

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

November 9, 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 November 9, 2023 with the following members:

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

Absent: *Stewart Griffin*

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

Mr. Davidson, Board Member, opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the Regular Called meeting held October 5, 2023, which had been emailed to the Board Members previously, were approved.

In recognition of Red Ribbon Week, Ms. Christy Chandler, Alternative School Principal and Drug Free/Safe School Coordinator, recognized the following essay winners: Grades K-1 – **Isabella Johnson**, Haynesville Elementary; Grades 2-3 – **Landree Garner**, Haynesville Elementary; Grades 4-5 – **Hadley Ursua**, Haynesville Elementary; and Grades 6-8 – **Ashton Ford**, Summerfield, and 9-12 – **DeVontae Henderson**, Homer High. Retired State Trooper, Mr. Michael Allen, presented each student with a certificate and a \$25 gift card. Each student was congratulated for the hard work on their essays.

Reverend David Browder, M.E.N. in Action, Inc. Vice-President, introduced himself to the Board and began with stating the purpose and mission of Men in Action, Inc. They are a non-profit organization with the purpose of serving as a problem-solving, research and educational resource center for the community. As well as creating an intellectual and economic base designed to identify and address critical problems that effect our community, family and children. The organization consists of members from various denominations that hope to address areas of education, recreation, crime prevention, unemployment, legal services, public relations, medical and health services and counseling. Recently, in recognition of their one-year anniversary, the organization held a banquet at the Homer High School Cafeteria, with Dr. Alexandra Feaster, Homer High Principal, as the keynote speaker, which was very well attended. In conclusion, Mr. Mardis, Board Member and Founder/President, of M.E.N. in Action stated they would be available to assist with certain needs and help to be a part of the solution.

Mr. Scott Martin, Child and Welfare Attendance Supervisor, introduced Ms. Tammisha Dupree, KARE Program Coordinator and Ms. Christy Chandler, Alternative School Program Principal. Ms. Dupree stated there are currently 9 students in the program. She stated the juniors took their ACT exams this week and the students are preparing for their End-of-Course testing in December. The students work through the Odysseyware program to obtain credits needed to graduate. Ms. Dupree introduced a former student of the KARE program, Ms. Jayeden Johnson. Ms. Johnson graduated in 2022 and is currently a sophomore student at Southern Arkansas University. Ms. Johnson thanked Ms. Dupree and the KARE program for helping her to be able to graduate and succeed. Ms. Chandler updated the Board on the Alternative Program. She stated there are currently 9 students in the program. Ms. Chandler stated she works with the student who may be having social, behavioral or emotional issues. She teaches them for every choice, there is a consequence. She also emphasizes to them to make good choices and learn from your mistakes. They discuss goal setting, character development, respect, and perseverance. She maintains constant contact with the parents and Mr. Martin. The students continue their school work through the Odysseyware or Google Classroom platforms. Mr. Martin commended Ms. Chandler and Ms. Dupree for their dedication to the success of their students and for going above and beyond in supporting these students.

Superintendent Kennedy stated the tremendous impact both have on the students and Claiborne Parish is a better place because of their commitment to their students. Each of these programs are a valuable asset to our district.

Ms. Turner informed the Board that it will not be necessary to transfer money from the '78 sales tax fund this year for the 13th check. There also will be an increase in the amount paid to district employees due to an increase in sales tax collection. The check will be distributed on the first Friday in December. The estimated amounts are \$3,522.32 for professional staff and \$1,514.60 for support staff.

Ms. Turner requested to approve the plan for the 2023-24 stipend. During the 2023 Regular Session, the Legislature appropriated funds for a one-time stipend payment for Certificated and Support staff. The appropriation provides stipends in the amount of \$2,000 for Certificated staff and \$1,000 for Support staff. If approved, the stipend payment distribution for School Board employees is scheduled for Friday, January 5, 2024, along with the 15th check payment. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Davidson. Motion passed by a vote of 9 yes, 0 no.

Ms. Turner briefly discussed the October 2023 financials and provided a Corrective Action Plan Update. She stated we are beginning to receive reimbursements for past purchases made available through grants. The district is also starting to receive revenue money for the maintenance fund. Ms. Turner informed the Board that the auditors have completed their school audits and there were no significant findings.

Superintendent’s Report:

- 1. Personnel Activity that has occurred since the October 5, 2023 meeting:

Personnel Actions – November 9, 2023

I. To be Hired:

a. Certified Teaching or Administrative Positions

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing
Felicia Kennedy-Homer Jr.	Teacher	10-02-23	Earlexia Daye

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

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing
LaDarla Dixon	SPED secretary	10-16-23	
Zenita Jenkins-Homer	Café Tech	10-16-23	Shirley Aubrey
Willie Norton-Homer	Café Tech	10-16-23	Annie Shelton

II. Resignations, Retirements:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason
Jodi McClure- Homer Elem	Para	11-06-23	Resigned

III. Transfers:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason
Slade Frith	Teacher	6/26/22	Replace Linda Robinson

- 2. Ms. Sheppard – Attended LASAFAP Conference in Baton Rouge a couple of weeks ago. She learned that there will be getting additional funds through ESSER III in the amount of \$18,421. Due to the deadline of ESSER II, the remaining balances were \$10,912 and \$561 for ESSER II Formula. After the bid process was complete, Open-Gate metal detectors have been purchased and should arrive December 9th – 23rd. Ms. Sheppard has been working with Homer High on their TAP Best Practices and making the best data-driven decisions.
- 3. Ms. Haynes – Update on the DLT (District Leadership Team) meeting held this past week - The focus and priority is being placed on new employees. New employees made known their concerns on

needing additional training on technology programs and resources that are being used in the district. The district has purchased a program called Screen Castify which allows the user to hear and see step-by-step voiceover instructions on any program. Ms. Haynes sent surveys to new teachers and teachers hired within the last five years to learn areas that they would like support. The LDOE has partnered with NIET to use their TAP rubric learning programs. Eventually, this is what the standards will be throughout the state. Since our district has already implemented this program in the past two years, our district is ahead of the game.

4. Ms. Prior – The Pre-K3 program has possible solutions for funding. The SEL (Social Emotional Learning) screenings will take place after the Thanksgiving holiday. The results will be compiled afterwards and the student will be placed in tiers to be able to provide interventions.
5. Ms. Hilton – Testing began this week. Students in the 3rd and 4th grade were asked to read a novel and then, were tested on it. The Student of the Year selections have been made. The winners are now working on their portfolios. When we return from Thanksgiving break, their portfolios will be uploaded to the State and they will compete in the Regionals.
6. Mr. Martin –He and Ms. Haynes are constantly working on certification for teachers and helping with getting the Praxis passed to become certified. To date, we have had 6 students and parents turned over for truancy.
7. Mr. Brooks – He is currently working on a Rural Grant with Vo-Tech. Hoping at some point, this would possibly allow vocational teachers to come to our campuses. Veteran’s Day programs will be at Homer Elementary and Haynesville Elementary tomorrow (November 10th) and a Flag Retirement Ceremony will be at Summerfield on Monday (November 13th).
8. Superintendent Kennedy will plan a date for a Long-Range Committee Meeting and Finance Committee Meeting in December. He also will schedule a School Improvement Plan in December.
9. The election process will begin in December for the Athens, Homer and Western Pineview Consolidated School District tax.
10. Reminder – A few board members need additional CLU hours.
11. Homer and Haynesville football teams are headed into the playoffs.

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