

ACT 833 LEADERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE
January 7, 2015
MEETING SUMMARY

Claiborne Building
Baton Rouge, LA

1:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rep. John Schroder, Chair
Alan Coulter, LSU-HDC
April Dunn, Self-Advocate
Rebecca Ellis, Northshore FHF
Shawn Fleming, LaDDC
Liz Gary, Parent
Rebecca Hanberry, Bossier Parish
Community College Program for Successful
Employment
Sherri Houin, Parent
Shelia Jackson, Superintendent, Grant
Parish Schools
Laureen Mayfield, President, LaSEA,
Bienville Parish
Ashley McReynolds, LaTEACH
Scott Richard, La. Schools Boards Assoc.
Debra Schum, La. Assoc. of Principals
Carol Tall, Vice Pres., LaSEA, Acadia
Parish
Sarah Voigt, Advocacy Center
Patsy White, LaDDC
Jamie Wong, LDE

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sen. Dan Claitor
Donnica Conway, LaDDC
Carolyn Hill, BESE
Kelli Joseph, Superintendent, St.
Helena Parish Schools
Mauricia Ledet-Walters, FHF of Acadiana

LaDDC Supporting Staff

Derek White

GUESTS PRESENT

Quinn Adams, Bossier Schools
Andrea Bond, Collegiate Academies
Jeanne Bower, St. Tammany Parish
Rebecca Bradford, Terrebonne Parish
Giselle Bryant, Bossier Schools
Elizabeth Chapman, EBR Schools

GUESTS PRESENT (cont.)

Kim Comeaux, Assumption Schools
Cindy Daigle, Assumption Schools
Bridget Devlin, LDE
Flavia Eldridge, Iberia Parish
Renee Fauver, Central City Schools
Danny Guillory, St. Tammany Parish
Penny Harris, Caddo Schools
Michael Hebert, St. Martin Schools
Shanee Holmes, LaTEACH
Ellen Leichty, LSU
Shelia Lockett, Caddo Schools
Darla Louviere, LaTEACH
Sharil May, Grant Parish Schools
Melissa Mainiero, LDE
Chauncey McElwee, EBR Schools
Marsha Medine, Assumption Schools
Venesa Myers, EBR Schools
Brandy Golston Neal, Caddo Schools
Erin Redlich, Iberia Parish
Ann Verret, Iberia Parish
Regina Washington, Caddo Schools
John Wegmann, Governor's Office of
Disability Affairs
Roxane West
Naomi Whitney, Terrebonne Parish
Sandee Winchell, LaDDC Exec. Director

Representative John Schroder, chair, called the meeting to order with a quorum at 1:03 p.m.

Motion passed: Motion to accept the summary from the December 10th meeting made by April Dunn, second by Sherri Houin, passed without objection.

The Committee received and discussed an example of an IEP demonstrating implementation of Act 833. Public comment and Committee member feedback indicated suggestions for increased state-wide training that is needed related to special education in general and Act 833 specifically. Additional comments indicated some delays with implementation may have resulted from concerns over perceived misalignment of state education policies, specifically Bulletin 741, with Act 833. Concerns were also shared regarding liabilities of school systems related to Individual Education Program (IEP) implementation stemming from the July 2, 2014 U.S. Department of Education letter indicating implementation of Act 833 may violate federal laws (i.e., the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). Representative Schroder's letter of August 12, 2014 to USDOE seeking clarification of their concerns has yet to receive a response.

Motion: Motion to request the Louisiana Department of Education to send a letter requesting a written response from the U.S.DOE to clarify its position as to whether current implementation of Act 833 is perceived to be in violation of Federal laws. made by Liz Gary, second by April Dunn.

Substitute Motion passed: A substitute motion to request the Louisiana Department of Education to send a letter to all Local Education Agencies and School Districts clarifying the legality of implementing Act 833 made by John Schroder, second by Liz Gary, passed without objection.

Strategies to more effectively inform parents of Act 833 indicated LDOE is currently working with parents to draft a parent-friendly brochure on Act 833. Members expressed the urgent need for local level educators and Families Helping Families Centers to have state-developed and endorsed materials explaining Act 833.

Motion: Motion for the agency conducting the IEP training to develop a basic course and a more advanced (graduate level) course for veteran teachers and/or have modules developed to allow for Act 833 information to be stand-alone materials made by Lauren Mayfield. No second was made.

Information provided revealed LSU-HDC stakeholder feedback sessions on IEP and Act 833 training modules resulted in recommendations for training to integrate Act 833 information into general training on IEP development. Local school districts may modify the information presented to best match the needs of educators within their systems.

A discussion over eligibility criteria of students in high school revealed two questions. First, was a concern over whether parents may contest the LDOE development of

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eligibility criteria for students in high school that seems more restrictive than indicated in Act 833 by requiring a student to not meet state benchmarks twice on the same End-of-Course test instead of having not met state benchmarks on two different End-of-Course tests. Second, was a question related to the eligibility status of students in transitional ninth grade who have not taken an End-of-Course test.

Motion passed: Motion to recommend that the Act 833 Leadership Steering Committee continue meeting monthly through April to address the topics of alignment of rules and regulations, School and District Accountability, and Monitoring of Act 833, made by Liz Gary, second by Rebecca Hanberry, passed without objection.

Representative Schroder recommended all parties to work between meetings to address issues. Specifically, stakeholders were asked to share any identified problems or concerns prior to the meeting with him and LDOE. He asked LDOE to reach out to Committee members and other stakeholders and develop Task Forces to address identified issues.

Meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.