

Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
School Specialist Task Force Meeting
MEETING MINUTES: *June 28, 2013*
APPROVED: July 26, 2013

The meeting of the School Specialist Task Force established by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (Board) was called to order by Dr. Culross at 10:00 a.m., Friday, June 28, 2013, at 8280 YMCA Plaza Drive, Building 8-B, Baton Rouge, LA 70810. The following task force members were present: Dr. Culross, Dr. Welsh, Dr. Broussard, Dr. Patterson, Ms. Françoise Parr; and Executive Director, Kelly Parker. David White, LPA Representative, and Susan Ratterree, National School Psychology Representative were absent.

Dr. Culross moved to accept the June 28, 2013 agenda. Ms. Parker gave a brief review of Open Meeting Laws.

The group discussed the purpose of the creation of the School Specialist Task Force. The task force will gather information regarding possible regulation of school specialists under the LSBEP.

Dr. Welsh addressed the group about his earlier meeting with the Board at the Long Range Planning meeting. He summarized for the group the ideas he had mentioned. Dr. Welsh suggested that if the Board decides to license school specialists, he saw this as an “optional” license and thought it may allow practitioners to contract with places like learning centers and charter schools.

Dr. Broussard suggested that the licensing of school specialists would make services more available in rural areas. She mentioned that she is the only school psychologist in her area. Dr. Culross noted that there are approximately 78 licensed psychologists with a specialty in school out of the total of 695 psychologists licensed by the Board currently.

The group reviewed and discussed the Texas model of the Licensed School Specialist compared to a School Psychologist. The group discussed the advantages and disadvantages of licensing a school specialist. The group discussed the current certification standards for BESE Certified School Psychologists.

Ms. Parr noted that there are important areas of training that a School Specialist needs to obtain for a degree. Ms. Parr referenced Florida’s Educational Requirements for School Psychologists. Dr. Broussard stated that the Nicholls School Specialist Program had similar requirements.

The group discussed the possible qualifications of a School Specialist. The qualifications included a 72-hour degree with internship from an accredited program, passing a national exam, passing a state jurisprudence exam, and clear criminal background check.

The group discussed issuing a survey to all licensed psychologists and school psychologists asking for feedback about qualifications and licensure. Ms. Parker agreed to prepare and distribute the survey.

Dr. Culross set the next meeting date for Friday, July 26, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.