

**PROCEEDINGS OF REGULAR MEETING OF
NATCHITOCHE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING ON NOVEMBER 7, 2019**

A public meeting was held at the Natchitoches Parish School Board on November 7, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Natchitoches Parish School Board Office, 310 Royal Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana. Upon roll call, the following members and Dale Skinner, Secretary-Treasurer, were present: Russell Danzy, Emile Metoyer, Billy Benefield, Eugene Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Katrina Willis, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey (5:02 p.m.), Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. The meeting was called to order by Board President, Rhonda Guidroz, followed by an invocation by Ms. Reba Phelps and Pledge of Allegiance by Mr. Russell Danzy.

There was no Committee Meeting held for the month of November.

At Thursday's Board Meeting, under the Superintendent's Report, the board received an update on the release of test score for the individual schools in the parish. The overall district grew 1.3 points.

The SPS Letter Grades are as follows:

A-Schools: Magnet, NSUE

B-Schools: NCHS, Marthaville, Lakeview Jr/Sr, Provencal, NSUM

C-Schools: Goldonna, NPTCC

D-Schools: NJH, Fairview Alpha

F-Schools: East, L.P. Vaughn, Weaver

The Progress Letter Grades are as follows:

A-Schools: Fairview Alpha, Marthaville, NJH, NSUE, NSUM, Provencal, Magnet

B-Schools: East, NCHS, Weaver/L.P. Vaughn

C-Schools: Goldonna, Lakeview Jr/Sr., NPTCC

Under Old Business, Business Director, Richard Foshee, stated that there was a meeting scheduled for the following week with the architecture regarding the bond items and progress with improvements. Bids would be put out in December for the Jr. High improvements. Installation of cameras and radio on Owner Operator buses was completed the week of fall break. The navigation systems have not yet been installed. There was no more information at the time of the meeting regarding the RAVE Mobility Safety App, which is an app that would alert authorities to emergencies on K-12 campuses.

Under New Business, Attorney Bob Hammonds presented the board with some guidelines to think about when advertising for Superintendent's position. Suggestions such as when, where and how often to advertise, salary range, deadlines and qualifications. A motion was made by Mr. Benefield that the board would conduct its own search for a new Superintendent and not hire an outside firm. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Danzy and unanimous consent from all members present.

A motion was made by Mr. Danzy to schedule meeting for public and school employee input for Superintendent qualifications. The motion was accompanied by a second from Ms. Phelps and unanimous consent from all members present. The meeting will be held on November 19, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the NSU Middle Lab. Auditorium located on Northwestern State University Campus.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris to accept the following Consent Agenda items. Mr. Garner offered a second to the motion. All members present at the meeting unanimously approved the motion and the second.

1. *Adoption* of Agenda.
2. *Approval* of Minutes of October 3, 2019
3. FINANCE ITEMS
 - A. *Payment of Bills:*
 - B. *Out of State Travel*
 1. **Alesia Hudlow**, NCHS Band Director, travel to San Antonio, Tx, February 12-15, 2020, to attend Texas Music Educators Association Conference. The trip is at no cost to the board.
 2. **Syll-Young Lee Olson**, NCHS Orchestra Instructor, travel to Italy, March 20-29, 2020, to chaperone local orchestra students at the American Celebration of Music Concert Series. The trip is at no cost to the board.
 3. **Emily Anne Owens**, NCHS Orchestra, travel to Italy, March 20-29, 2020, to chaperone local orchestra students at the American Celebration of Music Concert Series. The trip is at no cost to the board.
 4. **Dennis Breland**, Assistant Principal, travel to Italy, March 20-29, 2020, to chaperone local orchestra students at the American Celebration of Music Concert Series. The trip is at no cost to the board.
 - C. *School Bus Routes Changes:*
 - D. *Purchase of Buses:*
 - E. *Advertisements:*
 1. *Permission to advertise for bids:*
 - F. *Resignations:*
 - G. *Retirements:*
 - H. *Requests for Leave:*
 - I. *Termination:*

The Finance Report was presented by Mr. Russell Danzy. During the monthly Transportation Report, Ryan Johnson (ECCOride) introduced new members of the department: Mr. Michael Babin, Terminal Manager, and Ms. Melissa Blake, Community and School Liaison. Mr. Babin and Ms. Blake introduced themselves and told the board of the many new incentives that had already been implemented in the short time they had been with the company, as well as the many new things they have planned to recruit and retain bus drivers for the parish.

Ms. Laura Lyles with the A+ Coalition introduced Ms. Jessica McGrath, Director of the Natchitoches Parish Library, who spoke to the board asking for their support in supporting the Technology in Education Grant.

The Tax Commission Report update was given by Mr. Richard Foshee, who stated that taxes were still relatively flat for the year to date.

A motion was made by Mr. Danzy to amend the current policy regarding orchestra restricted funds to include elementary and middle school orchestra students as well as band. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Harris and unanimous consent from all members present.

A motion was made by Mr. Danzy to approve the RFP process to request bids on 4 additional classrooms at Provencal Elementary J. High School. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Metoyer and unanimous consent from all members present.

A motion was made by Mr. Danzy to approve an agreement between NPSB and Save the Children for school food services to serve breakfast and lunch to the Head Start students at L.P. Vaughn and Fairview Alpha. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Harris. All members present approved the motion. Mr. Metoyer abstained from voting.

A motion was made by Mr. Danzy to table the discussion regarding the purchase of an insurance policy on the vacant Cloutierville building. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Metoyer and unanimous consent from all members present.

A motion was made by Mr. Metoyer to approve the transfer of school activity funds for Cloutierville to activity accounts at schools that received the former Cloutierville students. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Danzy and unanimous consent from all members present.

The Personnel Report was presented by Mrs. Linda Page.

The Executive Report was presented by Mr. Benefield. Ms. Laura Lyles spoke to the board regarding the formation of a Community Advisory Committee to offer support to the board during the search for a Superintendent. A motion was made by Ms. Phelps agreeing that the board would acknowledge and support the formation of a Community Advisory Committee composed of Natchitoches Parish citizens and organized by Natchitoches area Chamber of Commerce to assist and advise during the entire Superintendent search process. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Garner. YEAS: Russell Danzy, Billy Benefield, Eugene Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Katrina Willis, Beverly Broadway, Tan'Keia Palmer, Reba Phelps. NAYS: Emile Metoyer and Dorothy McGaskey. The motion passed.

The board meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. on a motion from Mr. Benefield and a second from Mrs. Willis.

DALE SKINNER, SECRETARY-TREASURER

RHONDA GUIDROZ, PRESIDENT