

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 7, 2023

The Finance Committee met at the Homer High Cottage, Homer, Louisiana, at four-thirty p.m. on Thursday, September 7, 2023.

Present: FINANCE COMMITTEE: Linda Knox, Mark Perot, Tommy Davidson

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Stewart Griffin, Patricia Stevens, William Maddox, Roy Mardis, David Nokes

Ms. Turner, Business Manager, discussed the amendments to the 2022-23 budget and the proposed budget for the 2023-24 school year. The General Fund 2023-24 budgeted expenditures reflect the 2022-23 actual ending amounts with adjustments having been made for factors we are aware of at the present time. The employer contribution rate for teacher's retirement decreased from 24.8% in the 2023 fiscal year to 24.1% in fiscal year 2024. There is also a projected increase in health insurance for both employee and employer share of the cost of 6.15% for January 1, 2024. Ms. Turner shared we have experienced an increase for costs of providing other operational items to the School Board during fiscal year 2022-23. Those areas include property insurance, utilities, diesel and the cost of repairs and maintenance to buildings and vehicles. The General Fund ended the 2022-23 fiscal year with a surplus of \$1,363,225. This increase was due to a decrease in total actual expenditures for 2022-23 of \$117,845 from original budgeted amounts adopted in September, 2022. We have one parish-wide maintenance tax (5.23 mills) and three district taxes. The Parish-wide District Maintenance Fund continues to have a good fund balance. The fund had a deficit balance for 2022-23 of \$204,425 due to the rising cost of fuel prices, repairs and maintenance cost to buildings, and vehicle repair costs. Costs will need to be monitored closely during the 2023-24 fiscal year in order to continue maintaining a healthy fund balance in the future. The General Fund transferred the budgeted amount of \$25,000 in MFP funds to the School Lunch Fund during 2022-23, which was the same amount transferred for 2021-22. Since joining the CEP Program providing free meals to all our students, the fund balance continues to grow. The Federal funds we receive supplement our Special Education programs, Pre-school programs, tuition payments, and Vocational Education programs. The budgets for federal funds reflect total funds available for 2022-23 per the Louisiana Department of Education. Most of these programs are cost reimbursement programs. During the 2021-2022 year the School Board received American Recovery Act funds from the state and federal government to enable the School

Board to respond to the rebuilding of the schools since the Covid 19 pandemic. These funds are set to expire in September 2024 and decisions will have to be made about which programs to continue thereafter.

Mr. William Kennedy, Secretary
Claiborne Parish School Board