

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 11, 2023

The Finance Committee met at the Claiborne Parish School Board Office, Homer, Louisiana, at four o'clock p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2023.

Present: FINANCE COMMITTEE: Linda Knox, Tommy Davidson

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Stevens, Stewart Griffin, Yolanda Coleman, Perry Anderson, Roy Mardis, David Nokes

Superintendent Kennedy presented the Board information regarding a possible Athens, Homer, Western Pineview Consolidated School District maintenance tax on the ballot of the election in April 2024. He shared the background of the closures of the schools in Pineview and Athens. When Pineview school closed in 2009, the district was divided between Summerfield and Homer. Until a maintenance tax to support the new Summerfield and Eastern Pineview Consolidated District passed in 2020, there were no maintenance taxes collected in the old Pineview district to support maintenance of the school buildings. Likewise, since the Athens school closure in 2012, there has been no maintenance taxes collected to date to support the maintenance of school buildings. Superintendent Kennedy provided maps of the district lines for the parish in 2008 and as of today. Currently, Homer is paying 11.96 mills (approximately \$380,000). If passed, the millage would decrease to approximately 7 mills, combining Athens, Homer, Western Pineview into one district and supporting the Homer schools with approximately \$400,000 - \$420,000 in maintenance funds. The duration of this tax would be 10 years.

Mr. David Nokes, Board Member, suggested the Board consider a single parish-wide maintenance tax for the Homer, Haynesville, and Summerfield districts (the entire parish). Mr. Nokes stated he believes it is the fairest structure for each district in the future. There were questions and discussion in regards to how the money would be prioritized and who would determine where the money is spent. In order to bring in the same amount of money to support the maintenance of all the schools, it is projected the district would need to levy a tax for approximately 7.5 – 8 mills. If passed, this parish-wide maintenance tax would supersede any individual district maintenance taxes.

At this time, the meeting was concluded due to the Regular Called board meeting scheduled at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. William Kennedy, Secretary
Claiborne Parish School Board