

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 10, 2023

The Educational Committee met at the Claiborne Parish School Board, Homer, Louisiana, at two o'clock p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2023.

Present: EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE: Perry Anderson (Chair) Linda Knox, Stewart Griffin

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Stevens, Roy Mardis, David Nokes

Mr. Anderson, Educational Committee Chair, opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Kennedy began with discussion on possible principal job description changes. He asked Mr. Griffin, Board Member, who drafted the amendment, to clarify the rationale to amend the current job description. Mr. Griffin stated a few reasons; such as, sending a visual message to students that their principal's primary concern is the acquisition and retention of knowledge through the learning experience, enhancing classroom management and direct observance of teacher's learning objectives procedures. Superintendent Kennedy then asked Ms. Alex Feaster (Homer High Principal) and Ms. Kelli Tims (Homer Jr. High Principal) to explain more in-depth the TAP Program and how it ensures these things are being done now. Ms. Feaster and Ms. Tims are each former master teachers. They detailed the walk-throughs performed in the classrooms and stated TAP encourages school leaders and teachers to reflect on best practices and to continuously strive to become more effective for their students. Because of the support provided by the master and mentor teachers, the observation process, and the participation in the weekly cluster meetings, everyone is working toward common goals specifically to meet the needs of our students, while at the same time increasing the quality of their instruction. It was recommended to amend the current principal job description to include the principal will perform multiple observations a 'minimum of three (3) per teacher per semester' and the principal maintains a presence in all classrooms as much as possible supervising instruction as the instructional leader 'to the greatest extent possible. This item will be added to the July Regular Called Meeting agenda to request approval.

Next, Superintendent Kennedy updated the Board attendees on the master teacher hires. Currently, Homer Jr. High is seeking two (2) master teachers; Homer High has one (1) master teacher; Summerfield has two (2), with Ms. Lori Lewis recently being named as a master teacher; Homer Elementary has two (2) in place;

and Hayneville Jr./Sr. recently named Ms. Tinique Beene as a master teacher; Haynesville Elementary is in their first year of best practices in the TAP Program.

Superintendent Kennedy informed the Board that the state legislature did not pass teacher pay raises in the legislative session this year. They did pass a \$2,000 stipend for teachers and \$1,000 stipend for support staff for one (1) year. As more information about the stipend is learned, a date will be determined to issue to the staff.

Superintendent Kennedy stated the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved an appeals process for qualifying high school seniors who do not meet the state's LEAP test scoring requirement for graduation. Of the eight states that still require minimum standardized test scores for graduation, only Louisiana has not offered students an appeals process for that requirement. The new policy provides an appeal option for seniors who have demonstrated the knowledge and skills sufficient to graduate, but struggle with difficulties related to standardized assessments, such as English Language learners and students with other learning challenges. Under the new appeals process, students meeting certain academic criteria will have the option to appeal if they have not met the assessment graduation requirement on both exams of any content pair. Students may not file an appeal until their senior year, and must meet specific requirements.

An update on the Science of Reading was shared with the Board. Two years ago, the State implemented this intervention-based approach to teaching and learning. It requires all educators (K – 3), plus administrators, to receive training and become certified in the Science of Reading. This has to be completed by September 1, 2024. Presently, 77% of our teachers have completed the approximate 50 hours of training to receive certification. Superintendent Kennedy stated he is proud of the number of teachers who have completed this training.

Lastly, Mr. Kennedy discussed teacher pay incentives. At this time, TAP teachers can receive \$2,000 performance pay, which correlates to their student growth. This money is funded with the ESSER grant. Eventually, this pay will need to come from elsewhere. He suggested possibly earmarking indirect monies received through grants and surpluses in accounts to support the TAP performance pay and possible stipends for all district employees. This would be a way to reinvest back into our employees.

Mr. William Kennedy, Secretary
Claiborne Parish School Board