

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

OCTOBER 19, 2004

The Terrebonne Parish School Board met today at 7:00 P.M. in regular session at its regular meeting place, the Terrebonne Parish School Board Office, 201 Stadium Drive, Houma, Louisiana, with Mr. Clark J. Bonvillain, President, presiding, and the following members present: Mr. L. P. Bordelon, III, Vice-President, Mr. Richard Jackson, Mr. Rickie Pitre, Mr. Roger Dale DeHart, Mr. Donald Duplantis, and Mr. Hayes Badeaux.

ABSENT: Mr. Roosevelt Thomas and Mr. Gregory Harding

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

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Nermy Terrebonne, retired school bus driver, and Claire Roberts, retired school teacher, who recently passed away.

Motion of Mr. Badeaux, seconded by Mr. DeHart, unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes of School Board Meeting of September 21, 2004, as recorded.

Mr. Harding entered the meeting at this time and was present for the remainder of the proceedings.

Motion of Mr. Duplantis, seconded by Mr. Bordelon, unanimously carried, the Board deviated from the regular order of the agenda to allow Mr. Gene Bonvillain, Terrebonne Parish Assessor, to address the Board.

Mr. Gene Bonvillain addressed the Board relative to a Louisiana Tax Commission Hearing held on oil and gas properties and requested that the Board approve the appropriate resolution to be forwarded to the Louisiana Tax Commission relative to guidelines set for assessors to use in determining values for the 2005 Tax Year with regard to various types of properties.

Motion of Mr. Duplantis, unanimously seconded, unanimously carried, the Board approved the following resolution, as read by Superintendent Richard:

RESOLUTION NO. 1744

WHEREAS, at its annual hearing of September 8, 2004, the Louisiana Tax Commission set guidelines for Assessors to use in determining values of various types of properties for the year 2005; and

WHEREAS, without providing an opportunity for Assessors to oppose any reduction in values applicable to properties in their respective parishes, the Commission, without prior notice, reduced the percentage the Assessor must use on oil and gas wells and related equipment by thirty-three (33%) percent, resulting in a loss of approximately \$24,000,000 in assessed values in Terrebonne Parish alone; and

WHEREAS, no data has been provided to the Assessors or the public to justify such a drastic reduction in value, at a time when the state and all parishes, are in economically trying times and the price of oil is at an all time high, providing greater profit to the companies which the Tax Commission has favored over the citizens of Terrebonne Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Terrebonne Parish School Board believes that the matter should be reconsidered and the reduction should be revoked and requests your

assistance in remedying this unjust imposition on the citizens of Terrebonne Parish; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Terrebonne Parish School Board does hereby formally request that the Governor of Louisiana take such action as is appropriate to effect a revocation of the reduction in the percentages of the residual or floor rate referred in Table 907-C-1 of the Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana Tax Commission, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all members of the Louisiana Tax Commission, Governor Kathleen B. Blanco, Terrebonne Parish Legislative Delegation, Louisiana School Boards Association, and the South Central Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.

The Board returned to the regular order of the agenda.

The following Education and Policy Committee report was presented to the Board with Mr. Badeaux, Chairman, presiding:

Dear Members of the Board:

The Education and Policy Committee met on Monday, October 4, 2004, at 5:00 P.M., in the Board Room of the School Board Office with the following members present: Mr. Hayes Badeaux, Chairman, and Mr. Richard Jackson. Also in attendance were Mr. L. P. Bordelon, III, Vice-President, Superintendent Ed Richard, Jr., and members of the staff.

Mr. Gerald Picou, Supervisor of Federal Programs, presented information to the Committee relative to a new policy FILE: H-2.4a, Public School Choice.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

The Committee recommends that the Board approve the new policy FILE: H-2.4a, Public School Choice, as presented.

FILE: H-2.4a

PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE

The Terrebonne Parish School Board is required by both Federal law and the Louisiana School Accountability Program to develop and maintain a *Public School Choice* policy for any school with a *School Performance Score* (SPS) below levels set by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and considered in School Improvement Level II or higher. Additionally, those Title I schools that have failed the subgroup component of the state's accountability system or are in School Improvement II or higher shall also be a part of a School Choice program. *School Choice* allows eligible students to transfer to an academically acceptable school. *Subgroup component* refers to the testing performance within a specified subgroup of students.

Once schools eligible to receive students have been identified, a school-site utilization study shall be conducted as needed in all schools to determine the extent to which capacity exists to possibly accommodate students from schools offering choice, including students with special needs and/or students with disabilities. Only those schools that are labeled *academically acceptable* shall be considered eligible to receive students.

The Superintendent and staff shall be responsible for developing and managing a *School Choice Plan*, which shall determine the schools to which students may transfer, which students shall have priority in transferring, and all other regulations and procedures for supervising school choice within the school district.

NOTIFICATION

Notification of parents of their school choice options shall be sent as early as possible, but not later than the first day of the school year for the schools that are required to offer choice. If there are no choice options available, this information shall be included in the notification sent parents.

ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS

All students in a school required to offer choice shall be eligible to transfer. However, the School Board shall give priority to the lowest achieving students from low-income families, as determined by the School Board.

Ref: 20 U.S.C. 6316 (*No Child Left Behind*, Section 1116); *Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*, Bulletin 111, Louisiana Department of Education.

Mr. David Bourg, Supervisor of Secondary/Vocational/Adult/Driver Education, addressed the Committee relative to graduation ceremonies. He presented the Committee with a copy of the guidelines relative to graduation ceremonies (see attachment).

Mr. Philip Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Student Support Services, presented information to the Committee relative to policy FILE: B-7, Board Member Compensation and Expenses, with the recommended changes denoted in bold.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

The Committee recommends that the Board approve the revised policy FILE: B-7, Board Member Compensation and Expenses, as presented.

FILE: B-7

BOARD MEMBER COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

The Terrebonne Parish School Board shall provide an expense allowance and provide for expense reimbursement for its members in accordance with state law. For attending all regular or special meetings, the School Board shall authorize an expense allowance of \$800.00 per month for Board Members and \$900.00 per month for the School Board President. Board Members shall also be authorized to receive reimbursement for mileage going to and from meetings as well as reimbursement for actual travel and related expenses outside the jurisdictional boundaries of the Board while on official School Board business, all in accordance with Board policy, ~~to the extent that expenses incurred outside the Board's jurisdictional boundaries do not exceed the limits established by state law.~~

With approval of the Board, members of the Executive Committee may also receive one additional per diem per month, provided however, an executive committee member attending an executive committee meeting and a board meeting on the same day shall not receive compensation for the executive committee meeting.

TRAVEL EXPENSES

Travel expenses of Board Members shall be in accordance with travel regulations established by the Board for staff personnel. Reimbursement for attendance at in-state or out-of-state meetings shall require approval prior to the trip occurring. The Board President shall approve all requests for travel reimbursement for Board Members. Questionable requests shall be presented to the Executive Committee for discussion and action.

Revised: January 2002

Revised: August 2003

Revised: August 2004

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:56, 17:81; Board minutes, 10-17-78, 10-7-80, 10-21-80, 11-17-92, 10-2-01, 11-18-03.

There being no further business to come before the **Education and Policy Committee**, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Hayes Badeaux, Chairman

/s/ Richard Jackson

Motion of Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. DeHart, unanimously carried, the Board approved the new Policy (FILE: H-2.4a, Public School Choice), as outlined in the foregoing report.

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Bordelon, that the Board approve revised Policy (FILE: B-7, Board Member Compensation and Expenses), as outlined in the foregoing report.

Following a discussion, substitute motion of Mr. Duplantis, seconded by Mr. Bordelon, unanimously carried, the Board referred Policy (FILE: B-7, Board Member Compensation and Expenses) back to Committee for further review and clarification by Board Attorney and report back to the Board.

The Education and Policy Committee report was concluded, and the President reassumed the chair.

The Buildings, Food Service, and Transportation Committee report was presented to the Board with Mr. Bordelon, Chairman, presiding:

Dear Members of the Board:

The **Buildings, Food Service, and Transportation Committee** met on Monday, October 11, 2004, at 5:00 P. M. in the Board Room of the School Board Office, 201 Stadium Drive, with the following members present: Mr. L. P. Bordelon, III, Chairman, and Mr. Roger Dale DeHart. Mr. Gregory Harding, Vice-Chairman, was absent. Others in attendance were Mr. Richard Jackson, Mr. Roosevelt Thomas, Mr. Donald Duplantis, Superintendent Ed Richard, Jr., and members of the staff.

Mr. Bordelon called the meeting to order. The meeting began with the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Ira Davis addressed the Committee relative to the sewer services contract.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

The **Committee recommends** that the Board renew the sewer services contract with Strategic Technologies Applied To (S.T.A.T.) Waste Streams Services, Inc. for a three year period beginning February 25, 2005, and ending February 25, 2008, for a total contract cost of \$49,875 per year, and authorize the Board President to sign all the necessary documents pertaining thereto.

Mr. Merlin Lirette, The Merlin Group, LTD, addressed the Committee relative to the substantial completion of the Federal Programs Building Parking Lot Improvements project.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

The Committee recommends that the Board approve the substantial completion of the Federal Programs Building Parking Lot Improvements project, subject to the punch list, authorize the Board President to sign all the necessary documents pertaining thereto and, upon completion of the punch list items, final inspection, and receipt of the lien-free certificate, authorize the release of retainage.

Mr. Lirette addressed the Committee relative to a change order for the East Street School roof project.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3

The Committee recommends that the Board approve a change order for an extension of sixteen (16) days, due to inclement weather, for the East Street School roof project, extending the contract time from October 17, 2004, to November 2, 2004, and authorize the Board President to sign all necessary documents pertaining thereto.

Mr. Lirette presented information to the Committee relative to the Comprehensive Master Facility Plan, including preliminary summary analysis, renovation cost analysis, and school summaries for the four (4) high schools and three (3) junior high schools. Middle and elementary schools will be presented in the near future. These will be revised as the project continues and the final report is prepared upon completion of all work.

Mr. Roger DeHart addressed the Committee relative to the erosion of the rear slab of the main building at Grand Caillou Middle School. He stated that there is structural damage to the slab that has become a safety issue as it continues to erode. The Committee was informed by the staff that estimates were being obtained to install a three (3) foot concrete gutter extension to tunnel the water into the subsurface drainage. An update on the above will be presented to the Buildings, Food Service, and Transportation Committee on November 8, 2004.

Mr. DeHart addressed the Committee relative to lawn care services. He requested that an update on the performance of the services be presented to the Buildings, Food Service, and Transportation Committee on November 8, 2004.

Superintendent Richard addressed the Committee relative to the Supervisor of Transportation.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

The Committee recommends that the Board allow the Superintendent to appoint Mr. Curtis Prevost as Interim Supervisor of Transportation, and authorize the advertising for the position of Assistant Supervisor of Transportation.

The Committee was presented with a monthly update on projects and maintenance issues.

There being no further business to come before the **Buildings, Food Service, and Transportation Committee**, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ L. P. Bordelon, III, Chairman
/s/ Roger Dale DeHart

Motion of Mr. DeHart, seconded by Mr. Duplantis, unanimously carried, the Board renewed the sewer services contract with Strategic Technologies Applied To (S.T.A.T.) Waste Streams Services, Inc. for a three year period beginning February 25, 2005, and ending February 25, 2008, for a total contract cost of \$49,875.00 per year,

and authorized the Board President to sign all necessary documents pertaining thereto.

Motion of Mr. Bonvillain, seconded by Mr. DeHart, unanimously carried, the Board approved the substantial completion of the Federal Programs Building Parking Lot Improvements project, subject to the punch list, authorized the Board President to sign all necessary documents pertaining thereto, and upon completion of the punch list items, final inspection, and receipt of the lien-free certificate, authorize the release of retainage.

Motion of Mr. DeHart, seconded by Mr. Duplantis, unanimously carried, the Board approved a change order for an extension of sixteen (16) days, due to inclement weather, for the East Street School roof project, extending the contract time from October 17, 2004, to November 2, 2004, and authorized the Board President to sign all necessary documents pertaining thereto.

Motion of Mr. Duplantis, seconded by Mr. DeHart, unanimously carried, the Board approved the appointment of Mr. Curtis Prevost as "Interim Supervisor of Transportation," as recommended by the Superintendent, and further, authorized the advertising for the position of Assistant Supervisor of Transportation.

The Buildings, Food Service, and Transportation Committee report was concluded, and the President reassumed the chair.

Motion of Mr. Duplantis, seconded by Mr. Jackson, unanimously carried, the Board deviated from the regular order of the agenda to receive a partial report of the Finance, Insurance, and Section 16 Lands Committee.

The following partial report of the Finance, Insurance, and Section 16 Lands Committee was presented to the Board with Mr. Duplantis, Chairman, presiding:

Dear Members of the Board:

The FINANCE, INSURANCE, and SECTION 16 LANDS COMMITTEE met in the Board Room of the School Board Office, 201 Stadium Drive, at 5:00 P.M. on Monday, October 18, 2004, with the following members present: Mr. Donald Duplantis, Chairman; Mr. Richard Jackson, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Roosevelt Thomas. Also in attendance were Mr. L. P. Bordelon, III, Superintendent Ed Richard, Jr., and members of the staff.

Mr. Duplantis called the meeting to order. The meeting began with the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following is a **partial report** of the Committee meeting.

Mr. Jack Moore, Risk Manager, presented a recommendation from the Insurance Advisory Committee relative to Group Health plan options to be offered to all eligible participants of the School System, effective January 1, 2005. He noted that three plan options would be offered to all active, full-time personnel, and two plan options would be extended to retirees and other eligible individuals. Mr. Moore requested that the information being presented be reported at the October 19, 2004, Board meeting due to the need for timely communication to all participants.

RECOMMENDATION NO.1

The Committee recommends that the Board accept the recommendations of the Insurance Advisory Committee to adopt the Plan Document, along with the multiple health plan offerings presented at the Finance, Insurance and Section 16 Lands Committee on October 18, 2004, said plans to be offered to all eligible members of the Terrebonne Parish School System, effective January 1, 2005, subject to Board Attorney review.

A final report of the Committee meeting will be presented to the Board at its November 9, 2004, meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Donald Duplantis, Chairman
 /s/ Richard Jackson, Vice-Chairman
 /s/ Roosevelt Thomas

Motion of Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Bordelon, unanimously carried, the Board accepted the recommendation of the Insurance Advisory Committee presented at the Finance, Insurance, and Section 16 Lands Committee meeting on October 18, 2004, relative to the Group Health Plan Options, said plans to be offered to all eligible members of the Terrebonne Parish School System, effective January 1, 2005, subject to Board Attorney review.

Mr. Jack Moore, Risk Manager, addressed the Board regarding the foregoing motion.

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

The Board returned to the regular order of the agenda.

Motion of Mr. DeHart, unanimously seconded, unanimously carried, the Board approved the following resolution recognizing October 17-23, 2004, as School Bus Safety Week:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Louisiana parish and city systems provide free transportation for approximately 494,000 students each school day, and

WHEREAS, The citizens of this state recognize the efforts and dedication of the administrators, teachers, school bus drivers, and other employees, who make the school systems operational on a daily basis, and

WHEREAS, All officials of public and non-public schools strive for the efficient and safe transportation of all students, and

WHEREAS, The State of Louisiana, the Department of Education, and the Office of School and Community Support, recognize the commendable efforts displayed by all involved in the school transportation program, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Honorable Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, does hereby proclaim the week of October 17-23, 2004, as "School Bus Safety Week" in the State of Louisiana, 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, unanimously seconded, unanimously carried, the Board approved the following resolution declaring the month of November 2004 as Native American Indian Month in the Terrebonne Parish School System:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Title VII Indian Education Program is a viable part of the Terrebonne Parish educational system, and

WHEREAS, Emphasis on the cultural heritage of Indian students is one of the four goals of the Title VII Indian Education Grant, and

WHEREAS, The month of November has been observed as "National American Indian Heritage Month" since 1990, and

WHEREAS, Instructional lessons on Indians and their heritage are traditionally taught to students during the month of November, and

WHEREAS, The Title VII Indian Education staff and the Title VII Indian Education Parent Committee are requesting that the month of November 2004, be recognized as Native American Indian Month in the Terrebonne Parish School System, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Terrebonne Parish School Board does hereby declare the month of November 2004, as Native American Indian Month in the Terrebonne Parish School System, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to all Terrebonne Parish public schools and departments.

Motion of Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Badeaux, unanimously carried, the Board approved a request to allow Ms. Marion E. Johnson, Educational Facilitator in the Special Education Department, to attend the National Association for Gifted Children Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, November 3-7, 2004 (Wednesday-Sunday), in accordance with Policy (FILE: F-11.2), expenses to be paid by the State Department of Education - Javits Grant.

Motion of Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Duplantis, unanimously carried, the Board approved a request to allow Ms. Stacy Solet, Principal; Ms. Mary Boudreaux, Ms. Tammy Brouillette, Ms. Brenda Eschete, and Ms. Sue Hamner, Teachers at Lisa Park School, to attend the Renaissance Learning National Conference in San Antonio, Texas, March 4-6, 2005 (Friday-Sunday), in accordance with Policy (FILE: F-11.2), expenses to be borne by school funds and said individuals.

Motion of Mr. Bordelon, seconded by Mr. Jackson, unanimously carried, the Board approved a request to allow Ms. Rose Danos, Ms. Celestine Thomas, and Ms. Monique Rozands, Reading Recovery Teachers at Southdown Elementary School, and Ms. Carolyn Moore, Reading Recovery Teacher at Schriever Elementary School, to attend the 2005 National Reading Recovery and Classroom Literacy Conference in Columbus, Ohio, February 5-8, 2005 (Saturday-Tuesday), in accordance with Policy (FILE: F-11.2), expenses to be paid by Title I Funds.

Motion of Mr. Bordelon, seconded by Mr. DeHart, unanimously carried, the Board approved a request to allow Ms. Mary Aucoin, Principal; and Ms. Vickie Bonvillain, Ms. Cristy Crispino, Ms. Diana "Lynn" Marant, Ms. Kayla Boudreaux, Ms. Denise Dupre, Ms. Stella "Carroll" Prosperie, Ms. Polly Burgess, Ms. Becky Harris, and Ms. Marianna Vordick, Teachers at Mulberry Elementary School, to attend the Renaissance Learning National Conference in San Antonio, Texas, March 4-6, 2005 (Friday-Sunday), in accordance with Policy (FILE: F-11.2), expenses to be borne by school funds.

Motion of Mr. DeHart, unanimously seconded, unanimously carried, the Board approved a military leave of absence in accordance with Policy (FILE: F-11.7) for Ms. Tricia Spath, Teacher at Upper Little Caillou Elementary School, beginning September 26, 2004, through October 9, 2004.

Motion of Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Duplantis, unanimously carried, the Board approved family and medical leaves of absence in accordance with Policy (FILE: F-11.4a) for: a) Ms. Cecile Babin, Teacher at Lisa Park School, beginning November 8, 2004, through January 28, 2005, and b) Ms. Virginia Griffin, Title I Paraprofessional at

Coteau-Bayou Blue School, beginning September 13, 2004, through December 16, 2004.

Motion of Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Bordelon, unanimously carried, the Board approved a leave of absence without pay in accordance with Policy (FILE: F-11.10) for Ms. Claudette Clay, School Bus Driver in the Transportation Department, beginning October 4, 2004, through October 3, 2005.

Motion of Mr. Duplantis, seconded by Mr. Jackson, unanimously carried, the Board rescheduled the November 2, 2004, regular School Board meeting to November 9, 2004 (due to Election Day), with agenda deadline to be noon Wednesday, November 3, 2004.

Motion of Mr. Duplantis, seconded by Mr. Jackson, unanimously carried, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting (8:12 P.M.).

/s/ Ed Richard, Jr., Secretary
President

/s/ Clark J. Bonvillain,

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