

# BESE committee OKs Arveson

BATON ROUGE (AP) — A committee of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education on Tuesday selected Raymond Arveson as state education superintendent out of five other candidates.

The committee voted 8-1, with member Frank Snelling of Monroe dissenting. Snelling had complained that when Arveson took over in January, he said he would not be a candidate for the permanent job.

Two other members, Keith Johnson and Lois Jones, both of New Orleans, didn't vote.

The action will be made formal at BESE's April 23 meeting.

Arveson, retired superintendent of East Baton Rouge schools, has been acting state superintendent since January when Wilmer Cody left.

Arveson's appointment, if approved, comes with a \$95,000-a-year salary plus benefits.

BESE president John Bertrand said he saw no value

in the entire process in which several candidates were interviewed.

Bertrand, of Crowley, noted that a new board will be elected in the fall and probably will want to appoint its own superintendent.

A new board was to have been elected last year but a redistricting plan, necessary because of population losses, was not in place at the time.

The Legislature is working on a new reapportionment plan this session.

Bertrand had previously urged the board simply to name Arveson, 71, as superintendent for the remainder of this term.

Board members have been pressured by school superintendents around the state to wipe out the "acting" status for Arveson.

Johnson wanted the board to conduct a national search for a new superintendent.