

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

December 9, 2021

The Claiborne Parish School Board met in a public meeting at the Claiborne Parish School Board Office in Homer, Louisiana at five o'clock Thursday, December 9, 2021, with the following members:

Present: Linda Knox, Dr. Robert Haynes, William Maddox, Thomas Davidson, Shelley Malsam, Chris Chandler

Absent: Danny Lee, Yolanda Coleman, Vera Meadors, Terry Willis

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

Superintendent Kennedy presented on several areas which relate to our schools. They are currently and will continue to be used with ESSER grant application funds made available to our district.

The first is attendance and the well-being of our students and staff. The pandemic has taken a physical and mental toll on both students and staff. Obviously, our attendance numbers has been affected. Also, being out of a normal routine and environment can cause students/staff to struggle. Moving forward, the district is looking at a couple of options to help support and deal with these issues. We are in a partnership with a counseling agency that provides certified counselors to our students. At the beginning of each school year, we give students a Review 360, a self-assessment/check list which indicates how they are feeling about school or life. If a child indicates they are struggling, it allows us to take it and red flag specific issues. We are promoting and identifying random acts of kindness, positive behavior referrals, student of the month awards, and extracurricular programs, other than sports.

Another area we are concentrating on is recovery and acceleration. We were able to see through testing, indications we had a significant amount of learning loss, especially in the lower elementary levels. We can contribute this loss to not receiving instruction from March 2020 (when school closed due to Covid-19) and returning in August 2020, but quarantining at points during this time. We have made an investment and effort to focus on early literacy, Project Read, an ACCELERATE pilot, tutoring, Career Compass, ACT reinforcement, and dual enrollment

opportunities, such as CNA certification and the welding program from Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College in Minden.

Additionally, we are concentrating on professional learning and development in order to provide our students with a better quality education. We are in a partnership with LA Tech in a new teacher induction program to provide support to our new teachers. Also, we now have full implementation of System of Advancement of Teachers and Students (TAP) program at Homer Jr. High. It is a systematic process where everybody is working together with students, faculty, and staff. It develops more rigor and ownership in to each decision being made. Teachers are reviewing student data and then, making decisions. The data is then driving the education.

Lastly, we are focused on Early Childhood Education. We have added an additional Pre-K class. In addition to our two Instructional Coaches, we also have an Early Literacy Coach. We have proper EL implementation being brought to our young students to give them the tools they need to succeed.

The primary purpose of Claiborne Parish remains to provide the best possible education for every student that comes in our doors. This is an ongoing process. Parental and community involvement and student motivation are huge keys to success. This past year we had to have virtual conferences but gradually our schools have been able to have special programs and open houses again to get parents back on our campuses.

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