

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 2022

The Long Range Planning Committee met at the Claiborne Parish School Board Office, Homer, Louisiana, at five o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, with the following members:

Present: LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE: Yolanda Coleman, Linda Knox, Chris Chandler

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: William Maddox, Shelley Malsam

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

Ms. Coleman, Committee Chair, began with the first agenda item of School Count (October and February). Superintendent Kennedy discussed the October 1 and February 1 Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) student counts. These are the twice a year counts the Louisiana Department of Education relies on to provide funding to the individual school districts. In the 2021-22 school year, the October student count was 1,633; the February student count was 1,645. In the 2020-21 school year, the October count was 1,598; the February student count was 1,613. He stated the overall count has continued to increase and believes this trend will continue.

Superintendent Kennedy discussed teacher/staff replacements. Ms. Malsam questioned and expressed concerns regarding the number of students/teachers leaving Summerfield High. Mr. Kennedy agreed with her there have been a couple of issues there and stated the district is currently working towards placing administrators/teachers at Summerfield High that he feels will make a difference. He also explained there is a teacher shortage statewide. College students are no longer going into the education field and there is difficulty finding a certified teacher in Math, ELA, or Science. Ms. Coleman suggested our district hosting a job fair in hopes of attracting new teachers and college graduates. Mr. Kennedy said he will definitely look into this possibility and shared there is also an opportunity to have a program that will have an elective class added for high school students to encourage and direct them towards the education field.

Mr. Kennedy shared a few of the successes of the Alternative Program this school year. A transition plan for students/schools has been developed. Ms. Chandler, Principal, and Ms. Jones have formed relationships with students/parents; so, efforts can begin to help students deal with behaviors that necessitated their placement there. Weekly 'Learning Sessions' are conducted where students can develop character and social/emotional/behavioral issues can be addressed. Students continue with their academic progress while at the Alternative Program through Odyssey Ware or virtual learning and parents receive encouragement through calls/mailouts. The plan for the 2022-23 school year includes a Social/Emotional Learning Program currently being chosen for the parish, more follow-up with students when they return to home schools, and tailor the Odyssey Ware program; so, it more closely meets the needs of individual students while at the Alternative Program. Ms. Chandler would like to see more counseling services for students there and have more professional development for dealing with SEL issues. In conclusion, Superintendent Kennedy stated he believes they are having success in changing their behavior and mindset at the Alternative Program.

Mr. Kennedy gave a brief summary of goals achieved for 2021-22. Ms. Coleman requested when the principals give their reports in the fall that they also share the effectiveness of programs implemented and if they have been successful or not. Superintendent Kennedy stated at the July board meeting, members of the Steering Committee for the Strategic Plan will also give updates of their areas/roles. Some of the initiatives that will be discussed will be the social climate, teacher relationships with students, TAP program, and SEL (Social Emotional Learning).

Mr. William Kennedy, Secretary
Claiborne Parish School Board