

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

May 9, 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 May 9, 2024, with the following members:

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

Absent:

Mr. William Kennedy, Secretary of the Board, was unable to attend the meeting.

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

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 11, 2024, which had been emailed to the Board Members previously, were unanimously approved with a motion made by Mr. Nokes, seconded by Mr. Davidson.

Mr. Chris Brooks, Superintendent-Elect, announced we are honoring our retirees this evening and thanked them for their years of service and contributions to the Claiborne Parish School Board. Mr. Scott Martin, Human Resources Supervisor, presented each retiree present with a plaque of appreciation.

RETIREE LIST - 2024

NAME	SCHOOL	(CPSB) SERVICE YRS.
Plaquemine Bursey	Homer High	33
Sheila Cooper	Summerfield	34
Christopher Hightower	Summerfield	22
William Kennedy	Administration	21
Lisa Long	Homer Elementary	29
Alan Shaw	Haynesville Jr./Sr.	8
Alvin Shelton	Haynesville Elementary	27
Steven Shirey	Summerfield	10
Sandra Singleton	Summerfield	2
Gary Smith	Maintenance	22
Wanda Smith	Homer Jr.	32

Ms. Kathy Babers stated she was excited and proud to be presenting the special award, Certificate of Congressional Recognition, on behalf of Speaker Mike Johnson to the deserving

recipients: Students of the Year: **Tristan Thompson** (Haynesville Elementary), **Rachel Gantt** (Haynesville Jr./Sr.), and **Andrevious Buggs** (Homer High). The Teachers of the Year: **Ms. Hannah Sanders** (Haynesville Elementary), **Ms. Khadejah Willis** (Homer Jr. High), and **Ms. Mackenzie Ward** (Summerfield High). The New Teachers of the Year: **Ms. Destiny Smith** (Homer Elementary), **Mr. Te'Arien Mitchell** (Homer Jr. High), and **Ms. Chelsea Cutlip** (Summerfield). The Principal of the Year: **Mr. Chris Brooks** (Haynesville Jr./Sr.).

Ms. Claudia Haynes, TAP Coordinator, presented and honored the LEAD Cohort 2 graduates with a plaque: **Ms. Shae Black, Mr. Adam Farris, Ms. Amanda Garner, Ms. Kailee Roberts, Ms. Kimberly Gros, Ms. Felicia Harris, Mr. Richie Casey, and Mr. LaFrance Cooper**. The LEAD program is a 'grow your own' initiative for teachers aspiring to potentially transition into leadership positions. Ms. Haynes congratulated the graduates and praised them on this accomplishment.

Mr. Brooks asked the Board to approve the resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in Claiborne Parish School District, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, on Saturday, April 27, 2024, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein. He stated the official votes cast were a total of 440 votes cast in favor of Proposition and a total of 397 votes cast against the Proposition, resulting in a majority of 43 votes cast in favor of the Proposition.

The following resolution was offered by David Nokes and seconded by Tommy Davidson:

RESOLUTION

A resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in Claiborne Parish School District, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, on Saturday, April 27, 2024, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein.

BE IT RESOLVED by 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. Canvass. This Governing Authority does now proceed in open and public session to examine the official tabulations of votes cast at the special election held in the District, on SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024 (the "Election"), to authorize the levy of a special tax therein pursuant to the following proposition (the "Proposition"):

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?

This Governing Authority does further proceed to examine and canvass the returns of the Election thereof.

SECTION 2. Election Results. According to the official certified tabulation of votes cast at said Election, there was a total of **440** votes cast **IN FAVOR OF** the Proposition and a total of **397** votes cast **AGAINST** the Proposition, resulting in a majority of **43** votes cast **IN FAVOR OF** the Proposition. The

Proposition was therefore duly **CARRIED** by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified electors voting at the Election.

SECTION 3. Promulgation of Election Result. The results of said election shall be promulgated by publication in the manner provided by law, after receipt from the Secretary of State’s office of the actual costs of the election, as required by §18:1292 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

SECTION 4. Declaration. The foregoing results of the Election are hereby declared by this Governing Authority and shall be published as required by law.

SECTION 5. Procès Verbal. A *Procès Verbal* of the canvass of the returns of the Election shall be made and a certified copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who shall record the same in her office; another certified copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Clerk of Court and *Ex-Officio* Recorder of Mortgages in and for the Parish of Claiborne, who shall record the same in the Mortgage Records of said Parish; and another copy thereof shall be retained in the archives of this Governing Authority.

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

YEAS: 10

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 9th day of May, 2024.

/s/ William Kennedy

Secretary

/s/ Perry Anderson

President

PROCÈS VERBAL OF THE CANVASS OF THE VOTES CAST AT THE SPECIAL ELECTION HELD IN CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT, CLAIBORNE PARISH, LOUISIANA, ON SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024.

BE IT KNOWN AND REMEMBERED that on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at its regular meeting place, the Parish School Board Office, 415 E. Main Street, Homer, Louisiana, 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"), and being the authority ordering the special election held therein on Saturday, April 27, 2024, with a quorum of the Governing Authority present and did, in open and public session, examine the official certified tabulations of votes cast at the said elections, and did examine and canvass the returns of the said elections, there having been submitted at said elections the following propositions, 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?

There was found by said count and canvass that there was a total of **440** votes cast **IN FAVOR OF** Proposition and a total of **397** votes cast **AGAINST** Proposition, as hereinabove set forth, and it was further found and determined that there was a majority of **43** votes cast **IN FAVOR OF** Proposition as hereinabove set forth.

Therefore, the Governing Authority did declare and proclaim and does hereby declare and proclaim in open and public session that the Proposition as hereinabove set forth was duly **CARRIED** by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified electors voting at the said special election held in the District on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

Results by precinct are available from the Secretary of this Governing Authority during regular business hours or via the Louisiana Secretary of State’s website (voterportal.sos.la.gov).

Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part of this *Procès Verbal* is a copy of the Notice of Special Election and proof of publication thereof.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Homer, Louisiana, on this, the 9th day of May, 2024.

ATTEST:

/s/ Perry Anderson

President

/s/ William Kennedy

Secretary

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.

PROCLAMATION

I, the undersigned President of the Parish School Board of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana, the governing authority of Claiborne Parish School District, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana (the

"District"), do hereby declare, proclaim and announce that the proposition submitted at the special election held in the District on Saturday, April 27, 2024, was CARRIED by a majority of the votes cast at the said special election, all as described and set out in the above *Procès Verbal*.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Homer, Louisiana, on this, the 9th day of May, 2024.

/s/ Perry Anderson
President

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"), acting as 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 and *Procès Verbal* made by said Governing Authority on May 9, 2024, providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in the District on Saturday, April 27, 2024, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Homer, Louisiana, on this, the 9th day of May, 2024.

Secretary

Ms. Haynes presented an update and overview of the Reimagine Grant. In Phase II, the expansion of the TAP model to Summerfield High and the continuation and expansion of Best Practices with master teachers at Homer High and Haynesville High. The primary focus of Phase II is to significantly increase student achievement by strengthening teacher effectiveness and retention, and support teachers through differentiated and individualized coaching plans. The TAP schools have participated in a Program Review by NIET Senior Specialist on May 7th. This is an internal review of proficiency around the main areas of the TAP system. The scores will be shared mid-June. Beyond this academic year, the Best Practices schools will transition in to a learning year with Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) for the new evaluation tool (based off of the evaluation tool the TAP schools use). The Reimagine Grant will come to an end September 30th, 2024.

Ms. Bosby, Food Service Supervisor, requested permission to advertise for bids on milk, bread, produce and paper products. This is an annual occurrence. Mr. Maddox made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Mardis. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Guillory, Transportation Supervisor, requested permission to bid for fuel for 2024-25. This is also an annual occurrence for the Homer and Haynesville districts. Mr. Davidson made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Mardis. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Guillory also requested permission to bid for one (1) additional bus. At the March board meeting, a request to bid for three (3) buses was approved. These new buses will be paid

for with ESSER funds. Motion to grant permission to bid for (1) more additional bus was made by Mr. Maddox, seconded by Ms. Knox. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Brooks requested permission for 4 employees to travel out of state for the NIET Conference. The conference will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona, on July 24th and July 25th. The trip will be paid for with the Reimagine Grant and ESSER funds. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Griffin. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Brooks also requested permission for the 2 JAG Specialists recently hired and their principals to travel out of state for the JAG Conference. It is a requirement they attend this conference. The travel will be paid for with Career Development Funds (CDF). This conference will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, from July 8th – July 12th. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Ms. Coleman. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Brooks requested permission for out of state travel of teachers for the Cyber.org EdCon24 Conference, which will be held in Orlando, Florida, from June 15th – June 17th. The travel will be paid with Carl Perkins funds and ESSER funds. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Davidson. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Brooks asked the Board to consider placement of employee pursuant to La.R.S.17:54. Due to legally not being allowed to have 2 superintendents in place at the same time, the request would be to place Superintendent Kennedy on administrative leave effective June 1st – June 30th (the last day of his contract). A motion to place Mr. Kennedy on administrative leave effective June 1st was made by Mr. Nokes, seconded by Mr. Davidson. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Brooks requested to approve the job descriptions of JAG Specialist and Reading Interventionist. He asked to remove the Assistant Superintendent job description for a later date. He would like to have a committee meeting to discuss this position in further detail. A motion to approve the job description of JAG Specialist was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Ms. Knox. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no. Next, a motion to approve the job description of Reading Interventionist was made by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Davidson. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no. A motion was made by Mr. Maddox, seconded by Mr. Mardis to table the job description of the Assistant Superintendent. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Brooks asked the Board to table Item #18 (Approve Updated Salary Schedule) for a later date after a committee meeting. Mr. Davidson made the motion to table Item #18, seconded by Mr. Nokes. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Anderson, Board President, asked the Board to consider a resolution relative to Title IX rules and litigation. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Nokes, seconded by Ms. Stevens. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of 10 yeas, 0 neas.

Claiborne Parish School Board
May 9, 2024
Resolution

BE IT FOREVER KNOWN, that by official action taken at its meeting of May 9, 2024, the Claiborne Parish School Board (sometimes referred to as the “Board”) adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education has issued a final rule, titled “Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities

Receiving Federal Financial Assistance” (“Final Rule”), which it will publish in the federal register;

WHEREAS, the Final Rule dramatically changes Title IX regulations and acknowledges it will increase complaint investigations;

WHEREAS, the Final Rule will disadvantage the Board by increasing its obligations, compliance costs, and liability risks;

WHEREAS, the Board believes the Final Rule is contrary to federal law and will be detrimental to students, parents, and employees;

WHEREAS, the Board believes the Final Rule, is directly contrary to existing state law, as well as laws currently being considered by the Louisiana Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana and school districts within the State have challenged the legality of the Final Rule in that matter styled, “State of Louisiana, et al v. U.S. Department of Education, et al” bearing Case No. 3:24-CV-00563 on the records of the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the vote reflected hereinbelow, the Claiborne Parish School Board does hereby express its Support of the State and the various districts who have joined the State as parties in the forgoing litigation against the United States Department of Education and other federal defendants to challenge the Final Rule.

ON THE MOTION OF David Nokes and seconded by Patricia Stevens the following votes were cast:

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

NEAS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion was approved.

William Kennedy, Secretary-Treasurer
Claiborne Parish School Board

Perry Anderson, President
Claiborne Parish School Board

Ms. Turner briefly discussed the April 2024 financials.

Personnel Actions – May 9, 2024

I. To be Hired:

a. Certified Teaching or Administrative Positions

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing

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

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing
Ylanda Norton-Homer	Cafeteria Manager	3/25/24	Plaq Bursey

II. Resignations, Retirements:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason
CaTina Johnson-Homer High	Para	3/22/24	resigned
Willie Norton-Homer Cafe	Café Tech	3/19/24	resigned
Katlyn Mathews-Summerfield	Teacher	3/19/24	resigned

III. Transfers:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason

- 1. Reminder to Board Members – Financial Disclosure forms are due by May 15th.
- 2. Graduation Ceremonies – Summerfield (Monday, May 13th), Haynesville High (Tuesday, May 14th), KARE Program (Wednesday, May 15th at Homer City Hall), and Homer High (Thursday, May 16th)
- 3. Louisiana has launched a new program, SUN Bucks, to improve food access for kids during summer break. We have posted information regarding this program on our website and on our social media pages.
- 4. Ms. Sheppard – A new digitized employee application has been implemented through our website. This will improve the application process and provide transparency in allowing each application received to be viewed by each administrator.
- 5. Ms. Stevens invited everyone to attend the Summerfield Academic Foundation dinner and live auction on Saturday, May 11th. The doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and the auction will begin at 6:00.

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