

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2024

The Educational Committee met at the Homer High Cottage, Homer, Louisiana, at four-thirty p.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2024.

Present: EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE: Patricia Stevens (Chair), Linda Knox, Stewart Griffin

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: William Maddox, Perry Anderson, Thomas Davidson, Roy Mardis, David Nokes

Ms. Stevens, Board Member and Committee Chair, opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Stevens shared with the Board the ground work and process, which began in 2023, to find innovative ways of receiving grant funding for school construction and infrastructure in small and rural communities. During this time, she has had conversations with Senator Stewart Cathey, Representative Rashid Young, Ms. Kathy Babers (Representative for Speaker Mike Johnson), Director Deidre Robert (Director of State Office Operations with USDA Rural Development Office) and other contacts that would be instrumental to this goal being achieved. She would like to begin first with the Summerfield community. Ms. Stevens stated the land is already owned by the district and available. If this project came to fruition, the next goal would be for Haynesville Elementary to pursue this grant. The first step in this process for a USDA federal grant is a pre-application form that needs to be completed and submitted. The processing time is approximately 2 weeks, after initially submitted. If approved, the next step would be a feasibility study to examine the logistics of this project. She was told the federal grant would fund 75% of the construction and the remaining 25% would also be available through other grants. Ms. Stevens stated she was instructed by Senator Cathey to apply for the grant and have this paperwork to him by November.

There was discussion, questions and concerns from the Board in regards to the timeline, the cost upfront (if any), and the logistics of such a large project. Ms. Sheppard, Federal Grants

Supervisor, recommended a committee be formed, which would consist of board members and stakeholders to lead this project and meet deadlines. Superintendent Brooks expressed his concern with the manpower this would involve for Ms. Sheppard, along with her other job responsibilities.

In conclusion, Ms. Stevens asked for the Board's support in this endeavor. The decision on whether to pursue or not would need to be brought before the Board to take action on.

Mr. Chris Brooks, Secretary
Claiborne Parish School Board