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**Agricultural Education Commission**

***Wednesday, March 11, 2015***

***1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.***

## Meeting Summary

**In Attendance**:

**Commissioners:** Ken Bradford, William Seaman (for Dr. Patricia Felder), Dr. J. C. Bunch, Dr. Joey Blackburn, Dr. Karen Denby (for BOR), Kathy Conerly, Dr. Jenee Slocum, Hals Beard (for Larry Boyte), Megan Gravois, Dwayne Martin, Catherine Segura and Dr. Carrie Castille.

**Guests & Staff:** Brandon Broussard, Martha Moore, Lisa French, Jennifer Falls, Bryan Bertucci.

**Absent**: Dr. Adell Brown, Steve Monaghan and Blake Cooper.

**Meeting Notes**

**Welcome/Introductions/Meeting Objectives/Roll Call/Approval of Agenda**

*Ken Bradford, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Student Opportunities, LDOE*

Bradford, Commission Chair, welcomed attendees to meeting, requested that roll be called and moved amending the agenda by moving the Immersion Update before the Approval of Minutes. Dewayne Martin seconded the motion.

**Immersion Programs and Expanding K-20 Agriculture Education Opportunities Update**

Dr. Blackburn introduced Dr. James Anderson, a doctoral candidate at Virginia Tech University, who joined the meeting via teleconference to share his experiences with an agriculture immersion school. The Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences operating as a magnet school opened its doors to all students who live in the Chicago Public School district in fall 1985. Partnerships, especially with the University of Illinois support the agricultural focus of the school where all students follow one of six agricultural pathways. Beginning with a summer internship on the school’s farm, students are encouraged to continue to search out internships and job experiences related to agriculture, including the Chicago Board of Trade. Students may earn an Agricultural Endorsement on their diploma.

Presentation provided commission members with one vision of an urban agricultural school. Dr. Blackburn shared additional information about opportunities in Virginia through the Governor’s School Program. Commission members requested additional information on this model as well as an example of a rural agricultural immersion school.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ken Bradford moved and Kathy Conerly seconded the adoption of the minutes as written. Motion approved and meeting returned to agenda as posted.

**LDOE Updates**

Bradford provided an update of the following items:

* **New Jump Start Pathways**
* Eleven (11) new pathways approved by BESE.
* Among those approved are several specifically for Act 833 students, struggling students
* **2015 Jump Start Super Summer Institute**
* A collaboration of the Louisiana Department of Education, South Louisiana Community College, and Louisiana Community and Technical College System
* Is July 20 – 24, 2015 at the South Louisiana Community College, Lafayette, Louisiana
* Provides teacher certification training in statewide Jump Start Pathways
* **WorkKeys Assessment**
* A job skills assessment measures student career readiness.
* Statewide rollout begins this March and results of this spring’s assessment will be shared when available.
* **FFA Goodwill Tour**
* FFA State Officers toured parts of south Louisiana from February 21-28, 2015 sharing FFA with businesses, government entities and schools.
* During stop at LSU, commission members visited with the tour participants and the community.
* **Commission Membership**
* Dr. Jenee Slocum is the representative for the Louisiana Workforce Commission replacing David Helveston.
* Department of Economic Development will provide representative as its designee.

**Meat Processing IBC Presentation**

Brandon Broussard, agriculture teacher at Acadiana High School in Lafayette Parish shared his experiences implementing an agriculture course in a suburban setting. Among the challenges are adhering to classroom safety standards, meeting teacher certification requirements, and accessing adequate funding. During discussion suggested the following action steps: share process for initiating regional Jump Start pathway, support working with industry to regional identify needs and collaborate with regional Jump Start team to design regional pathway to meet these needs.

**Agricultural Standards and Pathways to IBCs (Articulated Credit)**

Kathy Conerly reviewed status of Louisiana’s agriculture standards. Nationally, National Council for Agriculture Education is reviewing current standards and expects to publish an update of their standards shortly. In Louisiana, standards have not officially been reviewed since 2003. Subcommittee suggests reviewing the standards and that the Agriculture Science Awareness Course should be a part of any pathway.

Megan Gravois moved and Dewayne Martin seconded “that subcommittee reviews the scope and sequence of Agriscience I, Agriscience II, and Agriscience III, refresh the Louisiana Agriculture Standards to align with the agriculture industry and provide a timeline for refreshing the Louisiana Agriculture Standards.” Motion approved.

**Next Steps**

* Summarize and distribute minutes of this meeting
* Poll commission members and set date for next meeting (May)
* Dr. Bunch and Dr. Blackburn will follow-up with additional information about immersion programs at James Madison High School, a rural immersion model and Governor’s Schools Program in Virginia
* Timeline for review of Louisiana Agriculture Standards

**Public Comment:**

None

**Adjourned**