



**MINUTES**  
**BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**  
**November 10, 2011**

The Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence conducted their meeting on **Thursday, November 10, 2011**, 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  
Kwame Asante  
Beatrice Baldwin  
Jeffery Cass  
Kerry Davidson  
Margaret Goode  
Rosalind Hale  
Derrick Manns  
Victor Schneider  
Tara Soudelier

Charlotte Bollinger, Co-Chair  
Jonathan Augustine  
Sametta Brown  
Fran Crochet  
Wayne Fetter  
Linda Green  
Walter Lee  
Kenneth Rea  
Kyle Scott  
Jacqueline Smith

**STAFF**

Jeanne Burns  
Andrew Vaughan  
Scott Norton  
Catherine Pozniak  
Linda Marino

**SPEAKERS/GUESTS**

Sandra Alberti  
Patty Glaser  
Julie Stephenson  
Lee Ann Kendrick  
Kathy Noel

Co-Chair Glenny Lee Buquet called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. Co-Chair Charlotte Bollinger, requested a motion for the minutes from the October 6, 2011 meeting to be approved as submitted. The motion was made by Walter Lee, seconded by Kenneth Rea, and the minutes were approved.

Co-Director Vaughan read the Charge for the 2011-2012 Blue Ribbon Commission. He identified the outcome for the November 10, 2011 meeting which was to: Identify support that will need to be provided to teachers, parents, schools, and districts to help them change and be prepared for the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Partnership of the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). He also reviewed the following three questions that the Commission would address during the meeting: 1) How are the Common Core State Standards different than the existing or past standards?; 2) What needs to occur in Louisiana to help teachers, schools, and districts change and be prepared to successfully implement the Common Core State Standards?; and 3) What needs to occur in Louisiana to help parents change and be prepared to help their children reach new expectations as defined by the Common Core State Standards?.

Co-Director Burns provided an overview of the information within the Commission members' packets. She directed members to the Commission Responses for the October 6, 2011 meeting and indicated that responses from the October 6, 2011 and November 10, 2011 meetings will be used to begin to generate Commission recommendations that will be discussed at the February 16, 2012 meeting. She also informed members that some of the questions from the October meeting will be addressed at later meetings as new information is obtained. Co-Director Burns also indicated that overviews of the

Common Core State Standards for English/Language/Arts and Mathematics were provided within the Commission members' packets and advised Commission members to go to the Louisiana Department of Education website ([http://www.doe.state.la.us/topics/common\\_core\\_assessments.html](http://www.doe.state.la.us/topics/common_core_assessments.html)) if in need of more in-depth information about the standards.

Co-Director Burns first introduced a video of Sir Michael Barber speaking to leadership teams from the PARCC governing states at a meeting in Washington, DC. Within the video, he discussed challenges being observed by the Louisiana team when meeting as a team and discussing professional development to help teachers make the transition to the new Common Core State Standards. He indicated that he considered the discussion with the Louisiana team to be relevant to share with the larger group and talked about there being two different aspects of professional development. First, there is a professional development need for serious awareness raising to ensure that every teacher understands how the Common Core State Standards will impact them and their students. He indicated that this is a communication challenge for states and a clear message must be communicated by state leaders. Second, there is the need to help teachers change what they do every day in the classroom - especially for experienced teachers who have established ways of teaching. He indicated that it is best to start with the teacher in the classroom and determine what they need to know to change. He stated they need someone in the school who knows how to help them change. They also need to see what good teaching looks like when Common Core State Standards are being implemented. They need a person in their school who has a broad understanding of the change, and they need teachers across the state who can show them what good teaching looks like either by modeling good teaching or through video clips of their teaching. He indicated that the development teachers receive needs to be ongoing so that they can receive training, practice what they have learned, and return for more training to improve their practice.

Co-Director Burns informed members that a panel had been formed to help Commission members understand how the Common Core State Standards are different and how Louisiana will need to provide teachers, parents, and students in districts the necessary support to successfully address the standards. Co-Director Burns introduced panel members that addressed the national, parent, state, district, and school perspective to the following questions: How are the Common Core State Standards different? and What do we need to do to support change? The panel members were Sandra Alberti who serves as the Director of Partnership Initiatives and Professional Development for Student Achievement Partners, which is an organization that was instrumental in the development of the Common Core State Standards; Lee Ann Kendrick, a Regional Advocacy Specialist with the National Parent Teachers Association (PTA); Scott Norton, Assistant Superintendent Standards, Assessments, & Accountability with the Louisiana Department of Education; Kathy Noel, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Accountability for DeSoto Parish School System; and Patty Glaser, Assistant Head of Lusher Charter School, New Orleans. After each of the panelists responded to each of the questions, Blue Ribbon Commission members were provided an opportunity to ask questions.

After lunch Commission Members were provided time to reflect on the information provided throughout the meeting and to respond to the three questions mentioned earlier by Co-Director Vaughan. Members then formed small groups and provided an opportunity to discuss their responses to the questions. When members returned to the group as a whole, they were asked to share what they discussed in their small groups.

Co-Chair Buquet requested public input and there was none. With there being no further business, Co-Chair Buquet adjourned the meeting.