

# **Jefferson Business Council**

## *Executive Committee Meeting*

### *March 12, 2014*

**Attendance:** Tony Ligi, Jim Garvey, Melissa Gibbs, Lee Giorgio, Pat LeBlanc, J Pegues, Robert Weinmann, Bert Wilson

#### **I. Opening Remarks** **Bert Wilson**

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order and introduced guest speaker, Rep. Kirk Talbot

#### **II. Rep. Kirk Talbot**

Rep. Talbot discussed act 25 of 2012 regular session tax rebate for donation to certain school tuition organizations. The bill would authorize a rebate for taxpayers who donate to certain school tuition organizations. Rep Talbot invited the JBC members to attend a luncheon on March 26<sup>th</sup> at Andreas to hear more about this bill.

#### **II. Membership/Financial Report**

Tony Ligi announced that they will be extending membership to the candidates that were approved on the Membership Committee's list and that the JBC budget is based on 55 paying members. At the time of the meeting there were 47 active dues paying members (2 have not paid)

#### **III. Old Business**

##### **HR 3370 - Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act**

Tony Ligi announced that the House of Representatives passed HR 3370, the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act, by an overwhelming 306 – 91

bipartisan majorities. This milestone legislation will avert unaffordable flood insurance premiums for the vast majority of the NFIP's 5.5 million policyholders, including close to 500,000 in Louisiana. Particularly, the Act will reinstate "grandfathering" so owners are protected from unexpected rate spikes; and, remove the home sales trigger, so the real estate markets will settle; a bill summary is attached.

### **Common Core Standards Support**

Attached to the minutes is Common Core Standards support statement and reviewing the many businesses, business organizations, chambers of commerce and education organizations that support the standards. The JBC Press Release is attached to the minutes.

### **Status of Hospital Lease**

Jim Hudson said that he will have further updates after the March 15<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Jefferson Parish Public Schools Poll – Byron LeBlanc**

Mr. Leblanc discussed the outcome of the polls. The polls suggested that most people were not aware of the accomplishments in the Jefferson Parish Public School system over the last year. Jim Garvey spoke of the need for LABI to be engaged in the reform. It was discussed that a PR Campaign is needed to get out the new school board members accomplishments.

### **Update GCR Report**

Mr. Ligi presented to the Executive Committee a motion to fund and updated GCR report with Jefferson Community Foundation. There was a motion by Pat LeBlanc sand a second by Robert Weinmann to authorize up to \$2, 500 for the JBC portion of funding the report.

### **Southeast Coalition of Business Councils**

Mr. Ligi reported that he attended a meeting with Lee Giorgio in February where 19 legislators attended. The discussion was primarily on 1. Higher Education 2. Tort Reform and 3. Common Core.

## **V. General Reports**

### **GNO, Inc. State Legislative Priorities**

The list is attached to the minutes.

## **VI. Upcoming Events**

- ❖ 3/19 Jefferson Parish Council Meeting 10am
- ❖ 3/19 Jefferson Business Council General Membership meeting (4PM)
- ❖ 3/21 Southeast Coalition of Business Council meeting (2pm. At Iberia Bank)
- ❖ 4/1 GNO, Inc. day at the Legislature
- ❖ 4/11 Jefferson Community Foundation Luncheon (11:30am) Airport Hilton
- ❖ 4/16 Jefferson Business Council General Membership meeting (7:30 am)
- ❖ 4/29 Jefferson Chamber / Jefferson Business Council legislative luncheon at Capital (Ellender Room)

## **VI. Adjournment**

**Bert Wilson**

---

## 2014 State Legislative Session Priorities

---

*For the 2014 General State Session, GNO, Inc. will pursue state strategic investment in an International Flight, as well as seed funding of the MediFund enacted in the 2013 Fiscal Session. In terms of business climate, GNO, Inc. will join with others in support of policy changes to enhance workforce capacity, to strengthen higher education delivery, and institute reasonable tort reforms to ensure a fair business legal structure.*

### Priority Areas:

1. **International Flight Attraction**
  - a. Advocate for \$5- \$7.5M (x 2 years) to support international flight package targeting London, with potential local match.
  - b. Partner with LED and Governor's office on a standing International Flight Incentive
2. **MediFund Investment** – Secure investment in the MediFund (Act 320 of 2013) by advocating for \$5+M in supplemental funding be directed to the MediFund for FY 2014-15.
3. **Demand Driven Workforce Solutions** – Collaborate with statewide coalition to advocate for policies that build training capacity, close workforce gaps, and recruit for demand positions. Emerging solutions include:
  - a. Work with LED and EDOs on dual workforce expansion strategy
    - i. **Training** – Build capacity at 2-4 year colleges through the WISE Fund.
    - ii. **Recruitment** – Create Re-patriates program to bring Louisiana grads back home.
  - b. Enable Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC) training eligibility for TOPSTech and TOPSTech Early Start funding – allowing high school and post-high school students to access day training and complete the program in a matter of months
  - c. DOE based Jump Start program for high school career paths/ revise Career Diploma.
4. **Higher Education** – Support policies that strengthen the higher education delivery system.
  - a. Ensure that self generated tuition dollars stay in higher education.
  - b. Executive Budget proposes \$40M WISE workforce funding pool that colleges can compete for to expand high demand curricula and research.
  - c. Raise TOPS standards (may be combined with tuition authority).
5. **Tort Reform** – Support rationale changes to the state's tort laws in order to improve Louisiana's regulatory environment for business entry and expansion. LABI-led package to address jury threshold, "judge shopping," and excessive litigation by public bodies.
6. **Criminal Justice Reforms** – Support the "Smart on Crime" package to be led by the Pelican Institute to revise sentencing, parole, and re-entry statutes to create efficiencies in the criminal justice system that will curb incarceration rates and expenses, while focusing law enforcement and public resources on violent crime. Part of national movement, modeled after recent Texas reforms.

**Louisiana Businesses  
and Organizations  
Support Louisiana's  
Common Core State  
Standards**

# ExxonMobil.



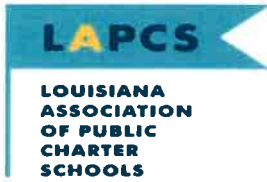
# ALBEMARLE®



We believe it is imperative that all Louisiana students be prepared for the challenges of a 21<sup>st</sup>-century economy that relies on education, innovation, and technology.

We believe that all Louisiana students can learn, meet, and exceed the high bar we set for them. Over the past two decades, Louisiana has strategically and consistently elevated the educational standards and benchmarks that define proficiency and success – and students, teachers, and schools have met and, in many cases, exceeded these expectations. More Louisiana students are on grade level, graduating from high school, passing Advanced Placement tests, and achieving college-ready scores on the ACT.

Despite progress, we believe student achievement in Louisiana must continue to significantly improve to meet the demands of a modern economy. While LEAP tests show that 74% of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in our state are able to read on grade level, more rigorous state-by-state comparison tests show that only 23% of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are proficient in reading. This means Louisiana's students are stuck, struggling, and falling far behind their peers in other parts of the country – and the world – at a time when their growth is imperative for their success in both college and career and beyond.



**We believe the Common Core State Standards will build on solid educational foundation and accelerate our students' path to academic and professional success.** Because Louisiana's policy requires updating standards periodically, our state took advantage of the opportunity to adopt higher standards that would provide all students with deeper, richer learning experiences that will prepare them for the challenges of the real world, college, and career. In 2010, our public education system joined the vast majority of U.S. states in adopting new, more rigorous standards for math and English, recognizing the importance of raising our expectations and measuring our progress against national benchmarks developed by experienced educators and renowned experts.

**We believe those closest to students – parents, teachers, local schools, districts, and states – should have the freedom and autonomy to make decisions that are in the best interests of their students.** Louisiana's policy sets the standards while providing local school districts complete authority to decide the most appropriate curriculum and textbooks to meet these standards.





We believe that progress has been made to ensure that empowered teachers, school leaders, and districts are prepared, knowledgeable, supported, and effective in their efforts to help Louisiana's students reach higher levels of achievement and succeed with higher standards. The foundation for success is in place, as thousands of Louisiana teachers have been trained and teacher teams have convened in every school across the state to support one another in the transition. Additionally, 86% of districts in Louisiana have upgraded their technology to ensure that more students have access, a critical component for preparedness for the jobs of the future. Louisiana's years of preparation for higher standards puts us well ahead of other states in readiness.

We believe the Common Core State Standards will give our children what they deserve – the opportunity to compete to the best of their ability locally, nationally, and globally. Louisiana has a dynamic and changing economy that now more than ever is demanding higher levels of education and job skills from our citizens. More rigorous standards in public education will help our state develop the qualified professional and highly-skilled workforce we need to drive our economy and make Louisiana's citizens competitive across the nation and around the world.



PRESS RELEASE ON ACTIONS OF JEFFERSON PARISH COUNCIL RELATIVE TO  
HOSPITAL LEASE

2/7/14

The Jefferson Business Council appreciates and supports the action of the Jefferson Parish Council (by 4-3 vote) approving the negotiation of a contract with Nemzoff and Co., LLC to analyze the proposals submitted by Ochsner, Children's and HCA to lease East Jefferson and West Jefferson Hospitals. Such analysis, as suggested by Nemzoff, at least should include an in depth review of the proposals of the three final suitors to insure that there is no misunderstanding as to the contents of the bids, development of selection criteria and a rating of each proposal based on the criteria, a calculation and comparison of transaction value and the development of a list of transaction criteria (essential deal terms necessary to protect Jefferson Parish) and confirmation of which criteria the suitors are willing to provide.

We believe that with such a professional, independent analysis in hand, all members of the Jefferson Parish Council will then be best suited to make a studied decision on which of the three suitors is best positioned to successfully continue and improve the mission of East and West Jefferson Hospitals. Such analysis will also give the citizens of Jefferson Parish a measure to evaluate the reasoning and decision of each council member.

Finally, we understand that this process has made the many fine and dedicated employees of our hospitals very concerned about their future; however this is a decision that will impact the future of healthcare in our parish and that will be felt by every resident of this Parish. A failure to act would likewise be impactful. With this in mind we urge that a full deliberative process and well thought out result not be sacrificed to haste.

For more information contact Tony Ligi, Executive Director, Jefferson Business Council at 289-3023