

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2026

The Finance Committee met at the Claiborne Parish School Board, Homer, Louisiana, at five-thirty p.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2026.

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

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

Ms. Turner, Business Manager, discussed the amendments to the 2025-2026 budget and the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 school year. The General Fund 2026-2027 budgeted expenditures reflect the 2025-2026 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 20.95% in the 2026 fiscal year to 19.11% in fiscal year 2027. The employer contribution rate for Louisiana school employees' retirement decreased from 22.0% in the 2026 fiscal year to 19.5% in fiscal year 2027. Ms. Turner shared we have experienced an increase for costs of providing other operational items to the School Board during fiscal year 2025-2026. Those areas include utilities, diesel and the cost of repairs and maintenance to buildings and vehicles.

The General Fund ended the 2025-2026 fiscal year with a deficit of \$414,437. The original adopted budget projected a short fall of \$409,051. While fiscal year 2025-2026 expenditures exceeded the original budget totals by \$248,583, actual revenue gains absorbed the increase and maintained the deficit near projected levels.

We have one (1) parish-wide maintenance tax (5.22 mills) and one (1) school districts maintenance tax (9 mills). The parish-wide District Maintenance Fund balance is continuing to decrease year after year. The fund had a deficit of \$126,358 for 2025-26 due to the rising cost of repairs and maintenance to buildings, vehicle repairs, and fuel. We are exploring options to move more expenses in 2026-2027 in an attempt to help this fund recover. Cost will still need to be monitored closely during the 2026-2027 fiscal year in order for this fund to return to a healthy fund balance in the future.

The Homer Maintenance Fund also continues to maintain a good fund balance although the fund had a deficit of \$629,104 for the 2025-2026 year. The remaining fund balance will be exhausted before moving the Homer district expenses to the new tax fund. The Parish-wide School Districts Maintenance Fund had a deficit

of \$129,244 due to starting a major renovation project in 2025-2026. Pending reimbursements of \$179,426 for the Haynesville lighting project also contribute to this deficit.

Ms. Turner stated the budgets for federal funds reflect total funds available for 2026-27 per the Louisiana Department of Education. Most of these programs are cost reimbursement programs.

In conclusion, the School Food Service fund accounts for receipt and disbursement of funds used to provide students with nutritional meals. The General Fund transferred the budgeted amount of \$25,000 in MFP funds to the School Lunch Fund during 2025-2026 which was the same amount transferred for 2024-2025. Since joining the CEP Program providing free meals to all our students, the School Food Service fund balance continued to grow. Revenues decreased slightly after moving to a 4-day week, but we continue to explore new programs to help offset this shortfall.

Mr. Christopher Brooks, Secretary
Claiborne Parish School Board