



**MINUTES**  
**BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**  
**February 16, 2012**

The Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence conducted their meeting on **Thursday, February 16, 2012**, at the West Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Center, 2750 North Westport, Port Allen, LA 70767.

The following members were acknowledged as present by the sign-in sheet:

**MEMBERS**

Glenny Lee Buquet, Co-Chair  
Jonathan Augustine  
Rep. Thomas Carmody  
Penny Dastugue  
Margaret Goode  
Vickie Krutzer  
Frank Neubrandner  
Stafford Palmieri  
Proxy: Russell Armstrong  
Jacqueline Smith

Charlotte Bollinger, Co-Chair  
Sametta Brown  
Fran Crochet  
Wayne Fetter  
Linda Greene  
Derrick Manns  
Brigitte, Nieland  
Kenneth Rea  
Tara Soudelier

**STAFF**

Jeanne Burns  
Scott Norton  
Catherine Pozniak  
Linda Marino

**SPEAKERS/GUESTS**

Ken Bradford  
Karen Denby  
Deborah Paul  
Debbie Schum  
Bruce Vandal

Co-Chair Charlotte Bollinger called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. Co-Chair Glenny Lee Buquet, requested a motion for the minutes from the November 10, 2011 meeting to be approved as submitted. The motion was made by Kenneth Rea, seconded by Sametta Brown, and the minutes were approved.

Co-Chair Bollinger asked new members present to introduce themselves. Representative Thomas Carmody introduced himself as the designee of Representative Stephen Carter, President of the House of Representative Education Committee. Vickie Krutzer introduced herself as the Monroe City School Board Member.

Co-Director Burns indicated that Scott Norton with the Louisiana Department of Education will be serving as the new Blue Ribbon Commission Co-Director due to Andrew Vaughan leaving the state to accept a new position. She indicated that Co-Director Norton had a speaking engagement in Lafayette but would join the meeting during the afternoon.

Co-Director Burns read the charge for the 2011-2012 Blue Ribbon Commission. She informed members that Commission responses from the November 10, 2011 meeting were provided in their packets. In addition, initial recommendations based upon their previous responses were provided in the packet. These recommendations will continue to undergo revisions between now and May 2012.

The Commission members were informed that during the meeting they would be addressing the following three questions: 1) Should the same cut-off scores on the new PARCC assessments for placement in entry-level credit-bearing courses in mathematics and English be the same for technical colleges, community colleges, and four year post-secondary programs?; 2) What options should be made available to high school students who attain readiness scores on the PARCC assessments for entry-level, credit bearing courses prior to their senior year in high school?; and 3) What options should be made

available to high school students who attain passing grades in Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry but do not attain readiness scores for the entry-level, credit bearing courses prior to high school graduation?.

Co-Director Burns indicated that it had been brought to the attention of the Commission that the April Commission meeting is on the first day of statewide testing and teachers, principals, and superintendents will need to be in their schools on those days. She proposed having Commission members review the Commission recommendations during the month of April and submit feedback in place of the regular April meeting. The Commission members expressed agreement.

Co-Director Burns introduced members of the panel who were addressing the topic “Challenges and Opportunities to Prepare Students to Successfully Address the CCSS and PARCC Assessments to be Career and College Ready.” Bruce Vandal from the Education Commission of the States provided information about best practices occurring at a national level to ensure that high school students will be successful when entering two-and four-year college programs. Debbie Schum, with the Louisiana Department of Education, Deputy Superintendent for the Office of College and Career Readiness, discussed recommendations of the Remedial Education Commission formed by the legislature and discussed what needed to occur in the future to provide “bridge” courses to high school students who want to go to college but lack the necessary ACT, SAT, PARCC, etc. scores to enter credit-bearing mathematics and English courses. Karen Denby, Associate Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs with the Louisiana Board of Regents discussed what Louisiana is doing to clearly identify what is taught in College Algebra and English I and what is taught in remedial education courses. Deborah Paul with the Office of Student Financial Assistance talked about opportunities that currently exist within Louisiana for students who are demonstrating that they are ready for college early and challenges. Ken Bradford with the Louisiana Department of Education talked about opportunities for students to earn college credit while taking Advanced Placement courses within their high schools. All discussed how the Common Core State Standards and PARCC Assessments impacted the work that was occurring.

After lunch Co-Director Burns introduced Co-Director Scott Norton and requested that he provide an update pertaining to what is being proposed to change the State Accountability System and an update about PARCC. Co-Director Norton introduced Erin Bendily, Director of Parental Options with the DOE and requested that she provide information about the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Waiver. Ms. Bendily advised members that the ESEA Waiver is a flexibility waiver that the U. S. Department of Education is offering to states to give them greater flexibility under No Child Left Behind as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Some states took advantage of this opportunity in November but Louisiana was not ready at that time. She indicated that the DOE has been talking to stakeholders about the waiver and requested feedback from Commission members. Ms. Bendily went into additional details about what is involved and advised that the application would be due on February 28, 2012. Co-Director Norton briefly gave highlights of some of the changes to the K-12 School and District Accountability System.

Commission Members were provided time to reflect on the information provided throughout the meeting, to respond to the three questions, and to bring up other issues. Upon completion, members as a whole, discussed their responses to the three questions. Co-Director Burns thanked members for their input and advised them that their discussions and responses to the questions would be added to the draft recommendations. They were told to e-mail Co-Director Burns if they wanted to make changes to the draft recommendations. Changes will be made for the March meeting.

Co-Chair Buquet requested comments from the public. Co-Chair Bollinger thanked members for their attendance and input. With there being no further business, Co-Chair Bollinger adjourned the meeting.