

**PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF
NATCHITOCHE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
HELD ON MARCH 18, 2020**

A special called meeting of the Natchitoches Parish School Board was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Natchitoches Parish School Board Office, 310 Royal Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana, and upon roll call, the following members were present: Russell Danzy, Billy Benefield, Eugene Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. Absent members were Emile Metoyer and Katrina Willis. Superintendent Skinner was not present for the proceedings.

The meeting was called to order by President Billy Benefield, followed by an invocation by Mrs. Guidroz and Pledge of Allegiance by Mr. Garner.

A motion was made by Mr. Garner to approve the reimbursement rate for mileage of 57.5 cents per mile for applicants for Superintendent. The motion passed with a second from Mr. Danzy and unanimous consent from all members present.

Suggestions were presented to the board by Mrs. Linda Page on behalf of the NPSB staff.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve paying full time employees without requiring leave. The motion passed with a second from Mrs. Broadway and unanimous consent from all members present upon roll call.

A motion was made by Mr. Garner to approve paying all long-term staff and hourly tutors without requiring leave. The motion passed with a second from Mr. Danzy and unanimous consent from all members present upon roll call.

A motion was made by Mrs. Broadway to seek legal counsel on how to proceed with pay for contracted workers. The motion was passed with a second from Mr. Danzy and unanimous consent from all members present upon roll call.

A motion was made by Mr. Garner to not allow School Based Health Centers paid by Christus to continue to operate on campuses during the Covid-19 closure. The motion was accompanied by a second from Ms. Palmer. The motion was amended to include the exception of NCHS, Marthville and Provencal. Upon roll call the motion passed unanimously by all members present.

A motion was made by Mrs. Guidroz to suspend the feeding sites until the board receives more positive data. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mrs. McGaskey. Upon roll call the following votes were recorded. YEAS: Russell Danzy, Billy Benefield, Eugene Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, Tan'Keia Palmer. NAYS: Reba Phelps. ABSENT: Emile Metoyer and Katrina Willis. The motion passed. Mrs. Broadway would like to look towards a reconsideration in the future with more data.

A motion was made by Mrs. Guidroz to move forward with contract structure for Superintendent-Elect Grant Eloi. The motion was accompanied with a second by Mr. Garner and unanimous consent from all board members present. Board members will submit their contract ideas to Mr. Harris.

Ryan Johnson of ECCO Ride, gave an update on whether or not bus drivers would be paid during the closure. After receiving info from the Dept. of Education, it was stated that drivers would continue to be paid.

A motion was made by Mr. Danzy to accept the Declaration of Emergency as present to the board from Mr. Bob Hammonds. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mrs. Guidroz and unanimous consent from all board members present upon roll call. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Ms. Palmer to consider changing the April 7th and 9th regular scheduled committee and board meetings to April 14th and 16th, to coincide with the closures. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Danzy. Mrs. Broadway suggested keeping the meeting as scheduled to allow for updates to be given to the public regarding closures. Upon roll call the following votes were recorded. YEAS: Russell Danzy and Tan'Keia Palmer. NAYS: Billy Benefield, Eugene Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey and Reba Phelps. ABSENT: Emile Metoyer and Katrina Willis. The motion failed.

On motion of Mr. Harris and seconded by Mr. Danzy the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

DALE SKINNER, SECRETARY-TREASURER

BILLY BENEFIELD JR., PRESIDENT