

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

August 12, 2021

The Claiborne Parish School Board met in a regular session at the Homer High Cottage in Homer, Louisiana at six o'clock August 12, 2021 with the following members:

Present: Terry Willis, Chris Chandler, Tommy Davidson, Shelley Malsam, Linda Knox, Yolanda Coleman, Dr. Robert Haynes, William Maddox

Absent: Yolanda Coleman

There was also present Mr. William Kennedy, Secretary of the Board.

Dr. Haynes opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held July 8, 2021, and the Special Called Meeting held July 8, 2021, which had been mailed to the Board Members previously, were approved.

Superintendent Kennedy requested permission for Mr. Brooks, Haynesville Jr./Sr. High Principal, and Mrs. Brooks, Haynesville Elementary Principal, to travel out of state to Atlanta, Georgia. Mrs. Brooks gave information and details of the National Math Conference being held on September 20th-22nd. Ms. Brooks will be a speaker at the conference and both would be able to participate in other sessions being offered. She feels this will provide her valuable information to help with math instruction in the classrooms. Motion was made by Dr. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Meadors, to give permission to travel out of state. Motion passed by a vote of 9 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Kennedy requested approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Career Compass. They primarily work with our senior students with college admissions and ACT. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Ms. Knox. Motion passed by a vote of 9 yes, 0 no.

There was discussion on the old Homer Jr. High property located on the south side of Pearl Street. Superintendent Kennedy is working to obtain the clear title to this property, as currently there is not one, and has contracted with Beverly Smith from Claiborne Abstract to research this issue. Mr. Willis expressed his concerns on the lack of maintenance of this property. He noted it is the district's duty to maintain the property and urged this will also help to promote pride in the community. The Superintendent reassured Mr. Willis that moving forward, the school district will make a better effort to keep the property mowed and cleaned.

Superintendent Kennedy requested permission to declare the Mount Olive School property surplus. This property was donated by the school board in 1984 to the Mount Olive Baptist Church, which sits beside the school. However, it was recently realized there was no action taken or paperwork filed at the Clerk of Court's office after the donation was made. After reviewing the documents and the circumstances of the donation by the school district's attorney, it was determined, legally, public entities are unable to donate property. This means the building currently still belongs to the school district. Reverend Buggs and the elders of Mount Olive Baptist Church have been under the impression this property belonged to them and in good faith, have mowed and provided upkeep on this property for over 40 years. This building was recently discovered, evaluated and determined to be a Rosenwald school by the Louisiana Historic Trust and is one of only six remaining in the state of Louisiana. Superintendent Kennedy introduced Mr. Vince Ory with the Claiborne Parish Library to share the history of these school buildings. Mr. Ory stated the Rosenwald schools were built by philanthropist and CEO of Sears Roebuck Company, Julius Rosenwald, and educator and prominent African American leader, Booker T. Washington in the early 1900s. The Rosenwald Program improved education for African Americans in the South. There were nearly 5,000 rural schoolhouses which served more than 700,000 black children over four decades.

In Claiborne Parish, there were 28 school buildings and 7 teacher homes built. This particular property is the last Rosenwald School remaining in Claiborne Parish. Mr. Ory stated the building is in remarkable condition. The intent and plan for this school building is to restore and preserve the history. The school building and cafeteria would be used by the Mount Olive Baptist Church and the community. Superintendent Kennedy asked Mr. Guice to explain several options available for Mount Olive Baptist Church to acquire this property, because unfortunately, although they have maintained this property, they do not legally possess ownership. By declaring this property surplus, it does not mean it is putting the property up for a sale. Instead, it gives both parties several options. First option would be the district and the church could agree to a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. This would allow the church the right to use it for a substantial amount of time and give sufficient time to secure funding, if needed. There would be no cost to this option. The next options available is selling this property at some point through sealed bids, public auction, or an appraisal and a sale through a real estate broker. The immediate priority is declaring this property surplus to move in the right direction. Mr. Guice offered to stay after the board meeting to answer questions and discuss options with Reverend Buggs and members of the congregation present. Motion to declare the property surplus was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Ms. Knox. Motion passed by a vote of 9 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Kennedy requested approval of the revised salary schedules. He explained to the Board the revisions would include: correcting the 12/9 on the salary schedules, changing to a tiered-approach and adding a stipend on a per pupil basis for principals. He stated the district could possibly lose high-quality individuals and these changes would provide more competitive salaries with our neighboring school districts. Superintendent Kennedy clarified the 10-month, 11-month, and 12-month contract employees will be compensated for the additional months worked over the usual 9-month employee contracts. If approved, these changes would become effective September 1st. Mr. Chandler asked questions in regards to the policy and procedures to allow this agenda item to be brought before the Board, without a Finance Committee meeting beforehand, and also, what is a reasonable time in receiving agendas. Jon Guice, Attorney, was asked to answer and speak about these two questions. According to Mr. Guice, there is not a Claiborne Parish Board policy requiring a committee meeting before taking action on this agenda item. Additionally, there is not a Louisiana State statute requiring this procedure. Therefore, there is no violation in bringing the agenda item before the Board at this meeting. On the second question, Mr. Guice stated, legally, an agenda is required to be posted 24 hours before the meeting, but typically, superintendents send to board members earlier. However, there is no statutory requirement stating board members are required to receive any sooner. Superintendent Kennedy commented our board packets and agendas are normally sent electronically to board members on the Friday before the week of the Thursday meetings. Mr. Willis stated his concern with not having a policy or protocol for these types of agenda items. Mr. Kennedy apologized to Mr. Willis that he feels that way, but stated he felt it was appropriate to have one-on-one conversations with board members and walk through the salary schedules with them individually. Motion was made by Dr. Haynes to approve the revised salary schedules, seconded by Ms. Meadors. Mr. Maddox, Board President, requested a roll call vote:

Yeas: Maddox, Lee, Haynes, Malsam, Willis, Meadors, Knox, Davidson

Nays: None

Abstain: Chris Chandler

Absent: Yolanda Coleman

The motion passed by a roll call vote of 8 yays, 0 nays, 1 abstained.

Mr. Kennedy requested approval of professional services agreement with CSRS. The school district will be filing a claim with FEMA to offset the costs of the recent winter storm damage to Homer Elementary. We have an insurance deductible of \$250,000, which has been met and paid. Currently, remediation costs are approximately 2.2 million dollars. Due to the prior approval of a Declaration of Public Emergency at the February

board meeting, the district has entered into an emergency contract with CSRS, which allows guidance to the district of the procedures and regulations in filing a claim with FEMA. This contract will be reevaluated with CSRS in 90 days. Motion was made by Mr. Davidson to approve, seconded by Ms. Malsam. Motion passed by a vote of 9 yes, 0 no.

Superintendent Kennedy requested authorization of issuance of request for qualifications for disaster recovery grant and project management. As we will be filing a claim through FEMA, it is a requirement to acquire Request for Proposals (RFPs). This authorization would allow the district to receive RFPs. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Ms. Knox. Motion passed by a vote of 9 yes, 0 no.

Superintendent's Report:

I. To be Hired:

a. Certified Teaching or Administrative Positions

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing
Mark Bahr-Homer Elem	Teacher	08/02/21	Terry Battle
Kylie Frith-Homer Elem	Teacher	08/02/21	LeAnne Ragas
Brittany Mondello-Homer El	Teacher	08/02/21	Alexis Sneed
Kelli Tims-Homer JR	Teacher	08/02/21	Sylvia Jenkins
Jacqueline Willis-Homer JR	Teacher	08/02/21	LeAnn Perritt
DeAnza Andrews-Homer JR	Teacher	08/02/21	Ruby Musgrow
Farryn Cooper-Homer High	Teacher	08/02/21	Carmen Jordan
Rebecca Stohler-Hay Jr/Sr	Teacher	08/02/21	Leigh Ann Gantt
Amanda Garner-Hay Jr/Sr	Teacher	08/02/21	Beverly Coleman
Ben Alderman-Hay Jr/Sr	Teacher	08/02/21	Erin Mckenzie
Madeline Williams-Hay Jr/Sr	Teacher	08/02/21	Kim Butler
Johnna Jinks-Summerfield	Principal	07/01/21	Christy Chandler
Chris Cavin-Summerfield	Asst. Principal	07/07/21	Johnna Jinks
Priscilla Dean-Summerfield	Counselor	08/01/21	Cyndi Scroggs
Ashlie Martin-Summerfield	Teacher	08/02/21	Chris Scroggs
Amy Farley-Summerfield	Early Interventionist	08/02/21	Charli French
Craig Kelly-Summerfield	Teacher	08/02/21	Mallory Aycock
Elizabeth Marsalis-SPED	Ed. Diagnostician	07/19/21	New Position
Claudia Haynes-CPSB	Inst. Coach	07/19/21	New Position

b. Classified, Support, Bus Drivers or Other Non-Certificated Positions

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing
Stephanie Walker-Homer El	Para	08/02/21	ESSER Grant
Amber Wyatt-Homer El	Para	08/02/21	Wilma Brown
Tia Meziere-Homer El	Para	08/02/21	ESSER Grant
Sondra Evans-Homer El	Para	08/02/21	ESSER Grant
Brenda Curlee-Homer El	Para	08/02/21	ESSER Grant
Alicia Coleman-Homer El	Para	08/02/21	ESSER Grant
James Hardaway-Homer JR	Custodian	07/01/21	Michael Turner
Laverne Henderson-Homer JR	Para	08/02/21	Otis Thompson
Howard Bennett-Hay Elem	Bus Driver	08/02/21	Sherry Harper
Amber Reid-Hay Elem	Para	08/02/21	ESSER Grant
Amanda Sanders-Hay Elem	Para	08/02/21	Jerri Christian
Shaquitta Turner-Hay Jr/Sr	Para	08/02/21	Tracie Kirkpatrick
Mallory Gray-Summerfield	Para	08/02/21	ESSER Grant
Leuthisia Lewis-Summerfield	Food Service Man.	07/26/21	LaKetha Smith
Ken Curlee	Maintenance	07/31/21	ESSER Grant
Ariel Finch	Para	08/02/21	SPED

II. Resignations, Retirements:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason
Kim Butler	Teacher	07/12/21	Resigned
Patrick Shelman	Para	07/30/21	Resigned
Cindy White	FST	07/30/21	Resigned

Donnie Henderson	Custodian	07/30/21	Resigned
Laketha Smith	FS Manager	07/30/21	Resigned
Tracie Kirkpatrick	Para	08/13/21	Resigned

III. Transfers:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason
Sherry Harper	Bus Driver	08/02/21	Valerie Holyfield
Ruby Musgrow	Interventionist	08/02/21	New Position
Charli French	Teacher	08/02/21	New Position
Hannah Sanders	Teacher	08/02/21	Donna Dean
Mackenzie Ward	Teacher	08/02/21	Alison Wideman
Stephanie Shepherd-Kopf	P. Appraisal	08/01/21	Elizabeth Haynes
Christy Chandler	Principal Alt. School	07/01/21	New Position
Nakia Smith	Teacher Alt. School	08/02/21	New Position

2. Students returned back to school on Thursday, August 5th.
3. The Department of Health will be located between Homer High and Homer Jr. High on Wednesday, August 18th from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., offering Pfizer vaccinations to anyone ages 12 and up. This is free and open to the public.
4. Joey Guillory, Transportation and Maintenance Supervisor, updated the Board on the 10 buses the district obtained through federal grant monies.
5. Ms. Terri Fedrick, Business Manager, announced she will be retiring in December, 2022. She thanked the Board for their support and stated she will miss everyone at Claiborne Parish School Board. She will be missed greatly and her contributions to our district are sincerely appreciated.
6. Vince Ory invited the Board and members of the audience to visit the congregation of Mount Olive Baptist Church. Their services are held every 2nd and 4th Sundays each month.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

William Maddox, President
Claiborne Parish School Board

ATTEST:

Mr. William Kennedy, Secretary
Claiborne Parish School Board