

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2024

The Finance Committee met at the Claiborne Parish School Board Office, Homer, Louisiana, at five o'clock p.m. on Monday, May 21, 2024.

Present: FINANCE COMMITTEE: David Nokes (Chair), Tommy Davidson

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Stevens, Stewart Griffin, Linda Knox, Yolanda Coleman, Perry Anderson

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

Superintendent-Elect, Mr. Chris Brooks, discussed substitute pay. The past two years we have paid substitutes an additional \$20/day with the ESSER funds. These funds will be ending on September 30th, 2024. Last May, the Board was previously presented substitute pay numbers based on information from several parishes for comparison. Mr. Brooks presented projections based on taking the 5-day work week and reducing the amount to 4 and adding the difference to the daily rate. Some projections will have an employee earning the same or a little more than they were with the extra \$20/day from ESSER, while some earn less. These projections would stay close to the current budget. He also suggested changing the continuous day wording to mean a person used in our system for consecutive days and not the same teacher. This would reward the most used substitutes for being reliable. He asked the Board to be considering these projections or other options and it will be revisited in July.

Mr. Brooks discussed cafeteria worker pay. He is recommending a 1-year pilot program that would pay cafeteria staff 4 extra checks in the amount of \$450 each throughout the year. They would be set up strategically between December, January, and May tax checks. This would not be added to the salary schedule and is a yearly supplement, until the district can verify the funds can support this continuously. Again, Mr. Brooks asked the Board to be considering this matter and it will be revisited again in July.

Mr. Brooks shared his recommendation on issuing a one-time pay disbursement to all employees who are full-time (except the superintendent). The amount would be \$350 and would be paid from surplus money in the general fund. This would be paid on August 10th. New teachers will not receive a check until the last Friday in August, while many new teachers and other staff members attend professional development in mid-July. This would give employees something to bridge the gap between the regularly scheduled payroll check the end of August. He also hopes this would show our appreciation of them and help morale as we start a new school year. The total estimated cost would be approximately \$150,000. This would be revisited annually and not added to the salary schedule.

The parish-wide maintenance tax/millage dispersal plan, which was recently approved in the April special election, was discussed in detail. There were suggestions made and conversation on determining maintenance priorities and implementing procedures.

In conclusion, Mr. Brooks stated each agenda item was brought before the board this evening with the intention of allowing adequate time to consider these issues, which will be brought back to them for a vote in the upcoming month(s).

Mr. William Kennedy, Secretary
Claiborne Parish School Board