

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

**June 16, 2020**

The Terrebonne Parish School Board met today **immediately following the 5:00 P.M. Committee Meetings, in special session**, at its regular meeting place, the Terrebonne Parish School Board Office, 201 Stadium Drive, Houma, Louisiana, with Mrs. Debi Benoit, president, presiding, and the following members present: Mrs. Stacy V. Solet, vice president; Mr. Michael T. LaGarde, Mr. Gregory Harding, Mr. Matthew J. Ford, Mr. Clyde F. Hamner, Mr. Roger Dale DeHart, Dr. MayBelle N. Trahan, and Mr. Dane Voisin.

ABSENT: None

President Benoit called the meeting to order.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Mary W. Fillette, retired school guidance counselor; Robert G. George, retired school principal; Dalvin Richardson, 4<sup>th</sup> grader, and Davon Richardson, 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, students at Acadian Elementary School, who recently passed away.

Motion of Mrs. Solet, seconded by Mr. Hamner, unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes of School Board Meetings of May 19, 2020, and June 2, 2020, as recorded.

President Benoit made several announcements relative to upcoming meetings.

The following items are being presented as a partial report of the Finance, Insurance, and Section 16 Lands Committee meeting held earlier this evening with Mr. Hamner, Chairman, presiding:

- 1) Matter bearing upon Excess Casualty Insurance renewal

**The Committee recommends** that the Board accept the renewal offer for Excess Casualty Insurance from Berkley Insurance Company (Arthur J. Gallagher of Louisiana, Inc., Broker of Record) covering Automobile Liability, General Liability, Errors and Omissions Liability, and Nurse's Professional Liability with limits of \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence with a \$3,000,000.00 General Aggregate limit for General Liability, \$1,000,000.00 per accident for Auto Liability, and \$1,000,000.00 per claim for Errors and Omissions and Nurse's Professional Liability, subject to \$300,000.00 Self-Insured Retention with an annual premium of \$190,308.00, rejecting Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist Liability, effective July 1, 2020, through July 1, 2021, and further, authorize the Board president to sign all necessary documents pertaining thereto.

Motion of Mr. DeHart, seconded by Mrs. Solet, unanimously carried, the Board accepted the renewal offer for Excess Casualty Insurance from Berkley Insurance Company (Arthur J. Gallagher of Louisiana, Inc., Broker of Record) covering Automobile Liability, General Liability, Errors and Omissions Liability, and Nurse's Professional Liability with limits of \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence with a \$3,000,000.00 General Aggregate limit for General Liability, \$1,000,000.00 per accident for Auto Liability, and \$1,000,000.00 per claim for Errors and Omissions and Nurse's Professional Liability, subject to \$300,000.00 Self-Insured Retention with an annual premium of \$190,308.00, rejecting Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist Liability,

effective July 1, 2020, through July 1, 2021, and further, authorized the Board president to sign all necessary documents pertaining thereto.

- 2) Matter bearing upon proposal for Workers' Compensation and Casualty Third Party Administration Services

**The Committee recommends** that the Board accept the proposal for Third Party Administration services from Gulf South Risk Services, Inc. for the Self-Insured Workers' Compensation and Casualty plans, with an annual fee of \$47,000.00, effective July 1, 2020, through July 1, 2023.

Motion of Mr. DeHart, seconded by Mrs. Solet, unanimously carried, the Board accepted the proposal for Third Party Administration services from Gulf South Risk Services, Inc. for the Self-Insured Workers' Compensation and Casualty plans, with an annual fee of \$47,000.00, effective July 1, 2020, through July 1, 2023.

The partial report of the Finance, Insurance, and Section 16 Lands Committee meeting was concluded, and President Benoit reassumed the Chair and presided for the remainder of the proceedings.

Superintendent Philip Martin addressed the Board regarding the Adoption of a Resolution Commending the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in the Election of a New State Superintendent of Education for the State of Louisiana.

Motion of Mr. DeHart, seconded by Mr. Hamner, unanimously carried, the Board adopted the following resolution commending the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in the election of a new State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Cade Brumley, for the State of Louisiana:

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** for the first time in almost a decade, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) has elected a new State Superintendent of Education;

**WHEREAS** BESE elected Dr. Cade Brumley as the new State Superintendent on May 20, 2020;

**WHEREAS** Dr. Brumley is imminently qualified, having successfully led both the DeSoto Parish School System and Jefferson Parish School System;

**WHEREAS** BESE showed commitment to public education and to the people of Louisiana by electing Dr. Brumley; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Terrebonne Parish School Board expresses its sincere gratitude to Mrs. Sandy Holloway, District 3 Representative and President of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, for supporting the selection of Dr. Brumley, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Terrebonne Parish School Board commends Mrs. Sandy Holloway for having the courage to put candidate qualifications and public opinions expressed in the survey commissioned by BESE ahead of the urgings of powerful political forces; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Louisiana School Boards Association (LSBA) and Mrs. Sandy Holloway, District 3

Representative/President of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

Superintendent Martin then addressed the Board regarding the Adoption of a Resolution in Opposition to State Central Collection of Local Sales Taxes.

Motion of Mr. DeHart, unanimously seconded, unanimously carried, the Board adopted the following resolution in Opposition to State Central Collection of Local Sales Taxes:

### **RESOLUTION NO. 1912**

**WHEREAS** Article VII, Section 3 of the Louisiana Constitution provides that local sales and use taxes are to be collected by a single collector in each parish;

**WHEREAS** Article VII, Section 3 also provides for the use of a parish commission or one of the local political subdivisions to serve as the single parish collector of local sales and use taxes;

**WHEREAS** the authority to “collect” local sales and use taxes has been determined by the Courts to include the authority to administer the collection, including making decisions as to when to audit persons or businesses thought to be unlawfully evading taxation or, in some cases, collecting sales taxes on transactions and failing to fully remit them to the local collector;

**WHEREAS** School Boards serve as the single parish collector of local sales and use taxes in over thirty (30) parishes;

**WHEREAS** there are interest groups that desire to amend the LA Constitution to allow the Legislature to repeal or impair the authority of local governments to control the collection of local sales taxes and place that authority with the State, a concept referred to as State Central Collection;

**WHEREAS** State Central Collection could have the State taking possession of local tax revenues, withholding an administrative fee, then disbursing the balance back to the School Board or other local taxing authority;

**WHEREAS** State Central Collection poses too great a risk that local education tax dollars will not be promptly disbursed or that the administrative fee withheld by the State may become a means of resolving State fiscal issues;

**WHEREAS** the risks of State Central Collection are magnified as our School District tries to recover from the loss of sales tax revenue and the increased expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic;

**WHEREAS** repealing or diminishing the Constitutional authority for local collection of local sales and use taxes will impair the ability of local collectors to perform the necessary function of auditing vendors to ensure compliance with the legal obligation to collect and remit local sales taxes;

**WHEREAS** given the vital role that the proper, effective, and efficient collection of local sales and use taxes plays in the operation of school districts and the education of children, the Louisiana School Boards

Association opposes any efforts to repeal, reduce, or constrain the authority of the local collector to collect local sales and use taxes, regardless of who has offered the proposal; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Terrebonne Parish School Board, by action of its duly elected governing authority, does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Legislature, and in particular, the Legislative Delegation of Terrebonne Parish, to oppose any Legislative effort that repeals, reduces, or constrains the authority of the local collector to collect and administer the collection of local sales and use taxes; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each member of the Terrebonne Parish Legislative Delegation, the Louisiana School Boards Association (LSBA), and the Honorable Governor John Bel Edwards, State of Louisiana.

Motion of Mrs. Solet, seconded by Mr. Harding, unanimously carried, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting at **7:15 P.M.**

/s/ Philip Martin, Secretary

/s/ Debi Benoit, President

RLB