

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

January 6, 2022

The Claiborne Parish School Board met in a regular session at the Homer High Auditorium in Homer, Louisiana at six o'clock January 6, 2022 with the following members:

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

Absent: Yolanda Coleman

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

William Maddox, Board President, opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Meadors made a motion to re-elect William Maddox as President, seconded by Mr. Davidson. A motion was made by Mr. Willis to elect Ms. Yolanda Coleman as President. The motion was not seconded; motion failed. Motion to re-elect Mr. Maddox passed by a vote of 9 yes, 0 no. A motion was made by Ms. Knox to re-elect Ms. Vera Meadors as Vice-President, seconded by Mr. Davidson. Motion passed by a vote of 9 yes, 0 no.

Ms. Coleman arrived.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 9, 2021 and the District and School Improvement Meeting held December 9, 2021, which had been emailed to the Board Members previously, were approved.

In honor of School Board Recognition Month, Superintendent Kennedy expressed appreciation and gratitude to the board members for their service, dedication and focus on the well-being and achievement of our students throughout the district, especially during this past year. He requested adoption of a resolution declaring January 2022 as a Louisiana School Board Recognition Month. Motion to adopt the resolution was made by Dr. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Meadors. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the mission of public schools is to meet the diverse educational needs of all children and to empower them to become competent, productive contributors to a democratic society and an ever-changing world; and

WHEREAS, local school board members are committed to children and believe that all children can be successful learners and that the best education is tailored to the individual needs of the child; and

WHEREAS, local school board members work closely with parents, educational professionals, and other community members to create the educational vision we want for our students; and

WHEREAS, local school board members are responsible for ensuring the structure that provides a solid foundation for our school system; and

WHEREAS, local school board members are strong advocates for public education and are responsible for communicating the needs of the school district to the public and the public's expectations to the district;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Superintendent William Kennedy, do hereby declare my appreciation to the members of the Claiborne School Board and proclaim January 2022 as

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH in Claiborne Parish School District. I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the dedication and hard work of local school board members and in working with them to mold an education system that meets the needs of both today's and tomorrow's children.

IN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION WHEREOF, I hereby affix my signature this 6th day of January, 2022.

Superintendent

Motion was made by Dr. Haynes, seconded by Mr. Davidson, to set the date/time for Regular Board Meetings for the first Thursday after the first Sunday of each month at 6 PM. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Superintendent Kennedy read into the minutes the following training hours for each board member for 2021.

		Ethics	Camp. Fin.								
NAME	01/05	Online	Online	3/7-9	3/7-9	6/19&20	7/8	9/27	10/7	11/11	TOTALS
Danny Lee		1.0					1.25		2.0	2.0	6.25
Linda Knox		1.0	1.0	10.0			1.25		2.0	2.0	17.25
Yolanda Coleman		1.0	1.0		10.0		1.25		2.0	2.0	17.25
Robert Haynes		1.0	1.0				1.25		2.0	2.0	7.25
Vera Meadors		1.0			8.5		1.25		2.0		12.75
William Maddox		1.0			10.0		1.25		2.0	2.0	16.25
Tommy Davidson	1.0	1.0					1.25		2.0	2.0	7.25
Shelley Malsam	1.0	1.0			10.0				2.0	2.0	16.00
Chris Chandler		1.0					1.25		2.0	2.0	6.25
Terry Willis		1.0					1.25	5.0		2.0	9.25

Online - Annual Ethics Training - 1 CLU Hr.

Online - Campaign Finance - 1 CLU Hr. (Due within 4 year term)

01/5/21 - Mid-Year Professional Development - 1.0 CLU hrs.

3/7-9/21 LSBA Annual Convention 9.5 CLU hrs.

3/7-9/21 LSBA On-Demand Training 10.0 CLU hrs.

6/19-20/21 - LSBA Summer Leadership Virtual Conference -5.0 CLU

7/8/21 LSBA - The Board and the Budget: An Introductory Guide - 1.25 CLU hrs.

9/27/21 LSBA On-Demand Fall Trailblazer 5.0 CLU hrs.

10/7/21 LSBA - Roles and Responsibilities of the Board & Superintendent 2.0 CLU hrs.

11/11/21 Accountability Overview - 2.0 CLU hrs.

Superintendent Kennedy requested approval for a salary supplement to be paid Friday, January 8, 2021. The 2020-21 supplement check will be \$768.18 for professionals and \$384.09 for support personnel. Mr. Davidson made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Dr. Haynes. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Kennedy requested permission for the Homer Jr. High Leadership Team to travel out of state for the TAP National Conference. Principal Courtney Smith, Assistant Principal Guin, and teachers Kelly Tims and Alex Feaster would be attending the conference, which will be held in Dallas, Texas, in March. Principal Smith stated being able to attend this conference will be beneficial and allow their team to collaborate with other TAP schools in the U.S. Motion to grant permission to travel out of state was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Ms. Knox. Motion passed by a vote of 10 yes, 0 no.

Superintendent Kennedy asked the Board to consider resumption of face coverings on the return to school in accordance with CDC/LDH return to school recommendations during the Omicron surge. He stated the mitigation efforts, which included wearing masks, as well as other protocols, were put in place in our schools during Covid-19 and have made a successful impact on allowing our district to continue face-to-face learning. Superintendent Kennedy explained he did not make this decision lightly but believes it is in the best

interest of the students and staff in their protection and safety in our schools and buses. He reiterated the surge will continue to be monitored and when the numbers begin to decline, the students and staff would be relieved from wearing face coverings. Discussion was opened for the Board to give their thoughts on the matter. Mr. Chandler introduced a motion for masks to be optional for students and faculty. Motion was seconded by Mr. Davidson. Discussion was then opened for public comments and several parents voiced their concerns with their children wearing masks. They stated the issues with children touching their masks during the school day and in turn, other objects in the classroom. They reiterated the difficulty children who are visual learners have fully understanding or comprehending the lessons being taught with masks being worn. They explained they feel it should be the personal choice of the parent whether their child wears a mask. There were additional comments from teachers in favor of wearing the masks. After a lengthy, emotional discussion on the matter, Board President, Mr. Maddox, reminded there was a motion on the table made by Mr. Chandler for the recommendation of masks be optional for faculty and students, and seconded by Mr. Davidson. Motion did not pass by a roll call vote of 3 yes, 7 no.

YAYS NAYS ABSTAINED

	YAYS	NAYS	ABSTAINED
Danny Lee	X		
Linda Knox		X	
Yolanda Coleman		X	
Dr. Robert Haynes		X	
Vera Meadors		X	
William Maddox		X	
Tommy Davidson	X		
Shelley Malsam		X	
Chris Chandler	X		
Terry Willis		X	

Mr. Kennedy briefly discussed the December 2021 financials.

Superintendent's Report:

Personnel Actions – January 6, 2022

I. To be Hired:

a. Certified Teaching or Administrative Positions

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing

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

Name	Position	Effective	Replacing
Courtney Cox- Homer Elem	Para	12/06/21	Alicia Coleman
Nykeria Mims- Homer Elem	Para	01/06/22	Knia Lindsey
Douglas Upshaw-Summerfield	Bus Driver	01/04/22	Anthony Cooper

II. Resignations, Retirements:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason
Beverly Coleman Duhon	Teacher	01/05/22	Retired

III. Transfers:

Name	Position	Effective	Reason
Catherine Shelton	School Secretary	12/06/21	Replace Shneka Webb
Shneka Webb	Payroll Clerk	12/06/21	Replace Micki Turner

Micki Turner	Business Manager	01/04/22	New position
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2. The total insurance claim on the Homer Elementary winter storm damage is approximately \$3.2 million dollars. We have received approximately \$1.6 million in payments. They are getting closer to a decision on itemized damages, but it continues to be an ongoing process.
3. The Strategic Planning Committee met earlier in the week. They have identified priorities from the surveys which need to be specifically addressed to change and improve the education in Claiborne Parish. The committee will be working with a consulting firm to accomplish those goals.
4. State Superintendent Dr. Cade Brumley will be visiting at Homer Elementary on Wednesday, January 12th, at 3:15 p.m. He would like to have an informal conversation with teachers, faculty, and staff. He will also have a questions and answers session with them.
5. The Act of Sale for the Rosenwald school to Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church will be signed and filed at the Clerk of Courts office on Monday, January 10th, 2022.

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