Minutes

Thursday, October 22, 2020 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m., Thursday, October 22, 2020, via Zoom.

The roll was taken, and a quorum was established.

Members Present	Affiliation
Mr. Richard Hartley	Office of the Governor
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Board of Regents
Mr. Ken Bradford	Department of Education
Ms. Doris Voitier	State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
Ms. Jemi Carlone	Louisiana Association of Principals
Mr. Mike Faulk	Louisiana Association of Superintendents
Ms. Denise Latour	Louisiana School Counselor Association
Ms. Alex Stubb (designee)	Stand for Children
Mr. Barry Erwin	Council for a Better Louisiana
Ms. Linda Johnson	Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools
Members Absent	Affiliation
Dr. Janet Pope	Louisiana School Board Association
Dr. Jeannine Kahn	College and Career Readiness Commission

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2020 meeting. On the motion of Ms. Doris Voitier, seconded by Mr. Mike Faulk, the Task Force approved the minutes.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Reed introduced Antavion "Tay" Moore, who was selected as the 2020 Louisiana High School Student of the Year. Mr. Moore graduated from Ringgold High School with a high school diploma, a

certificate in general studies, and an associate's degree. Dr. Reed highlighted Mr. Moore's academic achievements in dual enrollment, AP and CTE coursework. She mentioned that he is enrolled at LSU A &M where he is majoring in Biological Engineering with aspirations to later attend medical school to become a physician.

ADDENDUM TO FEBRUARY REPORT OF COVID-19 RECOMMENDATION

Dr. Reed thanked all the Task Force members for providing feedback on the addendum to the February 2020 report and stated that the addendum has been submitted to the Legislature.

STATEWIDE INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

Dr. Reed invited Mr. Ken Bradford, LDOE, to speak to the Task Force regarding statewide internet connectivity needs. Mr. Bradford presented a PowerPoint on the data the LDOE collected from statewide school systems detailing the status of each school in transitioning through the state's reopening phases 2 & 3. Mr. Bradford noted that every school was required to submit to the Department its plans for offering three types of instruction: traditional face-to-face, hybrid, and a fully online model. He noted that by early 2021 every school in the state should have fully moved onto phase 3 regarding classroom/group sizes and transportation. He also mentioned that each school has a plan in place if it was to revert to either phase 2 or 1. Mr. Bradford then introduced to the Task Force The Learning Environment and Connectivity Tool offered through the LDOE website. He explained that this tool would allow each school system to routinely report its learning modalities and upload information regarding student internet access. He stated that this real-time data will allow the department to identify where additional student connectivity is needed and help focus LDOE advocacy efforts. Ms. Doris Voitier, Task Force member and Superintendent of St. Bernard Parish Public Schools, shared that St. Bernard provided students with technical devices but found that there was roadblock when it came to the availability of broadband in rural areas. This experience was echoed across the Task Force. Other Task Force members

voiced their concerns that the potential decrease in dual enrollment students due to the pandemic will impact the funding allocated to schools in the future.

DUAL ENROLLMENT FINANCIAL MODELS & DISCUSSION

Dr. Reed invited Mr. Terrence Ginn and Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, BoR, to speak to the Task Force about the different dual enrollment financial models, review the legislative requirements around the dual enrollment pricing structure, and present the upcoming budget request. Mr. LaBruyere shared with the Task Force that the BoR adopted a budget request for fiscal year 2021-22 for higher education which included an allocation of \$5.5 million specifically for dual enrollment. The Task Force briefly discussed various uses for this potential allocation. Rep. Brass stated his continued support for the efforts of this Task Force as well as his commitment to articulate the current budget request to the Legislature and Governor on its behalf.

SHOWCASE OF LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Dr. Reed called on Mr. Kevin Teasley, Founder and President of GEO Academies, to share with the Task Force information about the GEO Next Generation High School located in Baton Rouge, LA. Mr. Teasley stated that the major objective of GEO Academies is to address national issues such as high school completion rates, college and career readiness, college completion, and improved outcomes for minorities and low-income families. He explained that GEO Academies assist their students in graduating from high school while also offering them free college courses provided by a partnering college/university. As a result, these students graduate with a high school diploma and a college degree while acquiring no college debt. Mr. Teasley explained the partnership between his academy in Baton Rouge and the neighboring Baton Rouge Community College. He stated that GEO pays the full tuition at BRCC and has access to student support services to ensure their students' success in completing college work while in high school. Dr. Reed then invited Mr. Gerald Badgley, Principal at C.E. Byrd High School, to speak to the Task Force about the school's dual enrollment program. Mr. Badgley stated that C.E. Byrd has offered

dual enrollment for 15 years. He briefly explained the partnerships the school has with both LA Tech and LSU-Shreveport. Mr. Badgley credited the school's success in dual enrollment to having many of his high school instructors employed as adjunct instructors at the partnering colleges. This allowed instructors to teach most of their college courses on the high school campus, which eliminated transportation and access issues for students. He offered the suggestion that the Task Force help to create an all-inclusive registration portal to aid students wanting to enroll in dual enrollment programs. Dr. Reed echoed Mr. Badgley's recommendation, saying that the Task Force is currently working on this as a deliverable of the February 2020 report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Mellynn Baker, BoR, informed the Task Force that there were three public comments. The first public comment was from Ms. Caronda Bean, SLCC. Ms. Bean commented that it would be interesting to see the data in the upcoming year and look at the effects of the emergency dual enrollment policy on enrollment. The second comment came from Dr. Heather Poole, CLTCC. Her concern was regarding the decrease in numbers of students in dual enrollment for Fall 2020 and school districts potentially seeing a decline in SCA funding for the spring. Mr. Bradford explained how the appropriation of SCA works and stated that the amount of funding projected for Spring 2021 is consistent with amounts allocated to dual enrollment in the past. The last public comment was from Ms. Alexandra Ekstrom, BPCC. She asked that allocations for Fiscal Year 2021-22 be available through grant submission. Dr. Reed responded that if the legislative budget is approved for Fiscal Year 2021-22, the Task Force will then provide the guidance for use of those funds.

NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURMENT

There being no further discussion, Dr. Reed adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES & GUESTS

Name	Affiliation
Meredith McGovern	LDOE
Kevin Teasley	Founder/President, GEO Foundation
Gerald Badgley	Principal, C.E. Byrd High School
Rep. Ken Brass	LA House of Representatives
Adam Lowe	ESG
Lupe Lamadrid	BoR
Karthik Poobalasubramanian	BoR
Matthew LaBruyere	BoR
Erin Cowser	BoR
Terrence Ginn	BoR
Cara Landry	BoR
Mellynn Baker	BoR
Susannah Craig	BoR