



**BOARD
of
ELEMENTARY
and
SECONDARY
EDUCATION**

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall provide leadership and create policies for education that expand opportunities for children, empower families and communities, and advance Louisiana in an increasingly competitive global market.

OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

Meeting of March 7, 2014

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

MARCH 7, 2014

The Louisiana Purchase Room
Baton Rouge, LA

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met in regular session on March 7, 2014, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m. by Board President Chas Roemer and opened with a prayer by Ms. Terry Johnson, Bossier Parish School System.

Board members present were Dr. Lottie Beebe, Ms. Holly Boffy, Mr. Jim Garvey, Mr. Jay Guillot, Ms. Carolyn Hill, Mr. Walter Lee, Dr. Judith Miranti, Mr. Chas Roemer, and Ms. Jane Smith.

Ms. Connie Bradford and Ms. Kira Orange Jones were absent.

Dr. Charlie Michel, Lafourche Parish School System, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 2.	On motion of Mr. Garvey, seconded by Ms. Boffy, the Board approved the agenda, as printed and disseminated. (Schedule 1)
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Agenda Item 3.	On motion of Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Boffy, the Board approved the minutes of January 15, 2014.
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Agenda Item 4.	<u>Report by the State Superintendent of Education</u>
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State Superintendent of Education John White provided an update on the intense and increased support that the LDE is providing to teachers to assist with new academic expectations. The LDE has established the following support structures: (1) network teams are working directly with superintendents; (2) district planning teams and district planning guides have been established in every district; and (3) teacher leader teams are doubling to 4,000 next year. Sample test items are being released. The curriculum package for next year is being released. Next year's assessment guides will be produced in the following weeks.

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On Point of Personal Privilege, Ms. Hill recognized the Capitol Senior High School Alumni Association for its dedication to the school and its students throughout several transitions, and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. W. T. Winfield.

Agenda
Item 5.

Board Committee Reports

Agenda
Item 5.1.

Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee

(Schedule 2)

- 5.1.1 On motion of Dr. Miranti, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board received the minutes of the Accountability Commission meetings held January 9, 2014, and January 27, 2014.
- 5.1.2 On motion of Dr. Miranti, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board received the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Panel meeting held February 20, 2014.
- 5.1.3 On motion of Dr. Beebe, seconded by Mr. Garvey, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 119, *Louisiana School Transportation Specifications and Procedures*: §2509. Used School Buses, as amended and presented by the LDE.

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Public comments were received on the following Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee agenda item:

Agenda Item 3.2., "Consideration of policy recommendations relative to the implementation of the Jump Start career education program."

Support: None.

Oppose: None.

Information Only/Other: Ms. Debra Schum, Louisiana Association of Principals.

- 5.1.4 On motion of Dr. Miranti, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, the creation of Bulletin 138, *Jump Start Program*: §101. Overview, §201. Jump Start Program Authorization, §301. General Provisions, and §303. Jump Start Instructional Staff, as presented by the LDE.

Further, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, the creation of §305. Student Participation in Jump Start Programs, as amended and presented.

- 5.1.5 On motion of Dr. Miranti, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*: §409. Calculating a 9-12 Assessment Index, and §613. Calculating a Graduation Index, as presented by the LDE.

- 5.1.6 On motion of Dr. Miranti, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*: §501. Introduction; adding a new §505. Career and Technical Certificate Types Issued after September 1, 2014; renumbering and renaming the original §505. to §506. CTTIE-1 and CTTIE-2 Certificate Eligibility Requirements; adding a new §507. CTTIE Areas of Specialization; renumbering and renaming the original §507. to §509. CTTIE-1 Certificates Renewal Guidelines for certificates initially issued prior to September 1, 2014; deleting the original §509. CTTIE-2 Certificates Renewal Guidelines; and §511. Process for Reinstating Lapsed CTTIE Certificates, as presented by the LDE.

Further, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to §504. Career and Technical Certificate Types Issued after July 1, 2006, as amended and presented.

- 5.1.7 On motion of Dr. Miranti, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices*: §701. Overview of Assessment Programs in Louisiana, §2209. WorkKeys, and §3501. Approved Home Study Program Students, as presented by the LDE.

- 5.1.8 On motion of Dr. Miranti, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*: §2317. High Schools and §2318. The College Diploma, as presented by the LDE.

- 5.1.9 On motion of Dr. Miranti, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 1566, *Pupil Progression Policies and Procedures*: §503. Regular Placement, as presented by the LDE.
- 5.1.10 On motion of Dr. Miranti, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*: §301. School Performance Score Goal; §303. Transition from Fall 2013 to Spring 2015; §413. Dropout/Credit Accumulation Index Calculations; §517. Inclusion of Schools; §521. Pairing/Sharing of Schools with Insufficient Test Data; §603. Determining a Cohort for a Graduation; §611. Documenting a Graduation Index; §1301. Reward Eligibility; §2301. Schools Requiring Reconstitution/Alternate Governance Plans; §3101. Appeals/Waivers and Data Certification Processes; §3301. Inclusion of New Schools; §3303. Reconfigured Schools; §4101. Valid Data Considerations; §4301. Inclusion of All Districts; and §4317. District Accountability Data Corrections, as presented by the LDE.

Dr. Beebe was recorded as being opposed to the motion.

- 5.1.11 On motion of Dr. Miranti, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board received the Summary of Public Comments and Agency Response regarding revisions to Bulletin 135, *Health and Safety*: Chapter 5. Injury Management Program Rules for Serious Sports Injuries and Chapter 7: Glossary, and directed BESE staff to proceed with the final adoption of the January 20, 2014, Notice of Intent regarding revisions to Bulletin 135, *Health and Safety*, Chapters 5 and 7.

Agenda
Item 5.2.

Administration and Finance Committee

(Schedule 3)

- 5.2.1 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board received the report on 8(g) monitoring visits conducted by Board staff.
- 5.2.2 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board received the quarterly report from the LDE Director of Internal Audit.
- 5.2.3 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board received the report on LDE contracts of \$50,000 and under approved by the State Superintendent of Education.

5.2.4 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board received the reports requested by the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Task Force pertaining to the regulations governing students with dyslexia and student access to technology.

5.2.5 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board ratified the Board President's submission of the value-added assessment model report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education.

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Public comments were received on the following Administration and Finance Committee agenda item:

Agenda Item 4.1., "Consideration of the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Formula for FY 2014-2015."

Support: None.

Oppose: None.

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

5.2.6 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Garvey, the Board deferred until a Special Board Meeting to be held during the week of March 10-14, 2014: "Consideration of the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Formula for FY 2014-2015."

5.2.7 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board, in recognition that the proposed 2014-2015 MFP formula does not include funding for early childhood education, committed to developing a strategy of equitable early childhood education funding in future fiscal years and supports legislation throughout the 2014 Regular Legislative Session that allows for the consideration of 4-year-old pre-kindergarten education as a component of elementary and secondary education.

5.2.8 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the revised 8(g) program and budget for FY 2013-2014.

Dr. Beebe recused herself from voting on this item.

- 5.2.9 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the revised program and budget for the 8(g) statewide program, Early Childhood Literacy Program (LDE) (S069), for FY 2013-2014.

Dr. Beebe recused herself from voting on this item.

- 5.2.10 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the revised program and budget for the 8(g) statewide program, Compass (LDE) (S067), for FY 2013-2014.

Dr. Beebe was recorded as being opposed to the motion.

- 5.2.11 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the revised program and budget for the 8(g) statewide program, Expanding High School Choice (LDE) (S073), for FY 2013-2014.

Dr. Beebe recused herself from voting on this item.

- 5.2.12 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the revised program and budget for the 8(g) statewide program, New Schools Incubation Program (LDE) (S074), for FY 2013-2014.

Dr. Beebe and Ms. Hill were recorded as being opposed to the motion.

School and District Innovations - Other

- 5.2.13 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation:	RSD Charter School Transformation
Amount:	\$250,000.00
Funding Period:	07/01/2013 - 06/30/2014
Source of Funds:	IAT - 8(g)

Purpose: The purpose of these funds is to support RSD transformation activities.

Basis of Allocation: The LDE supports the efforts of the RSD to create an environment with the conditions necessary for charter schools to succeed and to support the transformation process for low-performing schools.

(Motion continues on page 7)

Funds may be used to provide professional development, stabilize school staffing during the transformation process, provide for additional staffing resources needed to successfully transition a direct-run school to a charter school, and other activities that support the development of a high performing charter school environment.

Dr. Beebe recused herself from voting on this item.

Departmental Support - Other

- 5.2.14 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Educator Leader Cadre Substitute Reimbursement
Amount: \$1,893.36
Funding Period: 10/01/2013 - 12/13/2014
Source of Funds: Federal

Purpose: The purpose of the Teacher Leader Advisors is to develop an understanding of the changes required of Common Core and Compass, including reviewing and creating materials for implementation, serving as a Common Core expert, assisting in building a growing network of teacher leaders throughout the state, and attending face-to-face meetings to provide recommendations and feedback on resources and tools.

Basis of Allocation: Allocations to school districts are to reimburse the districts for the substitutes paid to work while the Teacher Leader Advisors met in Baton Rouge on October 15-16, 2013, and December 13, 2013, to begin their work for the program.

Dr. Beebe recused herself from voting on this item.

- 5.2.15 **Office of Management and Finance – Competitive**

On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Early Childhood Community Network Pilots
Amount: \$676,666.67
Funding Period: 03/08/2014 - 06/30/2014
Source of Funds: State - IAT

(Motion continues on page 8)

Purpose: The purpose of these funds is to support Early Childhood Community Network Pilots to implement the five strategies outlined in the Early Childhood Care and Education Network - Roadmap to 2015, which are as follows:

1. Unify expectations;
2. Support teachers and providers;
3. Measure and recognize progress;
4. Fund high quality providers; and
5. Provide clear information and high quality choices.

The ultimate goal of the Early Childhood Care and Education Network is to prepare our youngest learners for kindergarten.

Basis of Allocation: Allocations were determined competitively via a request for applications. The selection of the Community Network Pilots occurred through a two-step process – 1. Application review for basic requirements and 2. Interview with the finalists. The interview sought to determine networks that could demonstrate their readiness to work on the five strategies listed above.

Dr. Beebe recused herself from voting on this item.

5.2.16 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following LDE contract:

Contractor:	LSU-Health Science Center
Contract Period:	01/31/2014 - 09/30/2014
Contract Amount:	\$102,734.00
Fund:	Federal Fund - IDEA Part B
Competitive Process:	Non Competitive

Description of Service: This agreement will provide for activities for the federally funded 2008-2013 Deaf Blind Project for which funding was extended through 9/30/14 to be completed. Activities will include building capacity of current and future educators working with students who are deaf-blind, facilitation of effective instructional strategies for students with deaf-blindness, and outreach and early intervention identification for families and service providers.

- 5.2.17 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following LDE contract:

Contractor: Department of Health and Hospitals
Contract Period: 04/01/2014 - 08/31/2014
Contract Amount: \$196,252.00
Fund: Federal Funds - USDA
Competitive Process: Non Competitive

Description of Service: This Interagency Agreement will provide that the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health (DHH), Sanitarian Services Section, conduct pre-opening inspections of each food service site or preparation facility participating in the SFSP. The sanitarian services will perform at least one (1) other inspection (besides the pre-opening inspection) at each site/facility during the period of operation and record inspection results on the appropriate inspection form.

- 5.2.18 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following LDE contract amendment:

Contractor: Volunteers of America North LA
Contract Period: 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2014
Previous Amount: \$360,000.00
Amended Amount: \$38,400.00
Contract Amount: \$398,400.00
Fund: Federal - Title IV - 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)
Competitive Process: Competitive/21st CCLC RFP Process

Description of Service: The contract provides before-, during-, and after-school academic enrichment opportunities for children attending low-performing schools through the establishment and operation of 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

- 5.2.19 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following LDE contract amendment:

Contractor: Urban Support Agency, Inc.
Contract Period: 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2014

(Motion continues on page 10)

Previous Amount: \$639,000.00
Amended Amount: \$133,800.00
Contract Amount: \$772,800.00
Fund: Federal - Title IV - 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)
Competitive Process: Competitive/21st CCLC RFP Process

Description of Service: The contract provides before-, during-, and after-school academic enrichment opportunities for children attending low-performing schools through the establishment and operation of 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

- 5.2.20 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following LDE contract amendment:

Contractor: Outreach Community Development Corporation
Contract Period: 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2014
Previous Amount: \$240,000.00
Amended Amount: \$6,000.00
Contract Amount: \$246,000.00
Fund: Federal - Title IV - 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)
Competitive Process: Competitive/21st CCLC RFP Process

Description of Service: The contract provides before-, during-, and after-school academic enrichment opportunities for children attending low-performing schools through the establishment and operation of 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

- 5.2.21 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following LDE contract amendment:

Contractor: NZBC Urban Corporation
Contract Period: 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2014
Previous Amount: \$180,000.00
Amended Amount: \$8,400.00
Contract Amount: \$188,400.00
Fund: Federal - Title IV - 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)
Competitive Process: Competitive/21st CCLC RFP Process

(Motion continues on page 11)

Description of Service: The contract provides before-, during-, and after-school academic enrichment opportunities for children attending low-performing schools through the establishment and operation of 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

- 5.2.22 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following LDE contract amendment:

Contractor:	Akili Academy/Crescent City Schools
Contract Period:	07/01/2013 - 06/30/2014
Previous Amount:	\$492,000.00
Amended Amount:	\$74,400.00
Contract Amount:	\$566,400.00
Fund:	Federal - Title IV - 21 st Century Community Learning Centers (21 st CCLC)
Competitive Process:	Competitive/21 st CCLC RFP Process

Description of Service: The contract provides before-, during-, and after-school academic enrichment opportunities for children attending low-performing schools through the establishment and operation of 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

- 5.2.23 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following LDE contract amendment:

Contractor:	Karen Boudreaux
Contract Period:	02/01/2012 - 01/31/2015
Previous Amount:	\$79,500.00
Amended Amount:	\$25,500.00
Contract Amount:	\$105,000.00
Fund:	Federal Fund - Title III
Competitive Process:	Non Competitive

Description of Service: The contract is being amended for the contractor to calculate the performance of Title III subgrantee Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and the state on ESEA/NCLB Title III Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) for the 2013-2014 school years, using student assessment data (ELDA, LEAP, iLEAP, etc.).

- 5.2.24 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following RSD contract amendment:

Contractor:	Blitch/Knevel Architects, Inc.
Contract Period:	03/09/2012 - 03/09/2015
Previous Amount:	\$1,473,321.00
Amended Amount:	\$15,433.60
Contract Amount:	\$1,488,754.60
Fund:	IAT - FEMA
Competitive Process:	Competitive

Description of Service: This amendment provides for the additional service for a Phase II environmental subsurface investigation, and a pre-renovation ACM and LBP survey for Drew Elementary School renovation. It adds three (3) days to the design time due to Hurricane Isaac and fourteen (14) days to design time due to historic preservation revisions. This amendment provides for reimbursable expenses for regulatory agency approvals and for the printing of bidding documents.

- 5.2.25 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following RSD contract:

Contractor:	Byron J. Stewart and Associates, APC Architects and Planners
Contract Period:	03/07/2014 - 03/07/2017
Contract Amount:	\$105,034.00
Fund:	IAT - FEMA
Competitive Process:	Competitive

Description of Service: This project provides for the refurbishment of Rosenwald Elementary School.

- 5.2.26 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following RSD contract amendment:

Contractor:	Jacobs Project Management Company/CSRS Consortium
Contract Period:	12/01/2013 - 11/30/2016
Previous Amount:	\$23,590,758.00
Amended Amount:	\$1,069,673.31

(Motion continues on page 13)

Contract Amount: \$24,660,431.31
Fund: IAT - FEMA/Lexington Insurance Proceeds
Competitive Process: Competitive

Description of Service: This amendment provides for additional services as directed by the RSD; additional service for support to RSD and "OPSB v. Lexington, et al.;" additional service for claims consulting services; and additional service for grants management - Phase 1 - negative balance/grant debt/undocumented advances/applied payment proposal for the RSD multi-site Capital Plan.

- 5.2.27 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following RSD contract amendment:

Contractor: Mahlum Scairono Martinez Architects, LLC
Contract Period: 01/07/2013 - 01/07/2015
Previous Amount: \$35,640.00
Amended Amount: \$21,390.00
Contract Amount: \$57,030.00
Fund: IAT - FEMA
Competitive Process: Competitive

Description of Service: This amendment provides for the relocation of playground equipment at William Fischer School and the relocation of playground equipment at Little Woods Elementary School.

- 5.2.28 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following RSD contract amendment:

Contractor: Richard C Lambert, LLC
Contract Period: 06/17/2010 - 06/17/2014
Previous Amount: \$262,656.51
Amended Amount: \$8,032.24
Contract Amount: \$270,688.75
Fund: IAT - FEMA
Competitive Process: Competitive

Description of Service: This amendment provides for the adjustment of the basic services fee for Village de L'est Elementary School (roof) and modular demo based on the final construction price of the project. It also provides for prolonged contract administration for the various roof and repair projects based on 48 days of liquidated damages at no fault of the designer.

- 5.2.29 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following RSD contract amendment:

Contractor: Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure
Contract Period: 02/14/2013 - 02/14/2015
Previous Amount: \$49,500.00
Amended Amount: \$14,640.00
Contract Amount: \$64,140.00
Fund: IAT - FEMA
Competitive Process: Competitive

Description of Service: This amendment provides for additional services for corrective action work plan preparation.

- 5.2.30 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following RSD contract:

Contractor: VergesRome Architects, APAC
Contract Period: 03/07/2014 - 03/07/2017
Contract Amount: \$2,696,406.00
Fund: IAT - FEMA
Competitive Process: Competitive

Description of Service: This project consists of the renovation of John McDonogh High School.

- 5.2.31 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following RSD contract amendment:

Contractor: VergesRome Architects, APAC
Contract Period: 10/16/2013 - 10/16/2016
Previous Amount: \$265,287.00
Amended Amount: \$20,625.00
Contract Amount: \$285,912.00
Fund: IAT - FEMA
Competitive Process: Competitive

Description of Service: This amendment provides for the additional services for a water flow test, a Phase I environmental site assessment, lead and asbestos investigation, and a topographic survey for Live Oak Elementary School refurbishment.

- 5.2.32 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following RSD contract amendment:

Contractor:	VergesRome Architects, APAC
Contract Period:	09/16/2010 - 09/16/2015
Previous Amount:	\$944,413.20
Amended Amount:	\$38,546.20
Contract Amount:	\$982,959.40
Fund:	IAT - FEMA
Competitive Process:	Competitive

Description of Service: This amendment adjusts the designer's fee for basic services for mothballing of closed schools - safe and secure at George Mondy Elementary School based on the revised AFC. The project was canceled, but is now being reinstated by the owner, and additional scope of work is being added to the project. It also provides for the addition of a new project and project number for demolition of the caretaker's cottage at George Mondy Elementary School and at Andrew J. Bell Junior High School.

- 5.2.33 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the following RSD contract amendment:

Contractor:	Waggonner and Ball Architects, APC
Contract Period:	08/15/2012 - 08/15/2015
Previous Amount:	\$1,151,421.08
Amended Amount:	\$5,500.00
Contract Amount:	\$1,156,921.08
Fund:	IAT - FEMA
Competitive Process:	Competitive

Description of Service: This amendment provides for additional services for a land survey at the new three-section PK-8 school at Sherwood Forest School (New – PK-8).

- 5.2.34 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board:

- a. approved the Change Order for the construction contract with C.D.W. Services, L.L.C., for the mothballing of Andrew J. Bell Junior High School (project number 2011-0853-0001) in the amount of

(Motion continues on page 16)

\$361,334.40 in order to provide for: (1) removal of Regulated Asbestos-Containing Materials (RACM) for all hazardous materials in Building-E (Christy Building) and Building A (Annex Building) due to construction debris and finishes that were dislodged during the necessary repairs to structural walls; (2) installation of a course of brick and mortar cap over the brick wall at the demolished breezeway roof; and (3) general contractor's performance and payment bonds and overhead and profit for the additional work; and

- b. directed the RSD to submit the approved Change Order for consideration and approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

5.2.35 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board:

- a. approved the Change Order for the construction contract with FHP Tectonics Corporation for the refurbishment of Frederick A. Douglass High School (project number: 2012-0868-0001) in the amount of \$378,871.98 in order to provide for: (1) asbestos removal associated with classroom window replacement, due to the uncovering of unforeseen caulk at these openings that consisted of Regulated Asbestos-Containing Materials (RACM); (2) repair of existing Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RCP); and (3) deletion of the installation of flood gates and Fiber Reinforced Panels (FRP) for the gymnasium, at the owner's request; and
- b. directed the RSD to submit the approved Change Order for consideration and approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

5.2.36 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board received the report on the BESE Budget.

5.2.37 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board received the BESE member notification protocol developed by the State Superintendent of Education.

5.2.38 On motion of Mr. Guillot, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 1929, *Louisiana Accounting and Uniform Governmental Handbook*, adding Chapter 15. Expenditure Requirements, §1501. Seventy Percent Expenditure Requirement.

Agenda **Educator Effectiveness Committee** (Schedule 4)
Item 5.3.

5.3.1 On motion of Ms. Boffy, seconded by Mr. Guillot, the Board received the update regarding the study of the state accountability system and value-added model.

5.3.2 On motion of Ms. Boffy, seconded by Mr. Guillot, the Board deferred until April 2014: "Consideration of revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*, regarding endorsements to existing teaching certificates."

Agenda **School Innovation and Turnaround Committee** (Schedule 5)
Item 5.4.

5.4.1 On motion of Mr. Garvey, seconded by Mr. Lee, the Board approved the request for a material amendment to the charter governing Linwood Public Charter School, operated by Shreveport Charter Schools, Inc., to add kindergarten and first grade in the fall of 2014 and expand an additional grade per year until the school serves grades K-8.

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Public comments were received on the following School Innovation and Turnaround Committee agenda item:

Agenda Item 3.1., "Consideration of revisions to Bulletin 126, *Charter Schools*, regarding charter school renewal and extension, evaluation of alternative charter schools, and streamlining of policies."

Support: None.

Oppose: None.

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

5.4.2 On motion of Mr. Garvey, seconded by Mr. Guillot, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 126, *Charter Schools*: §103. Definitions; §105. Purpose of Charter Schools; §505. Eligibility to Apply for a Type 4 Charter School; §1101. Charter School Evaluation; §1103. Alternate Evaluation of Charter Schools; §1303. Extension Review; §1503. Charter Renewal Process and Timeline; §1903. Material

(Motion continues on page 18)

Amendments for BESE-Authorized Charter Schools; §1905. Non-Material Amendments for BESE-Authorized Charter Schools; §2301. State Funding; §2303. Federal Funding; §2713. At-Risk Students; §2907. Leave of Absence; and §2909. Employee Benefits, as presented by the LDE.

Dr. Beebe and Ms. Hill were recorded as being opposed to the motion.

Agenda
Item 6.

Board Advisory Council Reports

Agenda
Item 6.1.

Nonpublic School Council

(Schedule 6)

On motion of Dr. Miranti, seconded by Mr. Guillot, the Board received the minutes of the Nonpublic School Council meeting held February 4, 2014, and approved the tentative agenda for March 25, 2014.

Agenda
Item 6.2.

Superintendents' Advisory Council

(Schedule 7)

On motion of Dr. Miranti, seconded by Mr. Guillot, the Board received the minutes of the Superintendents' Advisory Council meeting held February 13, 2014, and approved the tentative agenda for March 20, 2014.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Vipassana Newsletter

Vipassana Meditation as taught by S.N. Goenka in the tradition of Sayagyi U Ba Khin

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*Sūriyassa, bhikkhave, udayato etaṃ
pubbaṅgamaṃ etaṃ pubbanimittam,
yadidaṃ – aruṇuggaṃ. Evamevaṃ kho,
bhikkhave, kusālānaṃ dhammānaṃ etaṃ
pubbaṅgamaṃ etaṃ pubbanimittam, yad
idim – sammādiṭṭhi.*

Bhikkhus, just as the red glow on the horizon foretells the rising of the sun, so too does right view herald the arising of wholesome states.

Anguttara Nikaya 10.121

Right Understanding

By Patrick Given-Wilson

Right understanding has to illuminate every single part of the practice of Vipassana.

The Buddha called it *sammā diṭṭhi*. In Pali, the language spoken in India in his time, *diṭṭhi* literally meant a view or a philosophy. Then as now, many different kinds of philosophies were current. But *sammā diṭṭhi*, right understanding, has nothing to do with any philosophy or intellectual position. Even with great devotion, an absolute and total conviction of the truth of every single word of the Buddha will not liberate anybody. Conviction merely turns the teaching into a belief system like any other, and so it becomes a trap. The Buddha carefully used the word *sammā*, meaning “right”; and *sammā diṭṭhi* only becomes *sammā* when it is practiced. This is the critical difference, and this is what purifies the individual: the practice.

Sammā diṭṭhi is merely the observation and understanding of reality, the practical experience of reality within the physical and mental structure. It requires the understanding of the reality of the Four Noble Truths: suffering, the arising of suffering, the cessation of suffering, and the path to leading to the cessation of suffering. Right understanding is only present when the four are actually experienced.

Initially on a 10-day course, students may come with different philosophical views or religious backgrounds. They may be skeptical. They start with *sīla*, morality, and proceed to *samādhi*, just observing natural breath, to which there can be no objection. Then, as the mind becomes calmer, it becomes sharper and capable of feeling the sensations on the body. At this point Vipassana is given and *sammā diṭṭhi* is introduced, the practice of mere observation, without reacting, with the understanding of *anicca*: the understanding that every single thing within the physical and mental structure is constantly arising and passing. Through experience, this becomes right understanding. Then, in the practice of

Vipassana, there is no ignorance, no possibility of reacting, and the meditator is just aware from moment to moment. This is *paññā*, the wisdom of impermanence, which leads on to the understanding of *dukkha* and *anattā*.

Thus *sammā diṭṭhi* is a proper starting point for a meditator. Once it arises, it starts purifying every other part of the Noble Eightfold Path.

Sammā saṅkappa means right thought, without any thought of violence, aversion, hatred, lust or passion. *Sammā diṭṭhi* involves the understanding that any impurity, any such thought is dangerous.

The meditator just accepts and observes the impurity at the level of sensation, and it passes away layer after layer. The whole attitude changes: thoughts of anger, passion and craving turn into thoughts of love, compassion and giving. There is also determination: to walk the path and not to deviate from it.

It is the same with *sīla*. *Sammā vācā*, right speech, involves abstaining from false, harsh words that hurt others, or useless words. *Sammā kammanta*, right action, involves refraining from unwholesome physical actions, such as killing, stealing, sexual misconduct or taking intoxicants. Simi-

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larly, *sammā ājīva*, right livelihood, requires avoidance of dealing in weapons, poisons, meat, or any trade or profession that pollutes society by encouraging others to break their *sīla*.

Of course, people understand that they may be punished by the laws of a state, or lose their reputation in society. But laws are capricious, and people can hide their misdemeanors from others. People may even fear punishment after death. But *sammā diṭṭhi* is based on the present experience within. It is the understanding that no wrong speech, action or livelihood can be undertaken without first generating great impurity in the mind, and that generating impurity is self-harming. The meditator chooses not to do that, and every aspect of *sīla* develops not out of fear or blind belief but with right understanding. As the Buddha said:

*Mano-pubbaṅgamā dhammā
Manoseṭṭhā manomayā*

Mind precedes all phenomena.
Mind matters most;
everything originates in the mind.

Any action, vocal or physical, performed with the base of an impure mind brings nothing but suffering. *Sammā diṭṭhi* develops this understanding: it is the mental volition that counts, that gives the result. A pure mind inevitably brings happiness; an impure mind, suffering. As the Buddha said, “Be selfish, but know where your real self-interest lies.”

Sammā vāyāma, right effort, is the effort not to generate new impurities, to eradicate old impurities, and to generate and develop good qualities. *Sammā diṭṭhi*, working with sensations, is the understanding of how harmful these impurities are. It is also the understanding of how to eradicate them: how the mind naturally becomes purer and develops positive qualities.

Sammā sati, right awareness, is knowing that any moment without awareness of reality is a moment of ignorance. It is

not just the awareness of a circus performer. It is the understanding that in every moment of ignorance, without knowing what is happening inside, some impurity is generated. With this understanding, the meditator tries to be aware within the framework of the body every moment.

As *sammā sati* develops, and as the meditator progresses, *sammā diṭṭhi* also deepens. At the initial stages, gross, unpleasant sensations arise. With *sammā diṭṭhi*, the meditator develops the ability to be patient, to understand that they will pass. Equanimity begins. Then the stage of *bhaṅga* is encountered: a free flow of subtle sensations throughout the body, a very pleasant, thrilling experience. But it is also a potential pitfall because of the old, lifelong habit of attachment to pleasant sensations. *Sammā diṭṭhi* must be there to remind the meditator that this experience also is *anicca*, that it is not permanent and that any attachment to it is dangerous. Only with this understanding will the meditator progress.

A stage of deep tranquillity then is reached. Again *sammā diṭṭhi* must be there to remind that this experience also is not permanent, it is still within the field of mind and matter. Even now a subtle oscillation can be felt; this is the signal, the message that the experience is *anicca*. The meditator becomes alert, and now *sammā samādhi* starts to develop. Again, even when the meditator becomes very deeply concentrated and absorbed in the object, *sammā diṭṭhi*, the understanding of *anicca*, must still be there. Only then is it pure *sammā samādhi*. At this point a very deep equanimity must develop, with mere observation, without craving for the goal, without attachment to anything. This *sammā samādhi* becomes the *samādhi* of liberation.

In this way, *sammā diṭṭhi*, right understanding, should be present from the beginning to the end, to illuminate every step of a meditator’s progress. As the meditator practices properly, *sammā diṭṭhi* supports the meditator, and is itself deepened by the practice. This becomes a virtuous circle, ultimately leading to full enlightenment.



Ariya aṭṭhangika magga – The Noble Eightfold Path

<i>Sīla</i> – morality	<i>Sammā vācā</i> – right speech
	<i>Sammā kammanta</i> – right action
	<i>Sammā ājīva</i> – right livelihood
<i>Samādhi</i> – mastery of the mind	<i>Sammā vāyāma</i> – right effort
	<i>Sammā sati</i> – right awareness
	<i>Sammā samādhi</i> – right concentration
<i>Paññā</i> – wisdom	<i>Sammā saṅkappa</i> – right thought
	<i>Sammā diṭṭhi</i> – right understanding

Questions and Answers with Goenkaji

My professional life involves dishonesty. I cannot easily take up another line of work. What should I do?

Practice Vipassana and your mind will become strong. At present you are a slave of your mind, which keeps forcing you to do things you do not want to do. By the practice of Vipassana, you will get the strength to come out of this easily. Then you will find some other profession that will be helpful to you and wholesome.

What would you say is the purpose of life?

To come out of misery. A human being has the wonderful ability to go deep inside, observe reality and come out of suffering. Not to use this ability is to waste one's life. Use it to live a really healthy, happy life!

How should we practice Vipassana in daily life?

Take a Vipassana course and then you will understand how to apply the practice in your life. If you just take a course and don't apply it in life, Vipassana will become a rite, ritual or religious ceremony. It won't help you. Vipassana is for living a good life every day, every moment.

What comes after death?

Every moment one takes birth, every moment one is dying. Understand this process of life and death. This will make you very happy, and you will understand what happens after death.

What is the ultimate goal of life?

The ultimate goal is here and now. If you keep looking for something in the future but you don't gain anything now, this is a delusion. If you have started experiencing peace and harmony now, there is every likelihood that you will reach the goal, which is nothing but peace and harmony. So experience it now, this moment. Then you are really on the right path.

International News

Goenkaji Health Update

Goenkaji underwent an operation for a spinal problem on November 8. After the surgery, as a precaution he was kept under observation in intensive care for five days. He was then shifted to a regular hospital room and was discharged from hospital on November 19. The surgery was successful and the incision has healed. The doctors are satisfied with the outcome of surgery and Goenkaji's recovery thus far. After a period of rest, he should be able to resume his normal level of activity.

New Center in the Southeastern United States

Dhamma Patapa

The Southeast Vipassana Trust has purchased a 40-acre parcel of land near the small town of Jesup, Georgia. The site is well located to serve students in the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida and other surrounding states. The property is a beautiful, secluded, wooded lot, with some open areas. It is ideal for our purposes in many ways.

[For pictures of the new location, please see the Web site]

The Trust paid \$100,000 in cash for the property. There are plans to start preparing architectural drawings immediately, to apply for a construction loan and to start building as soon as possible. Goenkaji has named the new center Dhamma Patapa (Majesty of Dhamma).

There is the possibility of developing a planned Dhamma community beside the center. For more information about the property or how to give dana, go to: www.se.us.dhamma.org, old student page (user ID oldstudent, password behappy).

First 45-day course outside of India

After 23 years, Dhamma Dhara, the first center to be established in the West, held the first 45-day course outside of India from September 28 to November 13, 2005. The 27 students came from all over the United States and Canada, as well as Taiwan and Mexico. All had private accommodation with attached bathroom. Another 32 students attended a concurrent 30-day course.

In view of the success of this course, Dhamma Dhara plans to schedule 30- and 45-day courses in the fall of each year. Applications are already coming in for September 2006!



Dhamma Dhara

New Centers in India

Dhammārāma, Andhra Pradesh

This new center is located on four acres of land in Kumudavalli village, Andhra Pradesh. The first phase of construction will provide for a Dhamma hall to seat about 70 students and accommodation for 16 male students. A pagoda with 80 cells and accommodation for female students will be built in the second phase. Goenkaji has named this center Dhammārāma (“Abode of Dhamma”).

Kondapur, near Hyderabad

The center consists of 10 acres surrounded mostly by farms and forest. It is situated in Kondapur, Medak district, about 69 kilometers from Hyderabad Railway Station and 6 kilometers off the Hyderabad-Mumbai Highway. Goenkaji has named the center Dhamma Kondañña (after Kondañña, one of the first five disciples of the Buddha).

New Center in Mongolia

Dhamma Mahana, Mongolia

The Government of Mongolia has given about 100 acres of land to the Vipassana Trust on a long-term lease for development of a meditation center. The site is 22 kilometers from Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. The wooded site is close to a highway, and has access to water and electricity. Goenkaji has named it Dhamma Mahana (“Great Dhamma”).

The first course on the land was held in August 2005, with 37 students using tents and huts for the Dhamma hall and residences. Among the students were a cabinet minister in the Mongolian government and the deputy director of Mongolian National Radio and Television. An old student from Europe also joined the course.

The Mongolia Vipassana Trust plans to organize more courses at the site and undertake construction. There are 200 to 300 old students in the region who are willing to serve.

First Vipassana course in Angola

The first 10-day course in Angola took place in December 2005, in the town of Benguela. A total of seven students, all of them Angolans, completed the course. Another course will be held during school holidays either in April or December 2006. For more information or support, please contact info@ao.dhamma.org

Vipassana courses in Central America

The year 2005 saw the first 10-day Vipassana course held in Nicaragua. A course is planned for El Salvador in April 2006. For information, contact info@sv.dhamma.org.

Vipassana courses in Manitoba, Canada

The first Vipassana course in Manitoba, Canada, was held in May 2003. More recently, a course was held in September 2005. The site for both courses was the International Peace Garden – a large and beautifully located facility on the border between Manitoba and the U.S. state of North Dakota. Approximately 30 students attended each course. There are plans for more frequent courses in the near future.

Grateful Commemoration

Mr. N.H. Parikh, Vipassana Teacher passed away peacefully in Mumbai. He was among the first assistant teachers appointed by Goenkaji. He served Dhamma in various capacities for many years and made a significant contribution to the spread of Vipassana. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Kausalyaben Parikh, who is also a Vipassana Teacher.

May he be happy, peaceful and liberated!

They served the Dhamma selflessly and lived exemplary lives full of Dhamma. They will continue to be inspiring examples in the way they lived their lives.

*Idha nandati pecca nandati,
katapuñño ubhayattha nandati;
puññaṃ me katanti nandati,
bhiyyo nandati suggaṭṭi gato.
- Dhammapada 18*

Here one is happy, hereafter one is happy,
The doer of good deeds is happy in both existences.
"Good have I done"--thinking thus he is happy,
He is happier still when he goes to a blissful state.

New Responsibilities

Acaryas (Teachers)

Mr. Dirk Taveirne & Mrs. Mieke De Wilde, Belgium

To serve Dhamma Pajjota

Mr. Ratilal & Mrs. Chanchal Savla, Mumbai

To serve Gulf Cooperation Council countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Bahrain, and Dhamma Vahini, Titwala, near Mumbai

Senior Assistant Teachers

Mr. Arthur Rosenfeld & Mrs. Ana Teixido, Netherlands

Mr. Robert & Mrs. Sarah Doyle, U.K.

Assistant Teachers

Clara Jiménez, Spain (appointed July 2005)

Mrs. Prema Suresh Sarda, Aurangabad

Dr. Myo Aung & Daw Khin Than Hmi, Myanmar

Dr. U Thein Kyi & Dr. Daw Than Than Htay, Myanmar

Ms. Anna Schlink, Australia

Ms. Deborah Coy, USA

Mr. K. R. Lakshmappa, Bangalore