

Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE)  
**Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)**

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Minutes – Official

The meeting of the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) was called to order at 9:05 A.M. Members present were: Ms. Cindy Arceneaux, Ms. Holly Boffy, Dr. Donna Alleman, Ms. Bonnie Buckelew, Ms. Kimberlee Gazzolo, Dr. Elizabeth Marcell, Ms. Rana Ottallah, Ms. April Taylor, Ms. Susan Vaughn, Ms. Patsy White, and Ms. Ramona Wynder. Ms. Gerri Williams served as a proxy for Mr. Reginald Browhow. Ms. Toni Buxton served as a proxy for Dr. Rhenda Hodnett. Ms. Clare Harbour served as a proxy for Ms. Amanda Sonnier. Ms. Rickii Ainey, Ms. Ella Fairchild, Mr. Mark Martin, and Ms. Pittre Walker were absent.

Representing the Louisiana Department of Education were Erin Bendily, Bernell Cook, and Bridget Devlin.

Public comments were received from Christy Cormier, Shawn Fleming, Shelley Hendrix, Darla Louviere, Amanda Serpas, and Sandra Trammell.

The meeting was called to order by co-chair, Ms. Holly Boffy.

Ms. Boffy made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2013 Special Education Advisory Panel meeting. The Committee's response was as follows:

- 1 On motion of Ms. White, and seconded by Ms. Ottallah, the Special Education Advisory Panel approved the minutes of the September 25, 2013 meeting of the Panel.

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Ms. Boffy requested a discussion on the election of the Special Education Advisory Panel co-chairperson.

- 2 On motion of Ms. Ottallah, and seconded by Ms. Wynder, the Special Education Advisory Panel appointed Ms. White as co-chairperson of the Special Education Advisory Panel.

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Bridget Devlin provided a review of SEAP procedures.

- 3 On motion of Ms. White, and seconded by Ms. Taylor, the Special Education Advisory Panel directed the Department to work in collaboration with Special Education Advisory Panel co-chairs to develop and share training resources on Special Education Advisory Panel meeting protocol and membership duties.

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Bridget Devlin reported on a policy proposal related to the fourth and eighth grade promotion of students eligible for the LEAP Alternate Assessment, Level 2 (LAA 2).

- 4 On motion of Dr. Alleman, and seconded by Ms. Arceneaux, the Special Education Advisory Panel endorsed the Department's eighth grade LAA 2 promotion proposal and recommended that the Department amend its fourth grade LAA 2 promotion proposal to allow for a child's Individualized Education Program team to determine whether a child in the fourth grade is in need of modified promotion criteria. If a child in the fourth grade is in need of modified promotion criteria, as determined by his or her Individualized Education Program team, and that student does not meet said criteria by the end of the school year, then that student shall be promoted to the fifth grade subject to the creation of a remediation plan developed by the Individualized Education Program team.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Yeas: Ms. Cindy Arceneaux, Dr. Donna Alleman, Ms. Bonnie Buckelew, Ms. April Taylor, Ms. Susan Vaughn, and Ms. Patsy White

Nays: Ms. Holly Boffy, Ms. Kimberlee Gazzolo, Dr. Elizabeth Marcell, Ms. Rana Ottallah, and Ms. Ramona Wynder

The motion passed, 6-5.

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- 5 On motion of Dr. Marcell, and seconded by Ms. White, the Special Education Advisory Panel deferred the discussion regarding the objectives of a high school diploma until the February 11, 2014 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Panel.
- 6 On motion of Ms. Gazzolo, and seconded by Ms. Arceneaux, the Special Education Advisory Panel directed the Department to provide an opportunity for a subcommittee of the Special Education Advisory Panel to discuss and offer feedback relative to the implementation of Acts 151 and 291 of the 2013 Legislative Session.

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- 7 With no further business to come before the Special Education Advisory Panel, the December 19, 2013 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Panel was adjourned at 12:05 P.M.