

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

October 7, 2021

The Claiborne Parish School Board met in a regular session at the Claiborne Parish School Board office in Homer, Louisiana at six o'clock October 7, 2021 with the following members:

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

Absent:

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

Mr. Maddox, Board President, opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Eli Coker, 4-H Livestock Club Member.

The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on September 7, 2021 and the Regular Meeting held September 9, 2021, which had been emailed to the Board Members previously, were approved.

Mr. Kennedy read the following announcement of a public meeting:

“Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at its regular meeting place, the Parish School Board Office, 415 E. Main Street, Homer, Louisiana, the Parish School Board of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in Homer School District No. 13, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana to authorize the renewal of an ad valorem tax therein.”

Eli Coker invited the Board to the Claiborne Parish Fair & Livestock Show and Auction during the week of October 11th – 14th. The Buyer's Supper will be at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 14th. The youth livestock sale will be at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Cedric Floyd, Demographer and President of Data Center introduced himself to the Board. He informed the Board he has been recently hired by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury for redistricting services. The population of Claiborne Parish in the 2020 census was 14,170 with a decrease of 3,025 since the 2010 census. Mr. Floyd requested the Board to consider using his services for redistricting and adopting a resolution by the deadline date of March 1, 2022. Superintendent Kennedy stated he will obtain more information from Mr. Floyd on the process of redistricting in the upcoming weeks and present to the Board for their consideration and approval.

Ms. Fedrick, Business Manager, requested approval of the LA Compliance Questionnaire. This is an annual occurrence of a questionnaire prepared for our auditors to confirm that to the best of our knowledge the rules and regulations have been followed by the Board. Motion was made by Mr. Davidson to approve, seconded by Dr. Haynes. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Ms. Holland, Technology and Title I Supervisor, requested approval of the EGMS 2021-22 grant applications. She updated the Board that the first allocation was received in March of the ESSER II and ESSER III grants. We received 50% of the ESSER II grant funds and 20% of the ESSER III grant funds. These amounts equaled \$3,782,695. The grants were approved with the following areas specifically focused towards the use of the funds: loss of learning during Covid-

19 and sanitation in preparing to bring the students back to school safely this August. One of the elements recommended was extra time, which allowed the district to have our Summer Camp program this past June. This also included summer camp salaries for teachers, paraprofessionals, cafeteria personnel, bus drivers, maintenance personnel, and counselors. Furthermore, this included materials and supplies for the summer camp. Additionally, the Covid pay received by teachers and support staff, and the purchase of 10 buses. There were Covid safety measures that will benefit the district for a long time, such as, touchless water fountains, sinks, toilets, air conditioning, and air duct cleaning. There were Internet hotspots through Verizon and AT&T made available at schools and also sent home with students that may be quarantined or choosing to have virtual education. As part of addressing the loss of learning, early literacy was going to be one of our initiatives. The district hired 7 paraprofessionals to be working with early childhood teachers. We also changed to a new Tier I Science curriculum. The district received the remaining 50% of the ESSER II and 80% of the ESSER III in August. There are several commitments and key investments the funds will go toward: attendance and well-being of students and staff, targeted learning supports, professional learning and development, early childhood education, school safety and operations, and data infrastructure. The total came to an additional \$1,992,630 for the ESSER II grant and \$7,160,260 for the ESSER III. The total for all ESSER grants is \$12,989,585. Ms. Malsam made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Ms. Meadors. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Superintendent Kennedy gave an update on the Pearl Street property. Ms. Beverly Smith with Claiborne Abstract has completed the research and provided the Superintendent with a chain of title of the Pearl Street property. Currently, we are awaiting review and verification from our attorney to receive a clear title. Parts of this property are being used by the Boys and Girls Club and Headstart. We have hired Winn Surveying who will determine the boundaries of the property. After approval, the district will be able to move forward and declare surplus on the Pearl Street property as desired.

Mr. Kennedy discussed close contact quarantine protocol. Recently, State Superintendent Dr. Brumley suggested allowing parents to decide if their child should quarantine once they have been identified as a close contact. It is our attorney’s advice and recommendation to continue to follow the Louisiana Department of Health guidelines and quarantining protocol and the district will continue to do so.

Ms. Fedrick briefly discussed the July, August and September (1st Quarter 2021 – 2022 Fiscal Year) financials. For the first quarter, the general fund has received approximately \$1.2 million revenue per month from the Minimum foundation Program (MFP). The maintenance fund will begin receiving revenue in November and December and the school lunch fund is doing well. There were no questions.

Superintendent’s Report:

1. Personnel activity that has occurred since the September 9, 2021 meeting:

Personnel Actions – October 7, 2021

I. To be Hired:

a. Certified Teaching or Administrative Positions

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing
Stephen Legendre	Teacher	10/01/21	Colleen Thompson

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

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing
K’Nia Lindsey	Para	9/28/21	Brenda Curlee
Kimberly Clements	Nurse	10/04/21	Debbie Harmon
Lunary Willis	Café Tech	9/13/21	Shirley Moore
Shameka Henderson	Café Tech	9/13/21	Cindy White
Dennis Carter	Café Tech	9/13/21	Donny Henderson

II. Resignations, Retirements:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason
Colleen Thompson	Teacher	8/29/21	Death
Racheal Knudson	Teacher	9/10/21	Resigned
Robin Wendt	Teacher	9/10/21	Resigned
Debbie Harmon	Nurse	9/29/21	Resigned

III. Dismissals, Terminations:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason

2. The RFP has been put on the Central Bidding website. It opened October 1 and the deadline is October 29.
3. Interest rates have continued to decline but the district will continue to keep funds in our local banks.
4. The district has entered into an agreement and program with Louisiana Tech. Ms. Molly Rainwater will work with and support new teachers and new hires.
5. The Steering Committee for a Strategic Planning Process met on September 15. Ms. Coleman gave a summary of the plans.
6. The insurance claim for Homer Elementary and Haynesville Jr./Sr. High from the winter damage is close to being completed. There were 6 units damaged at Haynesville Jr./Sr. and it will be the last repair.
7. MFP is out as of October 1. Our current count is 1624, which is 35 more students from last year.

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