

**PROCEEDINGS OF REGULAR MEETING OF  
NATCHITOCHE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING ON JANUARY 7, 2021**

A public meeting was held at the Natchitoches Parish School Board on January 7, 2021, 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 Dr. Grant Eloi, were present: Emile Metoyer, Billy Benefield, Eugean Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. Absent from the meeting were Russell Danzy and Katrina Willis. The meeting was called to order by Board President, Billy Benefield Jr., followed by an invocation by Mrs. Rhonda Guidroz and Pledge of Allegiance by Mr. Eugean Garner.

At Tuesday's Committee Meeting, Superintendent Eloi gave an update on COVID, next year's school calendar, the Strategic Plan, NSU Initiatives, the ECCO Contract and the MLK Head Start building. At Thursday's meeting, he provided updates on upcoming inclement weather for the parish and how it would affect school at the start of the next week. Dr. Eloi also mentioned that NPSB employees would have the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. A moment of silence was observed for all those that the system loss in the year 2020.

Under New Business, Mr. Lee Waskom read the following public announcement:

“Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at its regular meeting place, the Parish School Board Office, Board Room, 310 Royal Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana, the Parish School Board of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling elections to be held in (i) Consolidated School District No. 8 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, and (ii) Consolidated School District No. 10 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of ad valorem taxes therein.”

At Thursday's meeting, the board elected a new Board President and Vice President. Current President, Billy Benefield, Jr. opened the floor for nominations for President of Natchitoches Parish School Board for 2021. Mr. Metoyer nominated Mr. Steven Harris for 2021 Board President. Ms. Palmer offered a second to the nomination. There were no other nominations. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded. YEAS: Emile Metoyer, Billy Benefield, Eugean Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. NAYS: NONE. ABSENT: Russell Danzy and Katrina Willis. Mr. Steven Harris was unanimously elected NPSB Board President for 2021.

Mr. Harris then opened the floor for nominations for Vice President of Natchitoches Parish School Board for 2021. Mr. Metoyer nominated Ms. Reba Phelps for 2021 Board Vice President. Mrs. McGaskey offered a second to the nomination. There were no other nominations. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded. YEAS: Emile Metoyer, Billy Benefield, Eugean Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. NAYS: NONE. ABSENT: Russell Danzy and Katrina Willis. Ms. Reba Phelps was unanimously elected NPSB Board Vice President for 2021.

A motion was made by Mr. Garner to accept the following Consent Agenda. Mr. Metoyer offered a second to the motion. Upon unanimous consent from the board, the motion passed:

1. *Adoption* of Agenda.
2. *Approval* of Minutes of December 3, 2020
3. FINANCE ITEMS
  - a. *Payment of Bills:*
  - b. *Out of State Travel*
  - c. *School Bus Routes Changes:*

- d. *Purchase of Buses:*
- e. *Advertisements:*
  - 1. *Permission to advertise for bids:*
    - (a) E-Rate Category 2 Products and Services for 2021-22.
- f. *Resignations:*
- g. *Retirements:*
- h. *Requests for Leave:*
- i. *Termination:*

The Finance Report was presented by Mr. Billy Benefield Jr., in the absence of Mr. Russell Danzy.

Mr. Benefield offered items 2-6 of the Finance Report (Transportation, Tax Commission, Budget Update, Maintenance and School Food Service Reports) as one motion. Mr. Metoyer offered a second to the motion. All reports were unanimously approved by all members present at the meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Metoyer to approve the distribution of a one-time MFP appropriations in the amount of \$583 for certified personnel and \$300 for all other support personnel. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Garner. The following roll call votes were recorded. YEAS: Emile Metoyer, Billy Benefield, Eugene Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. NAYS: NONE. ABSENT: Russell Danzy and Katrina Willis. The motion passed.

The Personnel Report was presented by Mrs. Linda Page. A motion was made by Mr. Garner to accept the Personnel Update as presented. Mrs. Guidroz offered a second to the motion. All members present, unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Garner to approve the addition of a new Benefits Manager/Payroll Assistant. The motion was seconded by Ms. Phelps. After some discussion, Mr. Benefield offered a motion to amend the item to change the title to Benefits Coordinator/Payroll Assistant. The amendment received a second from Mr. Garner. The following roll call votes were recorded. YEAS: Emile Metoyer, Billy Benefield, Eugene Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, and Reba Phelps. NAYS: NONE. ABSENT: Russell Danzy, Katrina Willis Tan'Keia Palmer. The motion to amend passed.

A motion was then made by Mr. Benefield to approve the addition of a new Benefits Coordinator/Payroll Assistant position. Mr. Garner offered a second to the motion. The following roll call votes were recorded. YEAS: Emile Metoyer, Billy Benefield, Eugene Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. NAYS: NONE. ABSENT: Russell Danzy and Katrina Willis. The motion passed.

The Executive Report was presented by Ms. Phelps.

A motion was made by Mr. Metoyer to approve the NPSB Strategic Plan as presented. Mrs. Broadway offered a second to the motion. Upon unanimous consent from all members present, the motion passed.

The board received an update from Mr. Waskom on Thursday, regarding the NCHS parking lot and lighting repairs.

Ms. Phelps read the Natchitoches Parish School Board Resolution: Honoring Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr., proclaiming the week of January 1, 2021, as a time for teachers and students to conduct special studies of Dr. King's life and achievements, and to safely engage in service activities throughout the Natchitoches Parish School District, virtually or in-person while maintaining social distancing, the wearing of masks, and adhering to any CDC guidelines and recommendations. A motion was made by Mr. Metoyer to accept and approve the resolution. Mrs. Broadway offered a second to the motion. The resolution passed with unanimous consent from all board members present at the meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Phelps to approve the calendar amendments for loss of minutes due to hurricanes. Mrs. McGaskey offered a second to the motion. Upon unanimous consent from all members present at the meeting, the motion passed.

The board meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m. on a motion from Ms. Palmer and a second from Mr. Metoyer.

---

GRANT ELOI, SECRETARY-TREASURER

---

STEVEN HARRIS, PRESIDENT