

Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
MINIMUM FOUNDATION PROGRAM (MFP) TASK FORCE
Tuesday, December 16, 2014
9:00 a.m.

Minutes

The Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Task Force was called to order at 9:15 p.m. by Mr. Jay Guillot, Chair. Members present were Senator Conrad Appel; Representative Simone Champagne; Ms. Nette Archangel; Ms. Stephanie Desselle; Mr. Michael Faulk; Mr. Ben Huxen; Mr. Kenneth Jenkins; Mr. Ben Kleban; Ms. Ashley McReynolds; Ms. Deborah Meaux; Mr. Jim Melohn; Mr. Steve Monaghan; Dr. Steven Procopio; Mr. Scott Richard; Ms. Cindy Rushing; Ms. Debra Schum; Ms. Jane Smith; Dr. Charles Thomas; Ms. Doris Voitier; State Superintendent of Education John White.

Ms. Brigitte Nieland; Mr. Chas Roemer; Dr. Charles Michel, ex officio; and Dr. Melanie Verges, ex officio, were recorded as excused.

BESE member Connie Bradford was present.

The Board staff was represented by Ms. Alison Borchgrevink, Ms. Shan Davis, and Ms. Linda Collier, who recorded the minutes.

The unofficial minutes of the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Task Force meeting held November 18, 2014, were distributed to members of the task force for their review and information.

The MFP Task Force Chairman proposed policy recommendations for the consideration of Task Force members. These policy recommendations reflected an attempt at a consensus position and did not limit Task Force members from endorsing additional positions on their own. If endorsed by a majority of present Task Force members, the recommendations would be forwarded to BESE for the Board's consideration in creating the 2015-2016 MFP formula.

**Agenda
Item II.**

Task Force members offered comments and proposed revisions to the proposed recommendations.

Public comments were received on the following agenda item:

**Agenda
Item III**

Agenda Item III., "Public Comment:"

Support: None.

Oppose: None.

Information Only/Other: Mr. Shawn Fleming, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council.

- 1 On motion of Mr. Richard, seconded by Mr. Melohn, the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Task Force recommends that the Board adopt the following final MFP Task Force recommendations. **Agenda Item II.**

Recommendations regarding costs: Each of the following policies should be evaluated and determined by BESE only after having engaged dialogue with the legislature as to the availability of the funds.

1 - Base Per Pupil Amount

- BESE should increase the base per pupil cost by 2.75 percent.

2 - High Cost Services

- In order to grow the formula's capacity to meet requested demand from 38 percent (2014-2015) to 66 percent (projected), BESE should include \$5.4 million in additional funds to meet the needs of students requiring high-cost special education services.
- BESE should further revise the High-Cost-Services Allocation in the following ways:
 - Require the individual student application to be based on the actual prior year cost of services for each student rather than the current year estimated costs.
 - Delay the application submission deadline in order for LEAs to have additional time to gather information on new students or new services for students in the current school year and include this information in their applications.

3 - Supplemental Course Allocation

- To meet excess demand for dual enrollment and other course choices, BESE should increase the per pupil cost from \$26 to \$35.

4 - Long-term Study of the Formula

- BESE should conduct an in-depth, yearlong study of the principles underlying the formula, including actual costs to educate and comparative metrics, and its efficacy in meeting its constitutional mandates, through an independent consultant, to be presented to the incoming Governor, Legislature, and Board in 2016 as they outline future education and fiscal policy. Consultants will consult with Task Force members.

(Motion continues on page 3.)

5 - Formula Budget Process

- BESE should request that Task Force members representing school systems and school boards consult with Administrative and Legislative leadership regarding any adjustment that should be made to how the formula's student count is accounted for in the budget.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Yeas: Ms. Archangel; Ms. Desselle; Mr. Faulk; Mr. Huxen; Mr. Jenkins; Mr. Kleban; Ms. McReynolds; Ms. Meaux; Mr. Melohn; Mr. Monaghan; Mr. Richard; Ms. Rushing; Ms. Schum; Ms. Smith; Ms. Voitier; Superintendent White, and Mr. Guillot.

Nays: Senator Appel and Representative Champagne.

Abstentions: None.

Not in Attendance: Ms. Nieland; Dr. Procopio; Mr. Roemer; Dr. Michel, ex officio; and Dr. Verges, ex officio.

Dr. Thomas recused himself from the vote.

With no further business to come before the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

**Agenda
Item
IV.**