

EMAILS TO AND FROM BESE MEMBER JIM GARVEY 2015 REGARDING "STANDARDS REVIEW PROCESS"

PLEASE NOTE: MY ORIGINAL EMAIL WAS SENT TO MR. GARVEY ON SEPT. 7 AND BEGINS ON PAGE 3 BELOW. FOR PROPER CHRONOLOGY IN THIS CORRESPONDENCE, START WITH SEPT. 7 EMAIL AND READ UP. MR. GARVEY HAS NOT REPLIED TO MY EMAILS OF SEPT 14 OR SEPT 21.

-----Original Message-----

From: territ22 <territ22@aol.com>
To: james.garvey <james.garvey@la.gov>
Sent: Mon, Sep 21, 2015 11:43 am
Subject: BESE ACTION ON STANDARDS REVIEW PROCESS

Mr. Garvey,

Just noticed that you are NOT responding to me on your official LA.gov email despite the fact that I sent my original correspondence to you at your BESE email.

I would appreciate it if you would maintain ALL correspondence with me regarding BESE on your official government email account rather than on your personal email account in the interest of transparency and accountability.

Still awaiting your response to my email (below) sent on September 14th.... one week ago.
Terri

-----Original Message-----

From: territ22 <territ22@aol.com>
To: James_Garvey <James_Garvey@hmhlp.com>
Sent: Mon, Sep 14, 2015 2:00 pm
Subject: Re: BESE ACTION ON STANDARDS REVIEW PROCESS

Mr. Garvey,

I am perplexed by your response to my email. IF you believe that Supt. John White and BESE have "finally designed a re-writing process " that will improve our standards and not result in a re-branding or simple tweaking then you cannot possibly be in "agreement" with my sentiments which clearly question the validity, transparency, and accountability of the entire "Standards Review Process."

Since you are my BESE Rep, I expected that you would read my questions and then provide me with YOUR response. Some questions ask for your opinion, others may require that you actually contact John White/LDOE to alert them to problems and ask IF and WHEN they plan to introduce solutions. These actions should not require a concerted effort by the entire BESE Board..... surely YOU should be able to handle this .

The clock is ticking and your apparent lack of action regarding my concerns (and those of many other parents, teachers, and citizens) is very disturbing to me. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Terri Timmcke

"SINCE WHEN DO AMERICANS NOT FIGHT FOR WHAT IS RIGHT BECAUSE THEY'RE AFRAID THEY MIGHT LOSE?" Sen. Jim DeMint

-----Original Message-----

From: James_Garvey <James_Garvey@hmhlp.com>

To: territ22 <territ22@aol.com>

Sent: Tue, Sep 8, 2015 10:24 am

Subject: Re: BESE ACTION ON STANDARDS REVIEW PROCESS

Ms Timmcke,

I believe that you did hear me correctly regarding my commitments regarding the process of re-writing our standards. I am committed to making sure that the process improves our standards, makes them "unique" to the needs of Louisiana children, and is not just a re-branding or a tweaking of the current standards.

As I mentioned at the public hearing, I am happy because I think that the we have finally designed a re-writing process that will allow us to re-write our standards without disrupting our classrooms, going back in time to our old standards or weakening our standards.

Per your email below, I support the sentiment that underlies most, if not all, of your suggestions. And, I think that if we work together we can recruit enough other BESE members to put most, again if not all, of your suggestions in to action.

Along these lines, would it be possible for us to meet to talk about the details of getting this done?

Jim Garvey
Hailey, McNamara, Hall, Larmann & Papale, L.L.P.

METAIRIE OFFICE - One Galleria Blvd, Suite 1400, Metairie, LA 70001, 504-836-6500

BATON ROUGE OFFICE - 10771 Perkins Road, Suite 100, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, 225-766-5567

GULFPORT OFFICE - 302 Courthouse Road, Suite A, Gulfport, MS 39507, 228-896-1177

This email transmission and any attachments accompanying it may contain information which is confidential or proprietary in nature or protected by the attorney-client/work product privileges. This transmission is intended only for the recipients intentionally named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking of any action in reliance on its contents is prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify us immediately by return email, or by telephone (call collect, if necessary) to arrange for return of the transmission.

From: <territ22@aol.com>
To: <James.Garvey@la.gov>
Date: 09/07/2015 03:49 PM
Subject: BESE ACTION ON STANDARDS REVIEW PROCESS

Dear Mr. Garvey,

I have been closely following the BESE directed STANDARDS REVIEW PROCESS in the hopes that Louisiana might actually replace the Common Core standards with a better option that is controlled by Louisiana rather than CCSSO/NGA and other outside groups.

While attending the first Review Committee meetings on August 19th in Baton Rouge, I heard you ask the Standards Committee to "improve" our standards and make them "unique" to the needs of Louisiana students. You stated the purpose of this review was not to "rebrand" or "tweak" the current standards.

Unfortunately, the structure of the review process, as designed by Supt of John White, places significant obstacles and biased information before the Committees and lacks adequate transparency for the public.

ACT 329 clearly tasks BESE with the development of new standards and thus its members must be held accountable throughout this process.

I am asking you, as my BESE Representative, to read my concerns and answer my questions below as soon as possible.

ACT 329 required that the Standards development process begin on July 1, 2015. The first "Organizational" meetings of the Committees were not held until August 19th. The Content Subcommittees only received an orientation, directions, and materials during these meetings and no standards development "work" was accomplished. These Subcommittees are only scheduled for one 6 hour "working" meeting each in October and then one more "if needed" meeting on Dec. 3rd. Do you believe that one collaborative six hour meeting of each Subcommittee is sufficient time to review and develop standards for OUR children, to check for alignment from K - 12th grade, and to propose a new set of standards for submission to the Standards Committee? Will these Subcommittees be allowed to meet outside of the "public" meetings? If so, will the public be notified of these meetings?

There were many complaints from the public regarding malfunctions on the Standards Portal. SREB admitted that the Algebra standards were not visible for Portal reviewers. What has been done to correct these problems? Will you require that SREB/LDOE note these complaints as part of the Portal summary and review?

There was no "verification" process for Portal responders who simply self-identified as "teacher", parent, Higher ED, etc. Will you require SREB to document this fact in ALL of their reports? Will you notify ALL Committee members of this fact so they can properly "weigh" the comments from the Portal?

Will the Portal be changed to allow respondents to simply reply that they "disagree" with a standard? This would put those responses on equal footing with the "agree" participants who do not have to supply "comments". (This suggestion was made repeatedly on Aug 19th).

Why is there no video of the Math and ELA Subcommittee meetings?
Will all future committee meetings be video taped and provided to the public?

Why do the minutes to the meetings FAIL to mention any of the many complaints from the Public and even Committee members regarding problems with the review process and technical malfunctions with the Portal? Will you require that these complaints/problems be recorded as part of the Official Meeting Minutes for every Committee so that it will be a permanent part of the record?

SREB is obviously very pro-CC and funded by Gates, USDOE, and Pearson. Why was SREB VP allowed to speak in support of CC and no counter viewpoint was presented ? Do you feel this represents a fair and balanced "review" of the CC standards?

Looking forward to your follow up and response.

Terri Timmcke
BESE, District 1 (Kenner)

"SINCE WHEN DO AMERICANS NOT FIGHT FOR WHAT IS RIGHT BECAUSE THEY'RE AFRAID
THEY MIGHT LOSE?"
Sen.Jim DeMint