

**PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF
NATCHITOCHE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
ON NOVEMBER 19, 2019**

A special called meeting of the Natchitoches Parish School Board was held on November 19, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the NSU-Middle Laboratory School, located on the campus of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Russell Danzy, Billy Benefield, Eugene Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Katrina Willis, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. Emile Metoyer was absent. The meeting was called to order by Board President, Rhonda Guidroz, followed by an invocation by Mrs. Beverly Broadway and Pledge of Allegiance by Mr. Steven Harris.

A motion was made by Mr. Danzy to suspend the rules and add the item of "adopting the Student Fee Policy in accordance with Act 240 of 2019". The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Garner and unanimous consent from all members present.

A motion was made by Mr. Danzy to adopt the Student Fee Policy in accordance with Act 240 of 2019. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Harris and unanimous consent from all members present.

Mrs. Linda Page present the State requirements by the BESE Board for becoming a Superintendent.

A motion was made by Mr. Benefield to receive public and school employee input regarding the qualification in the search of a Superintendent for Natchitoches Parish Schools. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Garner and unanimous consent from all members present.

Janice Bolton, grandparent, business owner and A+ Coalition, complimented the board on opening up to the community. Ms. Bolton stated that she would like to see someone who is inspirational to the teachers and also a return to discipline. Ms. Bolton also believes that a higher pay scale would attract the kind of innovative leader that the system needs. She also would like to see a broad spectrum of advertisement for the position. Someone who is here for the long haul is also a quality that Ms. Bolton would like to see.

Persunda Raymond, parent, wants to see someone who will be an advocate for all children. Ms. Raymond would also like to see someone hold the position, who is qualified and equipped to deal with all children. Someone who is open and will listen.

Precious Babers, children's advocate, would like to see someone who will be an advocate for children and families. Someone who will figure out a way to get and keep families involved. Ms. Babers would like to see a Superintendent who really thinks that parental involvement is important.

Katrina Jordan, parent and educator, feels that the Superintendent set the culture for the entire district. Ms. Jordan would also like to see someone in the position who is supportive, positive and can lead by example. Someone who is committed to rebuilding the educational reputation, teacher confidence as well as parental confidence. She would also like to see someone with 21st century skills and a vision to lead children into the 21st century. Ms. Jordan would also like to see someone really motivated to seeing growth and change in the structure that will benefit all. Lastly, she would like to see someone with a shared vision who will partner more with the local university.

Vincent Cofield, Chairman of a Nonprofit Organization, would like to see more inclusiveness. Someone who represents Natchitoches and is unafraid to try new processes. Mr. Cofield also feels that the Superintendent should be someone who smart enough to condition all children to excel.

Betty Sawyer-Smith, parent and grandparent, would to see someone who is just certified but also qualified. Someone who is more visible in the schools and is able to work with teachers, parents, etc. Ms. Smith also believes it should be someone who open-minded.

Renee Johnson, parent, feels that the Superintendent should be willing to build a bridge to parents and teachers. They should also make parents feel secure and trusting. The Superintendent should also possess positivity and be a forward-thinking person.

Dr. Kimberly McCalister, NSU, feels that the Superintendent needs to be someone who is compassionate and committed to improvement. They should also be willing to be a team builder to help recruit and retain teachers. The Superintendent should also be someone who is innovative, active and visible in the schools as well as in the communities. Dr. McCalister also feels that not only should he/she be approachable, but that they are also ready for the professional challenge that comes along with the job. Lastly, she feels that they should be willing to strengthen the relationship between NPSB and NSU.

Dr. McCalister also spoke on behalf of Ms. Laura Lyles, Community Advisory Committee Chairperson, who was unable to attend the meeting. She informed the board that a group of approximately 25 volunteers meet the week prior to the meeting, and would like to ask the board to delay their advertisement of the Superintendent position by one week or even delay until January.

Jed Cain, parent, feels that the board should explore a compensation package that is compatible with others in the state. He also would to see someone who is filled with ambition and is here for the long haul.

Marvin Blake Jr., educator, addressed the board asking them to think about longevity. Find a long-range plan, stick to it and give it time to work.

Matreka Moses, parent, would like to have a Superintendent who is transparent and positive. Someone who would bring something new to the system that is attractive and open.

Anita Taylor White, grandparent, spoke on the volunteers of the Advisory Committee.

Sylvia Morrow, Councilwoman, would like to see someone with great leadership skills and character. She also feels that the Superintendent should be someone who able to deal with all parents and be very inclusive.

Susanne Prince Taylor, parent, would like to see someone who has come from a failing school and turned it around to something great. She also feels that he/she should be transparent and work well with parents, teachers and the board. Ms. Taylor also felt that the should advertise in other states and consider a more compatible pay scale.

Renee Lewis, parent and school nurse, wants to see someone take the position who has a vision and knows where he/she wants to take the parish. Someone with proven leadership skills. She also felt that the person should be diverse in their thinking and committed to the success of Natchitoches Parish schools.

Ronald Payne, resident of the parish, would like to see someone delegate a staff to produce great results and reminded the board that they set the tone.

Rosa Shields, resident of the parish, wants to see a Superintendent with an open door policy and someone who isn't intimidating.

LaShonda Berryman, parent and educator, would like to see a Superintendent who is all about the children of the parish. One who is visible on all school campuses. Ms. Berryman also felt that it should be someone who is open-minded and be there for everyone. She also felt that he/she should encourage parental involvement. Lastly, she would like to see a Superintendent who would find a curriculum that works for Natchitoches Parish and stick with it.

Brian Young, parent and coach, would like to see someone who is fair and very objective. He felt that the Superintendent should also be someone who is concerned with the staff and the community.

Billy Benefield, Vice President of the board, wrapped the meeting up with a summary of the thoughts from all who spoke at the meeting and thanked everyone for coming out.

The board meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. on a motion from Mr. Benefield and a second from Mr. Danzy.

DALE SKINNER, SECRETARY-TREASURER

RHONDA GUIDROZ, PRESIDENT