

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 5, 2024

The Finance Committee met at the Claiborne Parish School Board, Homer, Louisiana, at five o'clock p.m. on Thursday, September 5, 2024.

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Stevens, Stewart Griffin, William Maddox, Yolanda Coleman, Perry Anderson, Roy Mardis

Ms. Turner, Business Manager, discussed the amendments to the 2023-24 budget and the proposed budget for the 2024-25 school year. The General Fund 2024-25 budgeted expenditures reflect the 2023-24 actual ending amounts with adjustments having been made for factors we are aware of at the present time. The employer contribution rate for teacher's retirement decreased from 24.1% in the 2024 fiscal year to 21.51% in fiscal year 2025. The employer contribution rate for Louisiana school employees' retirement decreased from 27.6% in the 2024 fiscal year to 25.8% in fiscal year 2025. Ms. Turner shared we have experienced an increase for costs of providing other operational items to the School Board during fiscal year 2023-24. Those areas include property insurance, utilities, diesel and the cost of repairs and maintenance to buildings and vehicles. The General Fund ended the 2023-24 fiscal year with a surplus of \$1,501,119. This increase was due to a decrease in total actual expenditures for 2023-24 of \$634,384 from original budgeted amounts adopted in September, 2024. We have one parish-wide maintenance tax (5.23 mills) and three district taxes. The Parish-wide District Maintenance Fund is continuing to decrease year after year. The fund had a deficit balance for 2023-24 of \$520,170 due to the rising cost of fuel prices, repairs and maintenance cost to buildings, and vehicle repair costs. Costs will need to be monitored closely during the 2024-25 fiscal year in order to continue maintaining a healthy fund balance in the future. We will be collecting the new school district maintenance tax in 2024-25 which should help generate more revenue to be used to maintain our school buildings. The General Fund transferred the budgeted amount of \$25,000 in MFP funds to the School Lunch Fund during 2023-24, which was the same amount transferred for 2022-23. Since joining the CEP Program providing free meals to all our students, the fund balance continues to grow. The Federal funds we receive supplement our Special Education programs, Pre-school programs, tuition payments, and Vocational Education programs. The budgets for federal funds reflect total funds available for 2024-25 per the Louisiana Department of Education. Most of these programs are cost reimbursement programs. During the 2021-2022 year the School Board received

American Recovery Act funds from the state and federal government to enable the School Board to respond to the rebuilding of the schools since the Covid 19 pandemic. These funds are set to expire in September 2024 and decisions are being made about which programs to continue and how to fund those programs going forward.

Mr. Christopher Brooks, Secretary
Claiborne Parish School Board