

Commission on Streamlining Government

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ADVISORY GROUP ON THE ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATIVE AND NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES UNAPPROVED MINUTES MEETING OF THURSDAY, November 19, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Advisory Group on the Elimination of Duplicative and Non-Essential Services was held on Thursday, November 19, 2009 in John J. Hainkel, Jr. Room in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The chairman, Barry Erwin, called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The chairman called the roll and the following was noted:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Barry Erwin, Chairman
J. H. "Jay" Campbell, Jr.
Col. Evans Spiceland
Tony Gordon

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Donahue

STAFF PRESENT

Dawn Romero Watson, Senate Counsel
Michelle Broussard-Johnson, Researcher
Shannon Simpson, Secretary
Mark Barnes, Budget Analyst

WITNESSES:

Brigitte Nieland, LABI
Lloyd Dressel, LSBA
Debi K. Faucette, BESE
Beth Scioneaux, LA Dept. of Education
Patrick Dobard, LA Dept. of Education
Nolton Senegal, LSBA
Randy Pope, LASS
Brenda Noland, LA School Psychologist
Michael Faulk, Superintendent's Association Central Schools
Jerry Jones, Office of Facility Planning, Division of Administration

III. DISCUSSION

RECOMMENDATION DONAHUE #03

To require that Mineral Revenue received by the state in excess of the amount allocated to the Rainy Day Fund shall be designated as nonrecurring and subject to the same restrictions on expenditures as other nonrecurring revenue.

Chairman Erwin discussed that Donahue #3 is conveying that in the future if the "Rainy Day Fund" rises above \$850 million, instead of using the excess funds for state general fund operating purposes (recurring revenues), that it be declared as surplus and used as surplus dollars. Constitutionally, once the funds are declared as surplus, they are limited in their use.

Mr. Gordon moved to report recommendation as favorable. Without objection, the recommendation was moved favorable.

RECOMMENDATION DONAHUE #05

Governor and legislature consider converting state-owned enterprises and assets from dormant physical capital to financial capital which can be used for pressing needs.

Jerry Jones discussed surveying the departments to find non-productive assets. A letter was sent to all department heads from the commissioner requesting to identify properties that are their's, but do not contribute to the fulfillment of their mission, goals, and objectives. DOA hopes to get a list of properties that are in the database that are no longer productive that can be sold. DOA wants to put the properties back in commerce. Once DOA has the property, it is off the tax rolls in the local communities. This will help the local communities with their tax base and it will generate revenues for the state.

Col. Spiceland discussed land and buildings that are own, occupied, and managed by the military department.

Mr. Gordon moved to report recommendation as favorable. Without objection, the recommendation was moved favorable.

RECOMMENDATION ERWIN #01

Require that local per pupil share of the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) dollars follow students to any public school or program they attend, including such programs and schools as those administered by the Louisiana National Guard (LANG), the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts (LSMSA), the Louisiana State University Laboratory School, the Southern University Laboratory School and certain Type-2 charter schools.

Randy Pope discussed the MFP and why should local dollars follow the student to any public school or program they attend out of the student's district. He does not think the money should follow "school choice." Local tax dollars generated are to be spent for local children within their districts, not for children attending outside those attendance zones and/or Type 2 charters.

Michael Faulk discussed the local dollars and why they should not follow the student to any public school or program they attend.

Nolton Senegal discussed tax initiatives at local districts. The tax initiatives are designed to help local students and that's where the funds should stay.

Beth Scioneaux discussed that the lab schools are included in the MFP formula and they get the state average per pupil amount funded to them.

The committee did not take a vote on Recommendation Erwin #01.

RECOMMENDATION ERWIN #02

Merge the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's (BESE's) block grant program focused on pre-kindergarten programs for at-risk four-year-old children into the Department of Education's (DOE's) Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program (LA 4 Program).

Chairman Erwin discussed an amendment to recommendation. The recommendation would read as follows: *"Merge and assign the administration of BESE's block grant program focused on pre-kindergarten programs for at-risk four-year old children into DOEs LA4 Program."*

Chairman Erwin confirmed this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION ERWIN #03

Primary responsibility for adult education reside with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) and the responsibility and funding of the Department of Education's (DOE's) Division of Adult and Community Education be transferred to LCTCS.

Ms. Watson explained the recommendation's amendment. The word "should" is inserted between Education and be transferred. The recommendation would read: *"Primary responsibility for adult education reside with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) and the responsibility and funding of the Department of Education's (DOE's) Division of Adult and Community Education should be transferred to LCTCS."*

There is a change under the "Need" column of recommendation. The new language would read: "Adult literacy and the barriers that this generates continues to be an issue in Louisiana. DOE's primary mission is education of children and youth. LCTCS' primary mission is more aligned to adult education and can help connect enrollees to vocational education and the opportunities presented there."

There is a change under the "Action Needed" column of recommendation. The language would be deleted and replaced with the following: "Legislation may be needed to implement so LCTCS receives funding for programs."

Chairman Erwin moved to report recommendation favorable, as amended. Without objection, the recommendation was adopted favorable, as amended.

RECOMMENDATION ERWIN #04

Allow local school districts to fund, at their discretion, stipends for nationally board certified school counselors, psychologists, speech pathologists, audiologists and social workers using Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) or other dollars.

There is a change under the "Action Needed" column of recommendation. The change would strike out: "and BESE may need to re-work MFP formula." The remainder of the wording does not change.

Mrs. Watson explained recommendation. The teacher's supplement/stipend was adopted in 1999. The school counselors stipend was adopted in 2001. After 2001, the unfunded mandate on local government passed. There was a constitutional amendment. In 2003, is when all of the other categories were added; school physiologists, school social workers, speech language pathologists and audiologists.

Mrs. Watson explained the change in the "Need" column. After the "stipends for" insert "other personnel including." The second paragraph under the "Need" column will now read: "Local government should be allowed to use MFP dollars for stipends for other personnel, including nationally certified school counselors, psychologists, speech pathologists and social workers based on their priorities."

Mrs. Watson explained the change in the "Action Needed" column. After the word "amended" delete the remainder of the line. The "Action Needed" column will read: "La. R.S. 17:421.8, 421.9, 421.10, and 421.11 would need to be amended.

Chairman Erwin moved to report recommendation favorable. Without objection, the recommendation was adopted favorable.

RECOMMENDATION ERWIN #05

Any increase in the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) should be spent on effective dropout prevention and remediation programs for students attending schools that are, or at risk of being, academically unacceptable (schools with School Performance Score (SPS) of 75 or below). Annual growth in the MFP is 2.75%, approximately \$62 million.

Ms. Johnson read the recommendation with amendment: "Any increase in the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) allocated to a school district and eventually allocated to a school within that district with a School Performance Score (SPS) of 75 or below shall be spent on effective dropout prevention and remediation programs for students attending such school. This shall not apply to that portion of an increase in MFP dollars that are statutorily obligated to be spent otherwise, such as for teacher salary. Annual growth in the MFP is 2.75%, approximately \$62 million."

Mr. Campbell moved to report recommendation favorable, as amended. Without objection, the recommendation was adopted favorable, as amended.

RECOMMENDATION ERWIN #06

Require all school districts to replace lower-performing dropout prevention programs with strategies modeled after Jobs for America's Graduate (JAG) and fund such programs through existing revenue including the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) funding. Tie any state funding of dropout prevention programs to performance.

Mr. Erwin moved to report recommendation favorable. Without objection, the recommendation was adopted favorable.

RECOMMENDATION ERWIN #07

Increase the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) instructional spending requirement from 70% to 80%.

Mr. Erwin read the change in the "Summary Description/Nature of Change" column. Add after 80% "and provide that the requirement applies at the school level."

Mr. Erwin moved to report recommendation favorable, as amended. Without objection, the recommendation was moved favorable, as amended.

OTHER BUSINESS:

RECOMMENDATION #33

Centralize the hosting of current and future geographic information system (GIS) and "volume buy" GIS software and licenses, including local government in such purchases where applicable.

Mr. Campbell moved to report recommendation favorable. Without objection, the recommendation was moved favorable.

RECOMMENDATION

State agencies, including higher education and state public hospitals, are directed to explore adoption of LEAN principles to improve efficiency, increase productivity, eliminate waste in system processes and save money.

Mr. Erwin moved to report recommendation favorable. Without objection, the recommendation was reported favorable.

RECOMMENDATION ERWIN #01

Require that local per pupil share of the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) dollars follow students to any public school or program they attend, including such programs and schools as those administered by the Louisiana National Guard (LANG), the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts (LSMSA), the Louisiana State University Laboratory School, the Southern University Laboratory School and certain Type-2 charter schools.

Mr. Erwin moved to report without action. Without objection, the recommendation was reported without action.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Erwin made a motion to adjourn, without objection. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Barry Erwin, *Chairman*

Date

DRAFT