

**PROCEEDINGS OF REGULAR MEETING OF
NATCHITOCHE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING ON OCTOBER 8, 2020**

A public meeting was held at the Natchitoches Parish School Board on October 8, 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: Russell Danzy, Emile Metoyer, Billy Benefield, Eugene Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. Absent from the meeting was Katrina Willis. The meeting was called to order by Board President, Billy Benefield Jr., followed by an invocation by Mrs. Beverly Broadway and Pledge of Allegiance by Mrs. Dorothy McGaskey.

At Tuesday's Committee Meeting, Superintendent Eloi a six-month update which included information on virtual learning, positions, committees and COVID. It was also mention that School Food Service had received a \$10,000 grant and had passed to the second round in the running for a \$25,000 grant from Weyhauser. School Food Service was also going to be recouping \$86,000 of the \$96,000 food loss from the hurricane.

Under Old Business, Mr. Eloi gave information on the bus terminal parking lot was previously asked for by Mr. Metoyer. Mr. Eloi stated that a middle ground talks were under way. Mr. Benefield gave an update on the board training that was help in Pineville under the direction of Dr. Janet Pope of LSBA.

A motion was made by Mr. Metoyer to accept the following Consent Agenda. Mr. Harris offered a second to the motion. Upon unanimous consent from the board, the motion passed. Absent from voting was Katrina Willis.

1. *Adoption* of Agenda.
2. *Approval* of Minutes of August 6, 2020; Special Called Minutes of August 17, 2020; Minutes of September 10, 2020; Minutes from Board Member Retreat- September 19, 2020
3. FINANCE ITEMS
 - a. *Payment of Bills:*
 - b. *Out of State Travel*
 - c. *School Bus Routes Changes:*
 - d. *Purchase of Buses:*
 - e. *Advertisements:*
 - i. *Permission to advertise for bids:*
 - f. *Resignations:*
 - g. *Retirements:*
 - H. *Requests for Leave:*
 - I. *Termination:*
 - a. **Shianne Collins**, 9-month Custodian, Fairview Alpha Elem./Jr. High School
 - b. **Duane Hostetler III**, Head Custodian, Goldonna Elem./Jr. High School
 - c. **Charles LaCaze**, Educational Diagnostician, Natchitoches Magnet School
 - d. **Vantria Stewart**, Department of Exceptional Student Services, Paraprofessional, Weaver Elementary School

The Finance Report was presented by Mr. Russell Danzy.

Mr. Alfred Matthews provided the board with a general update of the Transportation Department. He stated that the department has had 83% perfect attendance from his staff and that they currently have 92 drivers and monitors.

Mr. Waskom provided the board with an update from the Tax Commission. He

stated that sales taxes were actually up and that tax collections were exceeding last years in several areas. Mr. Waskom also provided the board with a Budget Update, highlighting last year's actuals to this year's current.

Under the Maintenance Report, Mr. Metoyer requested that the Cloutierville property be cleaned. Mr. Waskom stated that a vendor had already been contacted and that work would possibly be done as soon as the following week.

Mr. Danzy read aloud the resolution officially declaring the results of the August 15, 2020 election. A motion was made by Mr. Harris to accept the resolution as read. Mr. Garner offered a second to the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded. YEAS: Russell Danzy, Emile Metoyer, Billy Benefield, Eugene Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. NAYS: NONE. ABSENT: Katrina Willis. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Danzy to approve the Louisiana Workforce Commission Social Services Contract. Mrs. Broadway offered a second to the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent from all members present.

The board tabled the discussion of finance item #8 regarding an audit of the Natchitoches Parish School System Finances.

Mr. Danzy read Resolution 1 in regards to millage rates for year 2020. A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve resolution 1 for millage rates for year 2020. Mr. Garner offered a second to the motion. 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 and Reba Phelps. NAYS: Emile Metoyer. ABSENT: Katrina Willis. The motion passed.

Mr. Danzy read Resolution 2 in regards to millage rates for year 2020. A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve resolution 2 for millage rates for year 2020. Mr. Harris offered a second to the motion. 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 and Reba Phelps. NAYS: Emile Metoyer. ABSENT: Katrina Willis. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Danzy to approve the contract for facility usage at Northwestern State University. Mrs. Guidroz offered a second to the motion. Upon roll call the following votes were recorded. YEAS: Russell Danzy, Emile Metoyer, Billy Benefield, Eugene Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. NAYS: NONE. ABSENT: Katrina Willis. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Garner to grant permission for Mr. Perry Watson, School Board Architect, to look at the roof on the office building and ceiling damage at Goldonna Elementary Jr. High School. Mr. Harris offered a second to the motion. Upon roll call the following votes were recorded. YEAS: Russell Danzy, Emile Metoyer, Billy Benefield, Eugene Garner, Steven Harris, Rhonda Guidroz, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. NAYS: NONE. ABSENT: Katrina Willis. The motion passed.

The Personnel Report was presented by Mrs. Linda Page. A motion was made by Mr. Garner to accept the report as presented. Mr. Harris offered a second to the motion. Upon roll call the following votes were recorded. All members present were in favor of the motion. Absent from voting was Katrina Willis. Reba Phelps recused herself from voting. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Ms. Phelps to approving the naming of the NCHS Football Field, The J.D. Garrett Football Field. Mr. Danzy offered a second to the motion. All members present unanimously accepted and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Broadway to approve the naming of the NCHS Field House, The Eugene Christmas Field House. Mrs. McGaskey offered a second to the motion. All members present unanimously accepted and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Guidroz to approve the Pupil Progression Plan update with the grading section to be tabled. Mr. Harris offered a second to the motion. All members present unanimously accepted and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Benefield to adopt the new board communication software BoardDocs. Mr. Metoyer offered a second to the motion. All members present unanimously accepted and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the Cultural Diversity Initiative update and adopt the District Anti-Racism statement which read, "Natchitoches Parish Schools reject all forms of racism as we commit to recognizing, addressing, and eradicating, all measures that are not aligned with our mission, vision and goals. We stand ready to listen and take action." Ms. Phelps offered a second to the motion. All members present unanimously accepted and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Metoyer to approve a resolution of a Declaration of Public Emergency as a result of a Category 4 hurricane on August 27, 2020. Mr. Garner offered a second to the motion. All members present unanimously accepted and the motion passed.

At 5:30 p.m. on motion of Mr. Harris and seconded by Mr. Danzy, the board unanimously agreed to enter into executive session for the Superintendent's evaluation.

At 5:57 p.m. on motion of Mr. Danzy and seconded by Ms. Phelps, the board unanimously agreed to end the executive session.

The board meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m. on a motion from Mr. Metoyer, a second from Mr. Danzy.

GRANT ELOI, SECRETARY-TREASURER

BILLY BENEFIELD JR., PRESIDENT