

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

February 8, 2024

The Claiborne Parish School Board met in a regular session at the Claiborne Parish School Board office in Homer, Louisiana, at six o'clock February 8, 2024 with the following members:

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

*Absent:*

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

Mr. Anderson, Board Vice-President, opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Before the nominations were made for board officers, Mr. Maddox, Board President, stated if he is nominated, he will decline. At this point, he turned over the gavel to Mr. Anderson. Mr. Davidson made a motion to nominate Mr. Anderson as President, seconded by Mr. Nokes. Mr. Anderson was named President by acclamation.

A motion was made by Mr. Mardis to nominate Ms. Coleman as Vice-President, seconded by Mr. Davidson. Ms. Coleman was named Vice-President by acclamation.

The minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held January 9, 2024, the Regular Meeting held January 11, 2024, and the Educational Committee Meeting held on January 25, 2024, which had been emailed to the Board Members previously, were approved.

Mr. Anderson, Board President, stated that due to the change in President, Mr. Maddox will be included in the Standing Committees for 2024. This will be reviewed and determined after discussion between Mr. Anderson and Mr. Maddox. This item will be brought back at the next board meeting to approve the 2024 Standing Committees.

Superintendent Kennedy requested to approve a resolution to call an election to be held in Claiborne Parish School District, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana to authorize the levy of an ad valorem tax. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Nokes, seconded by Ms. Knox. Mr. Maddox expressed his concerns in regards to a parish-wide tax. The motion passed to approve by a roll call vote, 9 yays, 1 nay.

|                  | YAYS | NAYS | ABSTAINED | ABSENT |
|------------------|------|------|-----------|--------|
| Patricia Stevens | X    |      |           |        |
| Stewart Griffin  | X    |      |           |        |
| Yolanda Coleman  | X    |      |           |        |
| Perry Anderson   | X    |      |           |        |
| Linda Knox       | X    |      |           |        |
| William Maddox   |      | X    |           |        |
| Tommy Davidson   | X    |      |           |        |
| Roy Mardis       | X    |      |           |        |
| David Nokes      | X    |      |           |        |
| Mark Perot       | X    |      |           |        |

The following resolution was offered by Mr. David Nokes and seconded by Ms. Linda Knox:

## RESOLUTION

A resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in Claiborne Parish School District, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein, making application to the State Bond Commission, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish School Board of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Claiborne Parish School District, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), that:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, and under the authority conferred by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, including Article VIII, Section 13(C) Third thereof, the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the District on **SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024**, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said election there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

### PROPOSITION (MILLAGE)

Shall Claiborne Parish School District, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), levy a special tax of 9 mills on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$1,017,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2024 and ending with the year 2033, for the purpose of constructing, improving, maintaining and supporting school houses and buildings and other school property within said Parish, provided if the tax is approved, the tax millages in Haynesville School District No. 11, Homer School District No. 13 and Summerfield and Eastern Pineview Consolidated School District shall not be levied?

SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Election. A Notice of Special Election shall be published in the official journal of the District once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election, which Notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference the same as if it were set forth herein in full.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the publication of the Notice of Election, the President of the Governing Authority is authorized and directed to make any amendments to the foregoing proposition that may be required to comply with any state or federal regulatory agencies.

SECTION 3. Canvass. This Governing Authority shall meet at its regular meeting place, the Parish School Board Office, 415 E. Main Street, Homer, Louisiana, on **THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024**, at **SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the results of the said special election.

SECTION 4. Polling Places. The polling places for the precincts in the District are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be the same persons as those designated in accordance with law..

SECTION 5. Election Commissioners; Voting Machines. The officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, shall hold the said special election as herein provided, and shall make due returns of said election for the meeting of the Governing Authority to be held as provided in Section 3 hereof. All registered voters in the District will be entitled to vote at the special election, and voting machines shall be used.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Officers. The Secretary of the Governing Authority is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish to said election officers in ample time for the holding of said election, the necessary equipment, forms and other paraphernalia essential to the proper holding of said election and the President and/or Secretary of the Governing Authority are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the election.

SECTION 7. Furnishing Election Call to Election Officials. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Clerk of Court and *Ex-Officio* Parish Custodian of Voting Machines of Claiborne Parish and the Registrar of Voters of Claiborne Parish, as notification of the special election, in order that each may prepare for said election and perform their respective functions as required by law.

SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission. Application is made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the special election as herein provided, and in the event said election carries for further consent and authority to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein. A certified copy of this resolution shall be

forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of this Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of this application.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 9

NAYS: 1

ABSENT: 0

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

EXHIBIT "A"

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Pursuant to the provisions of a resolution adopted by the Parish School Board of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Claiborne Parish School District, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), on February 8, 2024, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held within the District on **SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024**, and that at the said election there will be submitted to all registered voters in the District qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION  
(MILLAGE)

Shall Claiborne Parish School District, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), levy a special tax of 9 mills on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$1,017,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2024 and ending with the year 2033, for the purpose of constructing, improving, maintaining and supporting school houses and buildings and other school property within said Parish, provided if the tax is approved, the tax millages in Haynesville School District No. 11, Homer School District No. 13 and Summerfield and Eastern Pineview Consolidated School District shall not be levied?

The said special election will be held at each and every polling place in the Parish of Claiborne, which polls will open at seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and close at eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541.

The polling places at the precincts in the District are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, shall be those persons designated according to law.

The estimated cost of this election as determined by the Secretary of State based upon the provisions of Chapter 8-A of Title 18 and actual costs of similar elections is \$41,000.

Notice is further given that a portion of the monies collected from the tax described in the Proposition shall be remitted to certain state and statewide retirement systems in the manner required by law.

The said special election will be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 5 and Chapter 6-A of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, and the officers appointed to hold the said election, as provided in this Notice of Special Election, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, will make due returns thereof to said Governing Authority, and NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Governing Authority will meet at its regular meeting place, the Parish School Board Office, 415 E. Main Street, Homer, Louisiana, on **THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024**, at **SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the results of the said special election. All registered voters of the District are entitled to vote at said special election and voting machines will be used.

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF CLAIBORNE

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Parish School Board of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), the governing authority of Claiborne Parish School District, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of the proceedings taken by the Governing Authority on February 8, 2024, ordering and calling a special election to be held in Claiborne Parish School District, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein, making application to the State Bond Commission, and providing other matters in connection therewith.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Homer, Louisiana, on this, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

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Secretary

Mr. Chris Brooks, Secondary Supervisor, introduced the new Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) Coordinators, Ms. Carol Moseley (Haynesville Jr./Sr.) and Mr. Carlton Myles (Homer Jr.). This program is currently in place and focuses primarily on 8<sup>th</sup> graders. JAG is the nation’s largest dropout prevention and recovery program. Mr. Myles stated students are excited about the program and believes there will be an immediate impact on their lives and academics.

Ms. Twyla Hilton, Instructional Supervisor, introduced the following Students of the Year: Tristan Stephenson – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Haynesville Elementary; Rachel Gantt – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Haynesville Jr./Sr.; Andrevious Buggs – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Homer High. Ms. Hilton presented Mr. Buggs with a plaque. Tristan Stephenson and Rachel Gantt were unable to attend. Ms. Hilton praised and congratulated these students for their outstanding achievements and efforts.

Ms. Hilton recognized the following Teachers of the Year and presented each with a plaque: Hannah Sanders (Elementary - Haynesville), Khadejah Willis (Jr. High – Haynesville), and Mackenzie Ward (High School – Summerfield). Ms. Hilton commended them on the impact they make on students and the love they have for each of them. Superintendent Kennedy thanked all of the teachers who were recognized this evening.

Ms. Hilton also recognized and presented a plaque to the following New Teachers of the Year: Destiny Smith (Elementary – Homer), Ta’Arien Mitchell (Jr. High – Homer) and Chelsea Cutlip (High School – Summerfield). These new teachers have been teaching less than a year and are valuable assets in our classrooms. Ms. Hilton thanked them for their dedication to our students.

Ms. Hilton recognized and presented a plaque for the Principal of the Year award to Chris Brooks (Haynesville Jr./Sr.). Mr. Brooks thanked the team at Haynesville Jr./Sr. for their commitment and hard work and also, from the standpoint of what Haynesville Elementary does, as well as the cohesion in the community. He stated it is a culmination of everything.

Ms. Claudia Haynes, TAP Coordinator, requested permission to travel out of state to the NIET National Conference. This will be held in Dallas, Texas, on February 29<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be approximately 12-14 educators attending. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Maddox, seconded by Mr. Davidson. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Superintendent Kennedy requested to approve a Letter of Agreement with LSU for GPS services at the Homer High campus. This will enable installation, maintenance and operation of a continuously operating reference station consisting of global navigation satellite systems, receiver, and antenna. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Mardis. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Superintendent Kennedy briefly discussed differentiated teacher pay. The Board was provided with information on Differentiated Compensation from the Louisiana Department of Education. The purpose of the

Differentiated Compensation is to provide funding to assist with addressing the needs in recruitment and retention of teachers. Our district received approximately \$40,000. There have been conversations on how to disperse the money wisely and effectively, within the guidelines, to have the biggest affect in retaining quality teachers. Superintendent Kennedy will bring to the Board on the March agenda to approve this differentiated teacher pay plan to be distributed in April.

Mr. Kennedy stated there were no bids received for the Mount Olive property. We will advertise for bids again and set date to open in March.

Superintendent Kennedy discussed hiring a marketing firm to assist in preparing for the tax election in April. We have received two bids from marketing firms, Levy Communication Support and Delta Resource Group. After discussion between board members, a motion was made by Mr. Nokes to accept the proposal from Levy Communication Support, due to their timely response in submitting a proposal. Mr. Mardis seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of 9 yes, 1 no. Superintendent Kennedy will email Levy Communication Support in the morning and give Mr. Anderson and Ms. Coleman’s contact information for further details in proceeding.

Ms. Turner briefly discussed the January 2024 financials.

Superintendent’s Report:

- 1. Personnel Actions that have occurred since the January 11, 2024 meeting:

Personnel Actions – February 8, 2024

I. To be Hired:

a. Certified Teaching or Administrative Positions

| Name                     | Position | Effective | Replacing    |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| Miya Robinson-Homer Elem | Teacher  | 1/24/24   | Tamia Watson |
|                          |          |           |              |

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

| Name                      | Position | Effective | Replacing      |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------|----------------|
| Alethea Gipson-Homer Elem | Para     | 1/25/24   | Haley Myers    |
| Missouri Wade-Homer Elem  | Para     | 1/29/24   | Jody McClure   |
| Sharon Murphy-Homer Elem  | Para     | 1/30/24   | Ashlynn Bishop |

II. Resignations, Retirements:

| Name | Position | Effective | Reason |
|------|----------|-----------|--------|
|      |          |           |        |

III. Transfers:

| Name | Position | Effective | Reason |
|------|----------|-----------|--------|
|      |          |           |        |

- 2. Ms. Sheppard – She has been visiting with principals to discuss financial needs and desires for the remainder of the school year and looking forward to the next school year. She and Mr. Fuller met with Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to review our policies and procedures in cybersecurity and prevent against cyber-attacks.
- 3. Ms. Haynes – Digital copies of the ILT schedules have been emailed to board members. She invited and encouraged any board members to attend these meetings if possible.
- 4. Ms. Prior – Last week a Suicide Awareness film was shown at Homer High. This week the film was shown at Haynesville High for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. It will be shown at Summerfield on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. There have been counselors available to any students.

5. Ms. Hilton – The State had funds for literacy materials available to districts. The materials were received this week and the literacy kits were delivered to campuses for grades K – 4<sup>th</sup>.
6. Mr. Brooks – Jumpstart Summer applications are available to participating students. They must be a current 9th, 10th, or 11th grader. Applications are due by February 16. The Open-Gate metal detectors should be arriving early March. There will be training provided before these are released. The Minden St. Jude Auction is this weekend. Haynesville Elementary, Homer Elementary, and Haynesville Jr./Sr. will be presenting checks to support St. Jude.
7. Mr. Martin – He is currently meeting with uncertified teachers to plan or update their paths to certification. Athletic drug testing was completed this week for random high school athletes. Mr. Martin stated the results were extremely low and he is very proud of the students in our district.
8. Mr. Guillory – The new roof should be installed on the Haynesville cafeteria in mid-February.
9. A letter was received recently from a poultry judge at the Northwest District Livestock Show in Shreveport complimenting the Homer High FFA students who recently competed at this event. He was impressed with how cordial, personable, and mannerly they all were toward all of the exhibitors. He continued to boast and commend them on being helpful and supportive they were of each other. He commended Ms. Erika Anderson, the Homer High FFA Sponsor, for going above and beyond her assigned duties and responsibilities to encourage and create this comradery.
10. Ms. Brooks, Haynesville Elementary Principal, emailed the Haynesville Elementary newsletter this week. Mr. Kennedy stated how appreciative he is to Ms. Brooks for creating and sending this newsletter. Ms. Stevens echoed her appreciation to Ms. Brooks for emailing this newsletter each month with the helpful information.
11. AT&T and Compudopt donated and presented Dell computers to all Claiborne Parish seniors. The students were very happy and appreciative for this gift.
12. The 4-day school week will be on the March board meeting to discuss/consider this 2-year pilot program. This allows time, if approved, to move forward in using as a tool for recruitment of certified teachers.
13. A Long-Range Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
14. A Special Called Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
15. Mr. Jack Hightower with Claiborne Unite Foundation thanked the schools and organizations for their support in the Louisiana Legends Fest. He shared that the partners are all volunteers and that through the LLF Festival Partner Grant Program, they have been able to give back to the community. He informed the Board and attendees that nominations are currently open for the Living Legend and Legacy Legend honorees through February 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

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Perry Anderson, President  
Claiborne Parish School Board

ATTEST:

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Mr. William Kennedy, Secretary  
Claiborne Parish School Board