

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

November 11, 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 November 11, 2021 with the following members:

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

Absent: Vera Meadors

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

Mr. Willis, Board Member, opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the Special Called meeting and the regular meeting held October 7, 2021, which had been emailed to the Board Members previously, were approved.

In recognition of Red Ribbon Week, Ms. Christy Chandler, Alternative School Principal and Drug Free/Safe School Coordinator, recognized the following essay winners: Grades K-2 – **Jaida Hamilton**, Homer Elementary; Grades 3-5 – **Latierra Colbert**, Haynesville Elementary; Grades 6-8 – **Jarei'yuana Adams**, Homer Jr.; and Grades 9 -12 – **Ella Adkins**, Summerfield. Homer Police Chief, Van McDaniel, presented each student with a certificate and a \$25 gift card. The motto this year was "Drug Free Looks Like Me".

Superintendent Kennedy requested to approve a resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in Homer School District No. 13, Claiborne Parish, 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. Mr. Davidson made a motion to approve, seconded by Dr. Haynes. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 9 yes, 0 no.

The following resolution was offered by Tommy Davidson and seconded by Dr. Haynes:

RESOLUTION

A resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in Homer School District No. 13, Claiborne Parish, 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 Claiborne, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Homer School District No. 13, Claiborne Parish, 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 VIII, Section 13(C) Third 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, MARCH 26, 2022**, 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:

HOMER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 13 PROPOSITION (TAX RENEWAL)

Shall Homer School District No. 13, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy an eleven and ninety-six hundredths (11.96) mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$376,800 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2023 and ending with the year 2032, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining, operating and supporting public school facilities in the District, including equipment therefor?

SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Election. A Notice of Special Election shall be published in the *Guardian Journal*, a newspaper of general circulation within the District, published in Homer, 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 of the Governing Authority 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, 415 E. Main Street, Homer, Louisiana, on **THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022, 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 declare results of the said special election.

SECTION 4. Polling Places. The polling places for the precincts in the District 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 Claiborne Parish and the Registrar of Voters of Claiborne 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:

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>ABSTAINING</u>
Danny Lee	X			
Linda Knox	X			
Yolanda Coleman	X			
Dr. Robert Haynes	X			
Vera Meadors			X	
William Maddox	X			
Tommy Davidson	X			
Chris Chandler	X			
Terry Willis	X			
Shelley Malsam	X			

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 11th day of November, 2021.

_____ /s/ William Kennedy _____ /s/ William Maddox Secretary
President

EXHIBIT "A"

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Pursuant to the provisions of a resolution adopted by the Parish School Board of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Homer School District No. 13, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), on November 11, 2021, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held within the District on **SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022**, 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:

**HOMER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 13 PROPOSITION
(TAX RENEWAL)**

Shall Homer School District No. 13, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy an eleven and ninety-six hundredths (11.96) mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$376,800 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2023 and ending with the year 2032, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining, operating and supporting public school facilities in the District, including equipment therefor?

Said special election will be held at the polling places at the following precincts of the District 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, to wit:

PRECINCTS

- 03(PART)
- 05(PART)
- 07(PART)
- 08(PART)
- 31(PART)
- 41(PART)
- 42(PART)
- 84
- 85
- 87
- 88
- 92(PART)
- 93
- 96

The polling places at the precincts in the District 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 \$15,400.

A-1

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, 415 E. Main Street, Homer, Louisiana, on **THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022**, 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 results 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 Homer, Louisiana, on this, the 11th day of November, 2021.

ATTEST:

_____/s/ William Maddox
President

/s/ William Kennedy _____
Secretary

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF CLAIBORNE

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Parish School Board of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), the governing authority of Homer School District No. 13, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of the proceedings taken by the Governing Authority on November 11, 2021, ordering and calling a special election to be held in Homer School District No. 13, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein; making application to the State Bond Commission and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Homer, Louisiana, on this, the 11th day of November, 2021.

Secretary

Superintendent Kennedy requested to approve policy revisions: ID (Curriculum), JBA (Compulsory School Attendance Ages), and JBC (School Admission). Motion was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Dr. Haynes. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Kennedy requested to approve a resolution of Claiborne Parish School Board regarding employment of Special Counsel. This resolution would increase the hourly rates to those approved by the Attorney General for employment of special counsel. Motion was made by Mr. Davidson and seconded by Dr. Haynes. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 9 yes, 0 no.

**RESOLUTION OF CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
REGARDING EMPLOYMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL**

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statutes 42:263 authorizes the retention of special counsel by any school board upon a statement of reasons why such counsel is necessary and upon the approval by the Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, the Claiborne Parish School Board has employed the law firm Hammonds, Sills, Adkins, Guice, Noah & Perkins, LLP (formerly Hammonds & Sills) since 2007 as its special counsel with experience, training, and expertise in school law issues including, but not limited to, special education, school personnel matters, public bid law and general school board policy matters involving compliance with the federal and state laws and regulations, including due process hearings, tenure hearings, misconduct investigations and the handling of administrative hearings and litigation in state and federal courts; and,

WHEREAS, through its representation of the Claiborne Parish School Board and various school boards throughout the State of Louisiana, the law firm of Hammonds, Sills, Adkins, Guice, Noah & Perkins, LLP has special experience, training and expertise in those issues of school law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED by the Claiborne Parish School Board in regular session duly convened:

Section I - This School Board does hereby renew its employment of the law firm of Hammonds, Sills, Adkins, Guice, Noah & Perkins, LLP as special counsel with training, experience and expertise in school law issues including, but not limited to, special education, school personnel matters, public bid law and general policy matters to include administrative hearings and litigation with respect thereto for the purpose of advising, consulting with, and representing this School Board in connection with such legal matters involving the school system.

Section II - Said law firm shall be paid for their services at hourly rates equal to the maximum hourly fee schedule for special counsel published by the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana in effect at the time of the services except that the paralegal rate shall be \$75.00 per hour and to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses for long distance telephone calls, document duplication, expert witness fees, court reporter fees, printing costs, travel expenses and other expenses as a result of the legal services to and for this School Board.

Section III - Said law firm shall keep itemized time records for presentation to the Superintendent with respect to services rendered at said hourly rates and the expenses incurred, and the Superintendent is hereby authorized and directed to pay same upon submission and receipt thereof.

Section IV - This employment shall continue and is effective immediately upon adoption of this resolution.

The vote, in open meeting, on the resolution was as follows:

YEAS: 9
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Claiborne Parish School Board in regular session duly convened on November 11, 2021 and that same has not been rescinded or repealed.

HOMER, LOUISIANA, this 11th day of November, 2021.

WILLIAM H. MADDOX, President
Claiborne Parish School Board

WILLIAM KENNEDY, JR., Secretary-Treasurer
Claiborne Parish School Board

Mr. Cedric Floyd, Demographer, with Data Center, LLC, discussed with the Board the criteria for redistricting with the Claiborne Parish School Board. This includes compliance with the Voting Rights Act, population equality in each district (10% deviation in the plan), each district shall be contiguous and incumbency will be considered. Superintendent Kennedy requested to approve the contract with Data Center LLC to provide redistricting services due to the 2020 census. Dr. Haynes made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Willis. Motion passed by a vote of 9 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Kennedy also requested approval of the resolution with Data Center, LLC. The motion was made by Mr. Davidson to approve, seconded by Ms. Knox. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 9 yes, 0 no.

Claiborne Parish School Board Resolution

WHEREAS, The 2020 US Census count has been completed and the PL 94-171 redistricting data was delivered to the State of Louisiana in August 2021; and

WHEREAS, The Claiborne Parish School Board under LA RS: 33:1411, must make a determination whether redistricting is necessary with the 2020 US Census population count; and

WHEREAS, The Claiborne Parish School Board authorized a study to calculate the 2020 US Census population in each school board member election district; and

WHEREAS, The current school board member election districts have the following 2020 US Census population numbers without using the Forcht-Wade Correctional Facility in one census block with a population of 1,649. The Wade Correctional Facility population will not be used in the Redistricting process.

**CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
2020 US CENSUS BENCHMARK PLAN**

Total Population – 14,170 Ideal District Size – 1,252 Plan Deviation – 25.00%

District	Population	Dev.	% Dev	White	% White	Black	% Black	Other	% Other
	1,649	397	31.71%	1,105	67.01%	406	24.62%	125	7.58%
1	1,207	-45	-3.59%	760	62.97%	397	32.89%	6	0.50%
2	1,237	-15	-1.20%	637	51.50%	527	42.60%	20	1.62%
3	1,210	-42	-3.35%	844	69.75%	297	24.55%	4	0.33%
4	1,200	-52	-4.15%	280	23.33%	862	71.83%	4	0.33%
5	1,257	5	0.40%	796	63.33%	388	30.87%	24	1.91%
6	1,462	210	16.77%	975	66.69%	420	28.73%	16	1.09%
7	1,153	-99	-7.91%	349	30.27%	761	66.00%	0	0%
8	1,149	-103	-8.23%	414	36.03%	683	59.44%	3	0.26%
9	1,367	115	9.19%	847	61.96%	448	32.77%	4	0.29%
10	1,279	27	2.16%	256	20.02%	995	77.80%	3	0.23%

Source: 2020 US Census Bureau-PL 94-171 Datafile - Compiled by Data Center LLC, P.O. Box 141, Kenner, LA 70063
(504) 450-3474

WHEREAS, The overall deviation of the ten-member school board member election districts is 25.00%, which is more than double the legal limit of ten (10%) percent mandated in Federal Law.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Claiborne Parish School Board hereby declares that a redistricting of the school board member election district must commence to adjust the district populations to be within ten (10%) percent deviation of the ideal district population of 1,252.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Claiborne Parish School Board.

This resolution having been offered by Mr. Tommy Davidson and seconded by Ms. Linda Knox, at a school board meeting held on 11th day of November 2021, in Homer, Louisiana, the voting was as following:

YEAS: 9

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

William Kennedy, Superintendent

William Maddox, President

ATTEST:

Superintendent Kennedy requested to approve a contract for consultant services with CSRS. The school board previously signed an emergency 90-day contract with CSRS for their assistance in recovering our costs from the winter storm damage claim through FEMA. Since then, RFPs were sent out for proposals. After a thorough review of the two proposals received, Business Manager, Ms. Fedrick, and Superintendent Kennedy recommends CSRS for the permanent contract. This decision was based on their experience, expertise with claims through FEMA and also with school districts. Motion to approve the contract was made by Ms. Malsam, seconded by Dr. Haynes. Motion passed by a vote of 9 yes, 0 no.

Board Member, Shelley Malsam, left the meeting.

Mr. Kennedy asked the Board to table Item #12 (Consider/Approve Mount Olive Property Transaction) until the December board meeting. The information and documentation for this agenda item was not received in for the Board to review. Motion to table Item #12 was made by Dr. Haynes, seconded by Mr. Davidson. Motion passed by a vote of 8 yes, 0 no.

Business Manager, Ms. Fedrick, informed the Board that it will not be necessary to transfer money from the '78 sales tax fund this year for the 13th check. There also will be a slight increase in the amount paid to district employees. The check will be distributed on the first Friday in December.

Ms. Fedrick, Business Manager, briefly discussed the October 2021 financials.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Personnel Activity that has occurred since the October 7, 2021 meeting:

Personnel Actions –November 11, 2021

I. To be Hired:

a. Certified Teaching or Administrative Positions

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing
Chyna Pleasant-Homer Jr.	Teacher	09/13/21	Robin Wendt
Linda Robinson-Homer High	Teacher	10/25/21	Cheryl Russell

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

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing
Brenda Jackson-Homer High	Para	10/04/21	Chyna Pleasant
Dominique Rogers-Hay Elem	Para	09/07/21	New Position

II. Resignations, Retirements:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason
Julia Rockett	Teacher	10/09/21	Retiring

III. Dismissals, Terminations:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason

1. The school district's attorney is currently working on clearing the title on the Pearl Street property. The property will be surveyed in January and then, appraised. Afterwards, the district will be able to declare surplus.
2. Borden sent a letter seeking a price increase on milk. The school board accepted their bid for milk in the summer. Legally, we will not agree to a price increase for this school 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