

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

January 7, 2020

The Terrebonne Parish School Board met today at 6:00 P.M. in regular 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

Mr. Voisin led the Board and audience in the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion of Mrs. Solet, seconded by Mr. Hamner, unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes of School Board Meeting of December 3, 2019, as recorded.

President Benoit announced that the first order of business was the election of the president and vice president of the Terrebonne Parish School Board for a one-year term beginning this date.

Mr. Harding placed in nomination for the presidency the name of Mrs. Debi Benoit.

Motion of Mrs. Solet, seconded by Mr. Voisin, unanimously carried, the nominations for the office of president were closed.

Mrs. Debi Benoit was declared elected president of the Terrebonne Parish School Board for a one-year term beginning this date.

President Benoit announced that nominations were open for the office of vice president of the Board for a one-year term beginning this date.

Mr. Hamner placed in nomination for the vice presidency the name of Mrs. Stacy Solet.

Motion of Mrs. Benoit, seconded by Mr. Voisin, unanimously carried, the nominations for the office of vice president were closed.

Mrs. Stacy Solet was declared elected vice president of the Terrebonne Parish School Board for a one-year term beginning this date.

Several announcements were made by President Benoit relative to upcoming meetings.

President Benoit recognized Mr. John Navy, Terrebonne Parish Councilman, who was in attendance at tonight's meeting.

At this time, Superintendent Philip Martin requested that the Board consider deviating from the regular order of the agenda when Agenda Items #8 and #9 are presented and to reverse the order of topics.

Motion of Mr. Hamner, seconded by Mr. DeHart, unanimously carried, the Board approved Superintendent Martin's request to take up Agenda Items #8 (Matter bearing upon pending litigation between Brian and Laura Brouillette vs. Terrebonne Parish School Board and James R. Mills, et als, Docket #184062, Division

B – 32<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court, Parish of Terrebonne, State of Louisiana (Executive Session), and #9 (Parent Appeals for Student Readmissions (Executive Session), in reverse order for discussion, and then return to the regular order of the agenda.

Motion of Mr. DeHart, unanimously seconded, unanimously carried, the Board adopted the following resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in Consolidated School District No. 1 of the Parish of Terrebonne, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein; making application to the State Bond Commission in connection therewith; and providing for other matters in connection therewith:

**RESOLUTION NO. 1908**

A resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in Consolidated School District No. 1 of the Parish of Terrebonne, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein; making application to the State Bond Commission in connection therewith; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish School Board of the Parish of Terrebonne, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Consolidated School District No. 1 of the Parish of Terrebonne, State of Louisiana (the "District"), that:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, and under the authority conferred by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, including Article VI, Section 30 thereof the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the District on **SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020**, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said election there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION  
(MILLAGE RENEWAL)

Shall Consolidated School District No. 1 of the Parish of Terrebonne, State of Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy and collect a special ad valorem tax of five and forty-one hundredths (5.41) mills on all the property subject to taxation in said District, for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2021 and ending with the year 2030 (an estimated \$5,400,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for the purpose of giving additional support to public schools in the District?

SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Election. A Notice of Special Election shall be published in *The Courier*, a newspaper of general circulation within the District, published in Houma, Louisiana, and being the official journal of the District, once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election, which Notice shall be substantially in the form attached

hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference the same as if it were set forth herein in full.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the publication of the Notice of Election, the President is authorized and directed to make any amendments to the foregoing proposition that may be required to comply with any state or federal regulatory agencies.

SECTION 3. Canvass. This Governing Authority shall meet at its regular meeting place, the Parish School Board Office, 201 Stadium Drive, Houma, Louisiana, on **TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020, at SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election.

SECTION 4. Polling Places. The polling places for the precincts set forth in Terrebonne Parish are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be the same persons as those designated in accordance with law.

SECTION 5. Election Commissioners; Voting Machines. The officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, shall hold the said special election as herein provided, and shall make due returns of said election for the meeting of the Governing Authority to be held as provided in Section 3 hereof. All registered voters in the District will be entitled to vote at the special election, and voting machines shall be used.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Officers. The Secretary of the Governing Authority is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish to said election officers in ample time for the holding of said election, the necessary equipment, forms and other paraphernalia essential to the proper holding of said election and the President and/or Secretary of the Governing Authority are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the election.

SECTION 7. Furnishing Election Call to Election Officials. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Clerk of Court and *Ex-Officio* Parish Custodian of Voting Machines of Terrebonne Parish and the Registrar of Voters of Terrebonne Parish, as notification of the special election, in order that each may prepare for said election and perform their respective functions as required by law.

SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission. Application is made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the special election as herein provided, and in the event said election carries for further consent and authority to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein. A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of this Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of this application.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

**YEAS:** Mr. Michael T. LaGarde, Mr. Gregory Harding, Mr. Matthew J. Ford, Mrs. Debi Benoit, Mrs. Stacy V. Solet, Mr. Clyde F. Hamner, Mr. Roger Dale DeHart, Dr. MayBelle N. Trahan, and Mr. Dane Voisin

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 7th day of January 2020.

/s/ Philip Martin  
Secretary

/s/ Debi Benoit  
President

**EXHIBIT "A"**

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Pursuant to the provisions of a resolution adopted by the Parish School Board of the Parish of Terrebonne, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Consolidated School District No. 1 of the Parish of Terrebonne, State of Louisiana (the "District"), on January 7, 2020, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held within the District on **SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020**, and that at the said election there will be submitted to all registered voters in the District qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION  
(MILLAGE RENEWAL)

Shall Consolidated School District No. 1 of the Parish of Terrebonne, State of Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy and collect a special ad valorem tax of five and forty-one hundredths (5.41) mills on all the property subject to taxation in said District, for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2021 and ending with the year 2030 (an estimated \$5,400,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for the purpose of giving additional support to public schools in the District?

Said special election will be held at each and every polling place in the Parish of Terrebonne, which polls will open at seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and close at eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541.

The polling places at the precincts in the Parish are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, shall be those persons designated according to law.

The estimated cost of this election as determined by the Secretary of State based upon the provisions of Chapter 8-A of Title 18 and actual costs of similar elections is \$102,000.

Notice is further given that a portion of the monies collected from the tax described in the Proposition shall be remitted to certain state and statewide retirement systems in the manner required by law.

The said special election will be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 5 and Chapter 6-A of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, and the officers appointed to hold the said election, as provided in this Notice of Special Election, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, will make due returns thereof to said Governing Authority, and NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Governing Authority will meet at its regular meeting place, the Parish School Board Office, 201 Stadium Drive, Houma, Louisiana, on **TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020, at SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election. All registered voters of the District are entitled to vote at said special election and voting machines will be used.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Houma, Louisiana, on this, the 7th day of January 2020.

ATTEST:

/s/ Debi Benoit  
President

/s/ Philip Martin  
Secretary

Motion of Mr. Hamner, seconded by Mrs. Solet, unanimously carried, the Board approved the following resolution recognizing January 2020 as "Local School Board Member Recognition Month" in the State of Louisiana:

#### **RESOLUTION**

#### **Louisiana School Board Recognition Month January 2020**

**Whereas** the education of Louisiana's school-aged children is the foundation upon which the economic, social and intellectual capital of our state is built;

**Whereas** locally elected school boards play an important and vital role in a representative democracy, and decisions made by local boards of education directly influence instruction in Louisiana's public schools;

**Whereas** these decisions affect the present and future lives of children, and also set direction to prepare all students to be competitive in a local, state, national, and global 21<sup>st</sup> century economy;

**Whereas** local school board members work with parents, businesses, education professionals, all elected officials and other community members to create the educational visions we want for our students;

**Whereas** this year's theme – **SCHOOL BOARDS MATTER!** - reflects the relevance of local school board members as they advocate for public education with local, state, and federal leaders; and

**Whereas** School Board Recognition Month provides an opportunity to build stronger relationships between the thousands of people in Louisiana who champion the mission of public education and school board members; now, therefore be it

**Resolved**, the Terrebonne Parish School Board recognizes the contributions of the state's local school boards to the academic success of its public school students and expresses its sincerest recognition to the local school board members for their focus on the well-being and achievement of children throughout the state; further

**Resolved**, the Terrebonne Parish School Board declares January 2020 as School Board Member Recognition Month and encourages local school districts and community leaders to appropriately recognize our state's dedicated school board members; and be it finally

**Resolved**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all local media contacts and Terrebonne Parish public schools and office buildings.

Motion of Mr. Hamner, seconded by Dr. Trahan, unanimously carried, the Board approved the following resolution recognizing February 2020 as African American History Month in Terrebonne Parish Schools:

### **RESOLUTION**

**Whereas** the month of February is traditionally observed as African American History Month;

**Whereas** the observance of a special period to recognize achievements and contributions by African Americans dates back to February 1926; and

**Whereas** the observance period is ultimately the recognition of America's struggle to become a more perfect union; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the Terrebonne Parish School Board recognizes February 2020 as African American History Month in the Terrebonne Parish Public Schools and encourages administrators, teachers, and students to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs that raise awareness and appreciation of African American History; and be it further

**Resolved**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all Terrebonne Parish Public Schools and office buildings.

Motion of Mr. DeHart, seconded by Mrs. Solet, unanimously carried, the Board approved the following proclamation recognizing February 3-7, 2020, as National School Counseling Week in Terrebonne Parish Schools:

### **PROCLAMATION**

**Whereas** School Counselors are employed in public and private schools to help students reach their full potential;

**Whereas** School Counselors are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents as these traits relate to career awareness and development;

**Whereas** School Counselors help parents focus on ways to further the educational, personal, and social growth of their children;

**Whereas** School Counselors work with teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set realistic goals for themselves;

**Whereas** School Counselors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can enhance and complement comprehensive school counseling programs and help students become productive members of society; and

**Whereas** comprehensive developmental school counseling programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in schools; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the Terrebonne Parish School Board recognizes February 3-7, 2020, as National School Counseling Week in Terrebonne Parish Public Schools; and be it further

**Resolved**, that copies of this proclamation be forwarded to all Terrebonne Parish Public Schools and office buildings.

The Board recognized several school guidance counselors who were in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Motion of Mr. Hamner, seconded by Mr. DeHart, unanimously carried, the Board accepted the proposal meeting the highest criteria of the Request for Proposals for Internet Access Service, for district-wide 10 Gbps Internet Access Service from AT&T, 208 South Akard Street, Dallas, Texas 75202, with an annual cost of \$54,545.40 for five (5) years, with an initial three (3) year contract, plus an option to renew for two (2) additional years, subject to Board attorney review, and further, authorized the Board president to sign all necessary documents pertaining thereto.

Superintendent Martin presented the following personnel actions for the period of November 18, 2019, through December 13, 2019 [list of professional instructional and non-instructional/support personnel (appointments, resignations, and retirements – Information Only)]:

**New Employees - Professional Instructional Personnel**

| Name              | Position               | Certification         | Location               | Effective Date |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| DOMINGUE, ALLYSON | KINDERGARTEN TEACHER   | Degreed/Non-Certified | BAYOU BLACK ELEMENTARY | 12/05/19       |
| FONTENOT, SUSANNE | ELEMENTARY 1-8 TEACHER | Certified             | OAKSHIRE ELEMENTARY    | 12/03/19       |
| HIGGINS, ALICIA   | ELEMENTARY 1-8 TEACHER | Certified             | OAKSHIRE ELEMENTARY    | 12/09/19       |
| PRINCE, TAYLOR    | KINDERGARTEN TEACHER   | Certified             | OAKSHIRE ELEMENTARY    | 12/02/19       |
| RODRIGUE, LILLIAN | ELEMENTARY 1-8 TEACHER | Certified             | MONTEGUT MIDDLE        | 12/03/19       |
| THIBODAUX, MORGAN | SECONDARY TEACHER      | Certified             | TERREBONNE HIGH        | 12/02/19       |
| THOMPSON, JEFFREY | IN-SCHOOL INT TCHR     | Degreed/Non-Certified | EVERGREEN JUNIOR HIGH  | 11/18/19       |

**New Employees - Non-Instructional Personnel**

| Name                 | Position          | Location       | Effective Date |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| ANDERSON, TANYA      | BUS DRIVER REG ED | TRANSPORTATION | 11/20/19       |
| DUPLANTIS, CHRISTINE | BUS DRIVER REG ED | TRANSPORTATION | 11/20/19       |
| WILLIAMS, TRINA      | BUS DRIVER REG ED | TRANSPORTATION | 11/20/19       |

**Resignations - Professional Instructional Personnel**

| Name               | Position               | Certification         | Location               | Term Code | Term Date |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| HENRY, POLEAT      | ELEMENTARY 1-8 TEACHER | Degreed/Non-Certified | EVERGREEN JUNIOR HIGH  | Resigned  | 12/13/19  |
| NGUYEN, JOSEPH     | ELEM 1-8 TEACHER       | Degreed/Non-Certified | HOUMA JUNIOR HIGH      | Resigned  | 11/22/19  |
| QUEBEDEAUX, MEAGAN | M/M INCLUSION TCHR     | Practitioner          | LEGION PARK ELEMENTARY | Resigned  | 11/22/19  |
| SEVIN, DAWN        | ELEM 1-8 TEACHER       | Certified             | LACACHE MIDDLE         | Resigned  | 11/22/19  |

**Resignations - Non-Instructional Personnel**

| Name          | Position          | Location        | Term Code | Term Date |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| FREEMAN, LISA | BUS DRIVER REG ED | TRANSPORTATION  | Resigned  | 12/03/19  |
| LEDET, JACKIE | SFS ASST MANAGER  | MONTEGUT MIDDLE | Resigned  | 11/18/19  |

**Retirements - Professional Instructional Personnel**

| Name              | Position             | Service Years | Location                 | Term Code          | Term Date |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| ASHLEY, ELIZABETH | KINDERGARTEN TEACHER | 21.40 YEARS   | GRAND CAILLOU ELEMENTARY | Service Retirement | 11/22/19  |

Motion of Mr. Hamner, seconded by Mrs. Solet, unanimously carried, the Board voted to go into executive session, at this time (6:20 P.M.), to discuss the parent appeal for readmission of Student #139380.

Motion of Mr. DeHart, seconded by Mrs. Solet, unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in regular session (6:45 P.M.) with all members present.

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Mr. Ford, that the Board allow Student #139380 to return to the base school tomorrow, subject to signing a contract.

A roll call vote having been called for on the motion, the vote thereon was as follows:

**YEAS:** Mr. LaGarde, Mr. Harding, Mr. Ford, Mrs. Benoit, Dr. Trahan, and Mr. Voisin

**NAYS:** Mrs. Solet, Mr. Hamner, and Mr. DeHart

**ABSENT:** None

President Benoit declared the foregoing motion carried.

Motion of Mr. DeHart, seconded by Dr. Trahan, unanimously carried, the Board voted to go into executive session, at this time (6:50 P.M.), to discuss the parent appeal for readmission of Student #145220.

Motion of Mr. DeHart, seconded by Mrs. Solet, unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in regular session (7:06 P.M.) will all members present.

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Mr. LaGarde, that the Board allow Student #145220 to return to the base school tomorrow, subject to signing a contract.

A roll call vote having been called for on the motion, the vote thereon was as follows:

**YEAS:** Mr. LaGarde, Mr. Harding, Mr. Ford, and Mr. Voisin

**NAYS:** Mrs. Benoit, Mrs. Solet, Mr. Hamner, Mr. DeHart, and Dr. Trahan

**ABSENT:** None

President Benoit declared the foregoing motion failed to carry.

Mr. Hamner moved, seconded by Mr. Voisin, that the Board allow Student #145220 to return to the base school at the beginning of the fourth nine weeks, subject to signing a contract.

Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Voisin, offered a substitute motion, that the Board allow Student #145220 to return to the base school on Friday, January 10, 2020, subject to signing a contract.

A roll call vote having been called for on the substitute motion, the vote thereon was as follows:

**YEAS:** Mr. LaGarde, Mr. Harding, Mr. Ford, Mrs. Benoit, Dr. Trahan, and Mr. Voisin

**NAYS:** Mrs. Solet, Mr. Hamner, and Mr. DeHart

**ABSENT:** None



President Benoit declared the substitute motion carried.

Motion of Mr. DeHart, seconded by Mrs. Solet, unanimously carried, the Board voted to go into executive session, at this time (7:15 P.M.), to discuss "Matter bearing upon pending litigation between Brian and Laura Brouillette vs. Terrebonne Parish School Board and James R. Mills, et als, Docket #184062, Division B - 32<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court, Parish of Terrebonne, State of Louisiana (Executive Session)."

Motion of Mrs. Solet, seconded by Mr. Voisin, unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in regular session (7:23 P.M.) with all members present.

Motion of Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. DeHart, unanimously carried, the Board accepted the recommendation of the Board Attorney, as it relates to the "Matter bearing upon pending litigation between Brian and Laura Brouillette vs. Terrebonne Parish School Board and James R. Mills, et als, Docket #184062, Division B - 32<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court, Parish of Terrebonne, State of Louisiana (Executive Session)."

Motion of Mr. DeHart, seconded by Mr. Voisin, unanimously carried, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting **(7:25 P.M.)**.

/s/ Philip Martin, Secretary

/s/ Debi Benoit, President

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