

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 29, 2022

The Finance Committee met at the Claiborne Parish School Board Office, Homer, Louisiana, at four o'clock p.m. on Thursday, September 29, 2022.

Present: FINANCE COMMITTEE: Linda Knox, Shelley Malsam

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Norman Meadors, Yolanda Coleman, Dr. Robert Haynes, William Maddox, Chris Chandler

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

Ms. Fedrick, Business Manager, via Zoom, discussed the amendments to the 2021-22 budget and the proposed budget for the 2022-23 school year. She explained that all of the district funds came out very well. The General Fund ended the 2021-22 fiscal year with a surplus of \$918,685. This increase is due mainly to a decrease in total actual expenditures for 2021-2022 of \$191,553 or approximately 1% from original budgeted amounts adopted in September 2021. The Parish-wide maintenance fund continues to have a good fund balance. The fund had a deficit balance for 2021-2022 of \$383,870 due to the rising costs of fuel prices, repairs and maintenance costs to buildings, and vehicle repair costs. The School Food Service fund accounts for receipt and disbursement of funds used to provide students with nutritional meals. The General Fund transferred the budgeted amount of \$25,000 in MFP funds to the School Lunch Fund during 2021-2022, a decrease of the 2020-2021 transfer of \$175,000. Since joining the CEP Program providing free meals to all of our students, the fund balance continues to grow. Ms. Fedrick explained the proposed 2022-2023 budget is projecting the amount of revenue that will be collected from various sources. The overall goal is to make conservative projections that underestimate rather than overestimate the amount of revenues that will be available to the School Board during the fiscal year 2022-2023. An example given was the employer contribution rate for teacher's retirement decreased from 25.2% in the 2022 fiscal year to 24.8% in fiscal year 2023. Additionally, there was an increase in health insurance for both employee and employer share of the cost of 5% on January 1, 2022.

Mr. Guillory, Maintenance and Transportation Supervisor, detailed several of the maintenance capital expenditures. They included installing air conditioning to the Haynesville gyms and painting at Haynesville Elementary, Haynesville Jr./Sr. High, and the Summerfield main building. The remaining painting at Summerfield will be completed next summer. New locks have been put in place at Summerfield, with all

buildings being secure. Mr. Guillory would like to work on outdoor lighting and plans on applying again in February for the Public Service Commission lighting grant, which he was awarded a couple of years ago. He would also like to concentrate on upgrading cafeteria kitchen equipment, such as freezers, refrigerators, steamers, and serving lines. The awning at Summerfield is just waiting for the contractor to come and build. A storage building being built at the Homer campus is 75% complete. The bus situation for the district is great because the district has been able to purchase 14 regular buses and 1 special education bus in the amount of \$960,000 with ESSER money.

Ms. Holland, Technology and Grant Supervisor, continued with technology capital expenditures made with ESSER funds received. Initially, the ESSER money was in response to Covid in 2020, but has expanded into network security since. Purchases include 94 Promethean boards in classrooms, 607 replacement Chromebooks, along with teacher Chromebooks, 1,300 Verizon hotspots, 350 AT&T hotspots, 147 Bluetooth headsets, temperature kiosks, and Endpoint detection has been installed on every computer in our school district. Our district is now able to provide professional development training for teachers to become Google for Education Certified Educators. Upcoming projects consist of the implementation of 100% managed switches. This will allow our technicians to monitor our network security 24/7. We currently have bids open until October 6th for camera systems on all campuses and FM audio in our elementary classes. The camera systems will be cloud-based, and have AI and redaction capabilities. Ms. Holland concluded stating the district will be in great shape for many years to come.

At the last board meeting, Ms. Coleman inquired if the School Board had an Investment Policy. This afternoon, Superintendent Kennedy stated the School Board does have a Cash Management and Investments Policy. Mr. Kennedy has emailed his contacts with First Guaranty Bank and Gibbsland Bank and Trust to ask if they can offer a higher interest rate on our investment funds to compete with LAMP's rising rates. If they are unable to offer competitive rates, the district may consider moving a portion of our investment funds to LAMP, if their rates continue to rise and stabilize. There is no penalty to transfer funds into and from LAMP.

Superintendent Kennedy discussed the details of the TAP Performance pay structure. All certified teachers teaching at a TAP school campus are eligible for performance-based compensation supplements based on percentages and categories. The first is teacher instructional growth and the second is student achievement growth. If the goals are reached, the per teacher amount available in the performance pay pool is \$2,000. The amount that is available in each teacher pool equals the number of teachers in that pool times the per teacher amount. Teachers will "draw" from available funds based on performance. School level administrators will also receive performance supplements set at \$4,000. Their performance is based on School Wide Achievement Score, TAP School Review Score, and Student Achievement Growth. Mr. Kennedy stated he would like to bring before the Board at the next regular board meeting to ask for approval.

Mr. Kennedy informed the Board that the Superintendent Secretary salary is compensated \$2,000/year (\$166.67 for the Regular Board meetings each month). This includes the actual meeting, preparation for the

meeting, the minutes and follow-up after the meetings. He asked the Board if they would consider approving at the next board meeting, including a stipend for Special Called Meetings and Committee Meetings. Mr. Kennedy also stated possibly setting dates for quarterly Finance Committee meetings.

In conclusion, Superintendent Kennedy stated the district has a professional development calendar. There is constant professional development on our Tier I curriculum, which is Zearn, Eureka, Learnzilla, EL Education and Science of Reading. These are led by state-recommended vendors that we contract with and Ms. Taylor works on providing Early Learning training. Ms. Prior provides autism training for the Special Education teachers and paraprofessionals regularly. Ms. Brooks has created the LEAD program in order to help grow leaders/administrators in our district. Ms. Holland ended with stating the district offers tuition that provides teachers the opportunity to get their certification through the iTeach program and paraprofessionals have a virtual opportunity to earn their Bachelor's Degree and teaching certification through REACH University.

Mr. William Kennedy, Secretary
Claiborne Parish School Board