

**PROCEEDINGS OF REGULAR MEETING OF
NATCHITOCHE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING ON MAY 7, 2020**

A public meeting was held at the Natchitoches Parish School Board on May 7, 2020, 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 Superintendent Grant Eloi, were present via Zoom media: Russell Danzy, Emile Metoyer, Billy Benefield, Eugene Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Katrina Willis, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey (5:01), Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. The meeting was called to order by Board President, Billy Benefield Jr., followed by an invocation by Mr. Steven Harris and Pledge of Allegiance by Mrs. Beverly Broadway.

There wasn't a Committee Meeting held for the month of May due to Covid-19 pandemic.

During the Superintendent Report, Superintendent Eloi spoke on the following topics: teacher appreciation week, the Care Act (\$2.9 million to cover infrastructure and technology), the total number of meals passed out (52,770), the total number of student home learning packets passed out (7,336), next year's possible schooling plans (traditional, virtual, and hybrid of traditional and virtual, summer professional development, and modernizing the district. The many other tasks that the Superintendent has been working on over the past three weeks include, but aren't limited to: organizational charts for the district, summer learning, pupil progression plan, meeting with principals and leaders, staffing, working with board member on Cultural Diversity plan and developing a social media policy going forward.

There was no Old Business to be discussed at the meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the State Superintendent Search and Qualification Resolution. Mr. Metoyer offered a second to the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion and the second via roll call.

A motion was made by Ms. Phelps to accept the following Consent Agenda items with the exception of the approval of minutes from the April 16, 2020 meeting. Mr. Harris offered a second to the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion and the second via roll call.

1. *Adoption of Agenda.*
2. *Approval of Minutes of April 16, 2020*
3. **FINANCE ITEMS**
 - A. *Payment of Bills:*
 - B. *Out of State Travel*
 1. **Sherry Helms**, Lakeview Jr/Sr High School teacher, travel to Daytona Beach, FL, June 13-20, 2020, to attend NRAEF Summer Institute Culinary (Pro-Start) Level 2 Workshop. The trip will be funded by CDF (Career Development Funds).
 - 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. There were no bids to take action on the meeting. There was no transportation report given. Mr. Foshee presented the update on the Tax Commission report. Mr. Foshee gave worst case scenarios for the district in the event of a drop in its sales tax revenue. A 20% drop could result in the district taking a hit of \$2.2 million by the end of the year; 40% drop-\$4.4 million; or worse case scenario, 60% would result in a \$6.7 million loss. Mr. Foshee stated that this greatly affect the General Fund budget (60%) and the Sales tax checks (40%). When questioned about the tax monies that already have to be paid back, Mr. Foshee said it was basically a “double whammy”. Mr. Foshee stated that staff would be notified closer to the dates of the payback. He also stated that he would ask if the payback of the overpaid taxes could be postponed. Mr. Metoyer suggested paying it back out of two checks instead of one.

During the budget update presented by Mr. Foshee, he informed the board that the revenues were exceeding the expenses at this time. Mr. Foshee mentioned that there had been a drop in MFP because the district was down 58 students since October. This would result in an approximate loss of \$300,000 in revenue.

The Personnel Report was presented by Mrs. Linda Page. Mrs. Page stated that some interviewing had started and that she was looking into a possible virtual job fair. She was also pleased to announce that there had been some former teacher who were returning to the district. A motion was made by Mr. Garner to accept the Personnel Report as it was presented. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Metoyer and unanimous consent from all members via roll call.

The Executive Report was presented by Mr. Harris. A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the adoption of an amended COVID-19 Pupil Progression Plan. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Garner and unanimous consent from all members via roll call.

A motion was made by Ms. Phelps recommending the date of April 30, 2020, as the end date of employee for twenty-two designated people due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The positions are named by Superintendent Eloi in a spreadsheet. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mrs. McGaskey. Upon roll call the following votes were recorded. YEAS: Russell Danzy, Emile Metoyer, Billy Benefield, Eugene Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Katrina Willis, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey and Reba Phelps. NAYS: NONE. ABSTAIN: Tan’Keia Palmer. The motion passed.

During the discussion of the facilities use policy, there was no action taken but it was determined that the facilities would be used during COVID-19.

There was some discussion, but no action taken, regarding the compensation for board bus drivers. It was discussed that board bus drivers are paid from four different areas. One of those areas is determined by the total number of miles driven and the number of students who are assigned to the bus.

A motion was made by Ms. Phelps to approve suspension of the current food service program as of May 18, 2020 (cooking) and May 19, 2020 (feeding). The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Garner and unanimous consent from all board members via roll call.

The board meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m. on a motion from Mr. Harris, a second from Mrs. Broadway and unanimous consent from all members via roll call.

GRANT ELOI, SECRETARY-TREASURER

BILLY BENEFIELD JR., PRESIDENT