

BESE Newsletter

Date of Meeting: August 11, 2020

A Message from Me!

Hello, everyone! I hope everyone is healthy and doing great. At the August 11th meeting, we had a wide variety of discussions on the opening of schools during this COVID-19 pandemic. We had the honor of having the founders of, "Love Our Schools", attend the meeting! They are part of the Lafayette Parish School System and have introduced new ideas for the students who lack internet connectivity in their area. I hope everyone has a great start to their school year, in person or digitally! If anyone has a question on my newsletter, please feel free to message me!

New Course Offerings for Math, Science, and the Arts:

For the new school year, the LDE wants to introduce new courses to expand students in extra curricular learning programs. Some of the courses are Dance Improvisation, Nutrition, Chinese III, and Making of Modern East Asia: China and Japan. The recommended classes will start with the 2020-2021. The motion passed!

3 Main Topics Covered:

- **Revision to the Community Service Diploma Endorsement**
- **Update Reports Regarding Reopening of Schools in Response to COVID-19**
- **Consideration of New Course Offerings for Math, Science, and the Arts; Beginning with the 2020-2021 School Year**

Revision to the Community Service Diploma Endorsement:

In the 2013-2014 school year, a Diploma Endorsement was introduced for students that reach the minimum of 80 community service hours. The requirements were 10 hours in the ninth grade, 20 hours in the tenth grade, 25 hours in the eleventh grade, and 25 hours in the twelfth grade. Data was shown that many students do not participate in community service until after freshman year. Because of that, the LDE recommended to revise the endorsement by removing the hour guidelines for the certain amount of hours per year. Now, the only requirement is that the student must acquire the 80 hours before the student graduates. The motion was passed.

By: Jack Walker

Update Reports Regarding Reopening of Schools in Response to COVID-19 (Part I- LPSS):

Through all of the COVID-19, many districts and leaders have been doing their best to get our students the best education. A good example is a non-profit organization, started in 2019, called "Love Our Schools" that is helping the Lafayette Parish School System and other districts during the pandemic. Ryan Domengeaux, the CEO & General Counsel, spoke on behalf of the organization at the meeting. He spoke on their latest project - Link & Learn - that promotes connectivity during and after COVID-19. With the help of companies, such as AT&T, CGI, and Big Brothers Big Sisters, L.O.S has been able to provide connectivity solutions to students. Mr. Domengeaux discussed on how they have been setting up WiFi in every school parking lot as well as equipping over 40 school buses with internet, so that if a student does not have internet connectivity at home, they can pull into the parking lot or use the school bus to do school work. Also, schools in the district are making hotspots available for those students in need of mobile access. For more information, click on their website in the personal information circle on the bottom of the newsletter!

Personal Information:

COVID-19 Resources: [https://
louisianabelieves.com/](https://louisianabelieves.com/)

<https://louisianabelieves.com/resources/covid-19>

Love Our Schools Website: [https://
loveourschoolsfoundation.org/](https://loveourschoolsfoundation.org/)

<https://loveourschoolsfoundation.org/link-learn>

Email: jackwalker2046@gmail.com

Phone Number: (318) 510-0949

Newsletter also available at: www.lascwebsite.com

If you have any questions, please feel free to message me anytime!

Update Reports Regarding Reopening of Schools in Response to COVID-19 (Part II - Update Report): At this meeting, we were given a status report dealing with the internet connection, devices per student, and a synopsis on online and in-person education. At the moment, public school systems reported they have devices for about 77% of students and 82% for non-publics. Most public and non-public schools plan to achieve 100% 1:1 student to device ratios between October and November. About 75% of students in public school have some type of internet connectivity (about 90% for non-public). Some solutions to this problem are issuing MiFi hot spots and communicating community access points in certain areas. Some investing will go into Broadband Connectivity, high speed internet that would enable multiple students in a single household to participate in virtual learning. This will be pursued with participation in the USDA and the FCC grants, (15.5M by the USDA and 16B for unserved areas by the FCC). School start date and count of devices and connectivity of devices will be reported on at the next October and BESE meeting. A report data will now be used on the Louisiana Believes website showing a current and up to date count of number of students enrolled, devices, and students with internet connectivity per school system, which will be uploaded soon to the website!

Next AGII Committee Meeting:
October 13, 2020

