

**PROCEEDINGS OF REGULAR MEETING OF
NATCHITOCHE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING ON DECEMBER 3, 2020**

A public meeting was held at the Natchitoches Parish School Board on December 3, 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, Katrina Willis, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey (5:03), Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps (5:07). The meeting was called to order by Board President, Billy Benefield Jr., followed by an invocation by Mr. Eugene Garner and Pledge of Allegiance by Mrs. Katrina Willis.

At Tuesday's Committee Meeting, Superintendent Eloi gave an update on COVID leave and COVID-19, stating that schools would remain in Phase 3 although the state has moved to a modified Phase 2. He also spoke on the partnership with NSU and the Teacher-Prep Program. A draft of the parish's Strategic Plan was also given to board members. Mr. Metoyer questioned the lack of mask wearing at the basketball games. The Superintendent spoke with the Sheriff Department and they agreed to help enforce mandatory mask wearing by spectators at the games. Dr. Eloi also noted that currently, the parish has a total of 37 noncertified teachers who were not in a program. Roger Cunningham presented the board with the findings from the fiscal report of the NPSB School Activity Funds for the year ending June 30, 2020. A summary of the audit results included: an unmodified opinion was issued on the financial statements of the Student Activity Funds of the NPSB as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020; the audit did not disclose any material weaknesses in internal control; and the audit disclosed no instances noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards. The board also heard from Natchitoches Parish resident, Sylvia Morrow, in regards to the buildings and property located on Martin Luther King Dr., in Natchitoches. Ms. Morrow spoke on behalf of the Neighborhood Concern Citizen Committee. There was some question as to who the actual owners of the building and property are.

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:

1. *Adoption of Agenda.*
2. *Approval of Minutes of November 5, 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:*

The Finance Report was presented by Mr. Russell Danzy.

The Transportation Report was provided by Mr. Alfred Mathews who stated that the department was fully staffed.

Mr. Waskom provided the board with an update from the Tax Commission. He stated that sales taxes were actually up by 4.11% YTD and that tax collections were exceeding last years in several areas.

A motion was made by Mr. Danzy to accept the Budget Report as presented by Mr. Waskom. 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, Katrina Willis, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. NAYS: NONE. The motion passed.

The Maintenance Report was provided for the board members.

The board received information on the School Food Service Program. A \$7000 grant was awarded from Weyhauser to help with the cost of a generator.

A motion was made by Mr. Garner to approve a Proclamation to the Parish of Natchitoches to repair the roads. Ms. Palmer 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, Katrina Willis, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. NAYS: NONE. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Danzy to approve the School Activity Funds Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2020, as presented by Mr. Roger Cunningham. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Harris and unanimous consent from all board members present.

Mr. Waskom spoke to the board in regards to having a local attorney to handle affairs on the local level for the board. There are three initial projects that Mr. Waskom referenced: ownership issues of the Head Start building, issues surrounding the property on Parkway Dr. and the Cloutierville property. The board agreed that hiring local attorney, Joseph Stamey, for issues such as these would be a great idea and beneficial to the board and the district.

The Personnel Report was presented by Mrs. Linda Page. On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Garner and unanimous consent from all members present, the update was approved.

The Executive Report was presented by Mr. Harris.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the drug Testing Policy for NPSB to be patterned after Lincoln Parish's Drug Testing Policy. Mrs. McGaskey offered a second and the board unanimously approved the motion. The policy will go into effect on February 15, 2021.

A discussion was had amongst board members at Tuesday's meeting at the request of Ms. Reba Phelps, in regards to the selection process for a new Board President for 2021.

A motion was made by Mr. Metoyer to approve the NPSB Board Meeting Calendar for the year 2021. 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, Katrina Willis, Beverly Broadway, Dorothy McGaskey, Tan'Keia Palmer and Reba Phelps. NAYS: NONE. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the extension of COVID Leave Policy as currently articulated by the Federal Government until further notice or until the Federal Government updates the policy. The motion was accompanied by a second from Mr. Danzy and unanimous consent from all board members present. The current policy is in effect until December 31, 2020.

The board meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m. on a motion from Mr. Metoyer.

GRANT ELOI, SECRETARY-TREASURER

BILLY BENEFIELD JR., PRESIDENT