecca Bradford, Terrebonne Parish
Cheryl K. Braud, Tangipahoa Schools
Giselle Bryant, Bossier Schools
Cathy Castille
Elizabeth Chapman, EBR Schools
Kim Comeaux, Assumption Schools
Cindy Daigle, Assumption Schools
Bridget Devlin, LDE

Belinda Dumas

Jeanne Ebey,
Kathy Edmonston, Parent
Zachry Edmonston, Self-Advocate
Flavia Eldridge, Iberia Parish
Renee Fauver, Central City Schools
Jim Garvey, BESE
Bambi Guilbeau
Danny Guillory, St. Tammany Parish
Dara Hatchell
Penny Harris, Caddo Schools
Michael Hebert, St. Martin Schools
Nancy Hicks
Shanee Holmes, LaTEACH
Daphne Jones, Lafourche Parish
Denise Karameles
Cheremie Kerth, St. Bernard Parish
Debi Landry
Allison LeBlanc, Parent
Ellen Leichty, LSU
Shelia Lockett, Caddo Schools
Deborah Lord, St. Bernard Parish
Darla Louviere, LaTEACH
Sharil May, Grant Parish Schools
Melissa Mainiero, LDE
Chauncey McElwee, EBR Schools
Marsha Medine, Assumption Schools
Venesa Myers, EBR Schools
Michelle Nader, Parent
Brandy Golston Neal, Caddo Schools
Erin Redlich, Iberia Parish
Lillie Smith, EBR Schools
Ann Verret, Iberia Parish
Debra Washington, Lafourche Parish
Regina Washington, Caddo Schools
John Wegmann, G.O. Disability Affairs
Roxane West
Naomi Whitney, Terrebonne Parish
Sandee Winchell, LaDDC Exec. Director

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Representative John Schroder, Chair, called the meeting to order with a quorum at 9:13 a.m.

Motion passed: Motion to accept the summary from the January 7th meeting made by Debra Schum, second by Sheila Jackson, passed without objection.

The Committee discussed the need for Superintendent White to clearly state that districts should move forward with implementation of Act 833. Concerns were expressed that the language in the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) newsletter was not as strong as needed.

LDOE indicated they had changed their interpretation of Act 833 a few months ago. However, this shift in perspective was not made clear to stakeholders. LDOE staff indicated their interpretation changed as a result of conversations with U.S. DOE. Some Steering Committee members questioned the need for a change in the interpretation since there are no federal requirements related to a student earning a high school diploma.

District representatives consistently requested a clear directive from LDOE with approval by BESE about the legality of Act 833 in the form of a letter to the Districts (not only information in the weekly newsletter). A majority of Special Education directors present expressed they will move forward to the best of their ability.

Motion passed: Motion for the Committee to not support the LDOE's new interpretation of Act 833 as expressed in the statement, "Individual performance criteria developed by IEP teams may be incorporated when awarding Carnegie credits provided the criteria preserves the same knowledge, skills, and levels of achievement expected for all students." made by Shawn Fleming, second by Sherri Houin, passed without objection. Jamie Wong abstained.

Motion passed: Motion to create a small workgroup of leaders including outside ("3rd party") attorneys to review differences in interpretation between federal law and Act 833 to provide clarity in guidance documents made by Carolyn Hill, second by Shawn Fleming, passed without objection.

Representative John Schroder expressed there is no reason for Act 833 Leadership Steering Committee to meet until this workgroup has met.

Meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.