

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

March 7, 2024

The Claiborne Parish School Board met in a regular session at the Homer High Cottage in Homer, Louisiana, at six o'clock March 7, 2024 with the following members:

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

Absent:

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

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

The minutes of the Long-Range Committee Meeting held February 5, 2024, the Regular Meeting held February 8, 2024, the Long-Range Committee Meeting held February 26, 2024, and the Special Called Meeting held February 29, 2024, which had been emailed to the Board, were approved with a motion from Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Nokes. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Hilton recognized and presented a Student of the Year plaque to Rachel Gantt (8th Grade – Haynesville Jr./Sr. High). Tristan Stephenson (5th Grade – Haynesville Elementary) was unable to attend.

Ms. Amy Tynes, Audit Manager, with Allen, Green & Williamson, LLP, reported on the audit for the school year ending June 30, 2023. Ms. Tynes stated the Financial Statement Audit Report was unmodified. There were no significant deficiencies required to be disclosed by Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States of America. There were no instances of noncompliance considered material. Ms. Tynes stated in the audit of the Federal Awards, there was one significant deficiency required to be disclosed. The type of report the auditor issued on compliance for major programs was unmodified. The dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs as described by the Uniform Guidance was \$750,000. Motion was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Ms. Coleman, to approve the audit report for year ending June, 2023. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Anderson Board President, stated that the Standing Committees for 2024 will be as follows:

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD 2024 STANDING COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Perry Anderson, CHAIR
Yolanda Coleman
Will Maddox

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Yolanda Coleman, CHAIR

Linda Knox
David Nokes

FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Nokes, CHAIR
Tommy Davidson
Mark Perot

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

Patricia Stevens, CHAIR
Linda Knox
Stewart Griffin

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tommy Davidson, CHAIR
Mark Perot
Roy Mardis

DRUG COMMITTEE

Will Maddox, CHAIR
David Nokes
Stewart Griffin

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Roy Mardis, CHAIR
Mark Perot
Patricia Stevens

Superintendent Kennedy asked Mr. Scott Martin, Human Resource Supervisor, to summarize information in regards to a 4-day school week. Mr. Martin stated it is critical for our district to retain and recruit highly-qualified teachers to educate our students. This would be a 2-year pilot program which would allow time to obtain and examine test results, with this calendar. He reiterated that the instructional minutes of students would meet or exceed the required amount. He concluded with there will be no salary cuts. The pay would remain the same. Ms. Knox made a motion to approve the 4-day school week, seconded by Mr. Nokes.

Mr. Anderson opened the floor for Board discussion. Board members expressed their concerns with or their support of the 4-day school week. Some challenges stated were child care, the business aspect of changing and not being prepared at this time. Mr. Anderson then opened the floor for public comments. He explained there will be a 3-minute time limit. Comments were heard from stakeholders in the community, which included parents, educators, administrators, and grandparents. After all comments were heard, Mr. Anderson called for a roll call vote. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 yes, 4 no.

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

Superintendent Kennedy requested to approve the 2024-25 school calendar. Since the 4-day school week was approved in the prior agenda item tonight, this calendar pertains to the 4-day school week. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Ms. Knox. Motion passed by a vote of 9 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Ms. Coleman).

Mr. Kennedy discussed the differentiated teacher pay plan. The Louisiana Legislature appropriated funding to assist school systems with addressing the unique market needs in the recruitment and retention of teachers. Claiborne Parish received a total allotment of \$52,019 to pay stipends and the related retirement cost for eligible teachers. The plan to pay a stipend to eligible classroom teachers who meet the following criteria: CPSB employees, were actively working on December 1, 2023, and still employed on payment date, and hold or have applied for a standing teaching certificate pursuant to BESE Bulletin 746 on December 1, 2023. The stipend amount for eligible full-time certified teachers will be \$1,400 and paid to eligible teachers on March 29, 2024. Mr. Davidson made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Maddox. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Joey Guillory, Transportation Supervisor, requested the Board to approve to advertise for (3) gasoline school buses. These would be paid for with ESSER III funds. They would be new buses. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Nokes. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Kennedy stated we received one (1) bid for the Mount Olive Property (2.01 acres). The bid was from Mr. Donald Trimble in the amount of \$2,000. Motion to accept the bid was made by Mr. Maddox, seconded by Ms. Knox. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Superintendent Kennedy requested to approve policy revisions – DFG (Donations and Gifts) and GAJ (Gifts to Personnel). Motion to approve was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Kennedy asked to declare surplus specific items on the Assets Inventory List. In order to dispose of older items, they must first be declared surplus. Motion to declare surplus specific items on Assets Inventory List was made by Ms. Knox, seconded by Mr. Davidson. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Ms. Turner briefly discussed the February financials.

Superintendent’s Report:

Personnel Actions – March 7, 2024

I. To be Hired:

a. Certified Teaching or Administrative Positions

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing
Katherine Cracraft-Homer El	Teacher	2/26/24	Jarrod Dyess

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

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing
Malikica Florence-Hay El	Custodian	2/26/24	Alvin Shelton
Roxanne Aubrey- Homer Jr	Para	3/4/24	Wanda Smith

II. Resignations, Retirements:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason

III. Transfers:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason

1. Ms. Prior – She attended the NIET Conference last week in Dallas. She learned a lot of helpful information at the conference.
2. Ms. Haynes – She will be presenting a Reimagine Grant update at the April or May board meeting. She also attended the NIET Conference and learned valuable information.
3. Ms. Hilton – Testing preparations have begun in school campuses and testing will continue through May.
4. Mr. Brooks – ACT state testing will be next week for juniors, sophomores and some seniors. He also emphasized the importance of ACT WorkKeys. By earning a Silver Level score on the ACT WorkKeys assessment, you can qualify for a TOPS Tech Award. This award can be used at a vocational college. Mr. Brooks also thanked the Board for approving the 4-day school week.
5. Mr. Martin – There will be a recruitment event at Grambling next week. He thanked the Board for approving the 4-day school week and giving him an incentive to offer at the event.
6. Mr. Guillory – Maintenance Department is preparing for warmer weather on campuses.
7. We have applied for and been approved for the Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Grant. This grant provides a \$1,000 voucher/per student to allow for tutoring in literacy in a smaller group, with no more than 3 students at a time. It is for grades K – 5. Ms. Holly will act as the Facilitator for Haynesville Elementary and currently has 48 students enrolled.
8. Legislative updates are being proposed that do not appear to be in the best interest for public education. Superintendent Kennedy asked for prayers in public education and to also, write your representatives to express your concerns.
9. Spring Break will be the week of April 1st – April 5th.
10. Boundary Agreements for the Pearl Street property should be finalized tomorrow. Landowners will begin being contacted then.
11. Reminder - Ethics training is due for board members by March 31st.

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

Perry Anderson, President
Claiborne Parish School Board

ATTEST:

Mr. William Kennedy, Secretary
Claiborne Parish School Board