

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

March 16, 2023

The Claiborne Parish School Board met in a regular session at the Claiborne Parish School Board Office in Homer, Louisiana, at six o'clock March 16, 2023 with the following members:

Present: Patricia Stevens, Stewart Griffin, Yolanda Coleman, Perry Anderson, Linda Knox, William Maddox, Tommy Davidson, Roy Mardis, David Nokes, Mark Perot

Absent:

There was also present Mr. William Kennedy, Secretary of the Board.

Mr. Maddox, Board President, opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the Special Called Meeting and Regular Meeting held February 9, 2023, which had been emailed to the Board Members previously, were approved.

Dr. Patricia Bates, President of the Claiborne Parish Education Endowment Fund, presented an initial check in the amount of \$1,843.00. Additional money will be needed for the presentation of test scores for all students in the parish. This money is to recognize students with outstanding performance on last year's test. It will be distributed to the students who scored advanced or mastery on last year's test soon. This is a great incentive and encouragement for students to do their best.

Ms. Claudia Haynes, TAP Coordinator, reported on the Reimagine Grant. Claiborne Parish applied for the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDOE) Reimagine School Systems Grant, and we received a grant for Phase I during the last school year. Phase I includes identifying action-specific milestones and deliverables, as well as working closely with Empower Schools to complete all milestones to develop a strong foundation for implementation. Progress is communicated with the LDOE through 1-2 progress monitoring meetings. Over the last several months, we have completed Phase I. Phase II consists of approval and implementing plans developed in Phase I with continued support from Empower Schools to address challenges. In December, we were approved for Phase II. Ms. Haynes concluded with the next steps are to continue to implement the TAP and Best Practice model this academic year and beyond this year to expand by increasing Master Teacher support at Summerfield and Homer High as they transition from Best Practices to fully operational TAP schools.

Superintendent Kennedy requested the Board to approve to advertise for (2) school buses. These would be paid for out of ESSER II funds. These are used/refurbished buses with typically between 30,000 – 40,000 miles on them and 2016 or newer models. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Anderson. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Kennedy discussed rescheduling the April 6th board meeting, due to Spring Break being during this week. He recommended Thursday, April 13th. A motion to reschedule to April 13th was made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Davidson. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Kennedy requested approval of the 2023-2024 school calendar. Motion was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Ms. Knox to approve the request. The first day for students will be Tuesday, August 8th, 2023. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Superintendent Kennedy requested to approve policy revisions – JDD (Suspension) and JDE (Expulsion). These were previously sent with incorrect language regarding recommending expulsion on the fourth suspension for drugs and weapons. The Board’s previous policies included recommendation for expulsion on the fourth suspension for any offenses. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Ms. Stevens. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Kennedy requested approval of a Pupil Progression Addendum. The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved an update to Bulletin 1566. It states that beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, and continuing through the summer following the 2023-2024 school year, any student enrolled in third or fourth grade and scoring below grade-level on the end-of-the-year LDOE-approved literacy assessment will receive a minimum of 30 hours of literacy instruction during the summer. Motion to approve the Pupil Progression Addendum was made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Davidson. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Ms. Turner briefly discussed the February financials.

At this time, Mr. Anderson made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss possible litigation on behalf of J.F., pursuant to La. R.S.42:17(A)(2), seconded by Mr. Davidson. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Ms. Stevens made a motion to close the executive session, seconded by Mr. Davidson. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 10 yes, 0 no. Mr. Anderson made a motion to proceed in accordance with the recommendation of our attorney as set out in his memo of today’s date. Motion was seconded by Ms. Stevens. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Superintendent’s Report:

Personnel Actions – March 16, 2023

I. To be Hired:

a. Certified Teaching or Administrative Positions

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing
Destiny Smith-Homer Elem	Teacher	2/13/23	LTS
Essie Winzer- SPED	Social Worker	2/27/23	New Position

b. Classified, Support, Bus Drivers or Other Non-Certificated Positions

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing
Lona Logan-Hay Elem	Para	2/13/23	Donna Gryder

II. Resignations, Retirements:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason

III. Transfers:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason

1. Superintendent Kennedy is in the process of applying for Jumpstart Summers. This will allow students the chance to pursue Career Technical Education (CTE) opportunities and receive an industry-based certificate. We have applied for 4 different pathways. Students would be able to earn Carnegie units and get paid a stipend up to \$1,500 for completion.
2. About a week ago all high schools took their Junior and Senior students to visit Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTCC) on their Junior-Senior Day. Also, NLTCC administrators and teachers came to Homer High to visit with Juniors and Seniors from our district.
3. Reminder - Ethics training is due for board members by March 31st.
4. Adyline Tinsley, 5th Grade student at Haynesville Jr./Sr., has been named as a State Student of the Year finalist. She is one of only eight 5th graders throughout the state chosen as finalists. We are extremely proud of Adyline! We wish her congratulations and best of luck in Baton Rouge at the Louisiana Department of Education awards program on April 19th, where the winner will be named.
5. We have been spotlighting students, parents, and educators on our social media platforms who are exemplifying and demonstrating our new 'Living the Vision' campaign.
6. Along with our new vision, we have started an effort to rebrand our district logo. Superintendent Kennedy has requested principals ask their students to submit artwork. Thus far, we have received approximately 60 submissions. He showed several of the designs received to the Board and commended our school's talented artists.
7. Ms. Terri Fedrick has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. This represents the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

William Maddox, President
Claiborne Parish School Board

ATTEST:

Mr. William Kennedy, Secretary
Claiborne Parish School Board