

TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

APRIL 9, 2009

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Central Office Board room, 59656 Puleston Road, Amite, Louisiana, with President Danny Ridgel presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENTS: Ann Smith, Robert Potts, Leonard Genco, Al Link, Danny Ridgel, Sonya Traylor, Eric Dangerfield, Sandra Bailey-Simmons and Rose Dominguez

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

President Ridgel led the led the Pledge of Allegiance

It was moved by Ms. Dominguez, seconded by Ms. Bailey-Simmons to accept the revisions on policy BCBM, Invocations Before Board Meetings. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted. Following is the policy as approved:

FILE: BCBM

INVOCATIONS BEFORE BOARD MEETINGS

1. In order to solemnize proceedings of the Tangipahoa Parish School Board, it is the policy of the Board to allow for an invocation or prayer to be offered before its Meetings for the benefit of the Board.
2. The prayer shall not be listed or recognized as an agenda item for the meeting or as part of the public business.
3. No member or employee of the Board or any other person in attendance at the meeting shall be required to participate in any prayer that is offered.
4. The prayer shall be voluntarily delivered by an eligible member of the clergy in the Parish of Tangipahoa, Louisiana. To ensure that such person (the "invocation speaker") is selected from among a wide pool of the parish's clergy, on a rotating basis, the invocation speaker shall be selected according to the following procedure:
 - a. The Secretary to the Tangipahoa Parish School Board (the "Secretary") shall compile and maintain a database (the "Congregations List") of the religious congregations with an established presence in the local community of Tangipahoa Parish.
 - b. The Congregations List shall be compiled by referencing the listing for "churches," "congregations," or other religious assemblies in the annual Yellow Pages phone book(s) published for Tangipahoa Parish, research from the Internet, and consultation with local chambers of commerce. All religious congregations with an established presence in the local community of Tangipahoa Parish are eligible to be included in the Congregations List. ~~and Any such congregation can confirm its inclusion by specific written request to the Clerk.~~ not otherwise identified for participation may request its inclusion by specific written communication to the Clerk.
 - c. This policy is intended to be and shall be applied in a way that is all-inclusive of every diverse religious congregation in Tangipahoa Parish. The Congregations List is compiled and used for purposes of logistics, efficiency and equal opportunity for all of the community's religious leaders, who may themselves choose whether to respond to the Board's invitation and participate. Should a question arise as to the authenticity

of a religious congregation, the Clerk shall refer to criteria used by the Internal Revenue Service in its determination of those religious organizations that would legitimately qualify for Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status

- d. The Congregations List shall also include the name and contact information of any chaplain who may serve one or more of the fire departments or law enforcement agencies of Tangipahoa Parish.
- e. The Congregations List shall be updated, by reasonable efforts of the Secretary, in November of each calendar year.
- f. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this policy, and on or about December 1 of each calendar year thereafter, the Secretary shall mail an invitation addressed to the "religious leader" of each congregation listed on the Congregations List, as well as to the individual chaplains included on the Congregations List.
- g. The invitation shall be dated at the top of the page, signed by the Secretary at the bottom of the page, and read as follows:

Dear Religious Leader,

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board makes it a policy to invite members of the clergy in Tangipahoa Parish to voluntarily offer a prayer before the beginning of its meetings, for the benefit and blessing of the Board. As the leader of one of the religious congregations with an established presence in the local community, or in your capacity as a chaplain for one of the local fire departments or law enforcement agencies, you are eligible to offer this important service at an upcoming meeting of the Board.

If you are willing to assist the Board in this regard, please send a written reply at your earliest convenience to the Board secretary at the address included on this letterhead. Clergy are scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis. The dates of the Board's scheduled meetings for the upcoming year are listed on the following, attached page. If you have a preference among the dates, please state that request in your written reply.

This opportunity is voluntary, and you are free to offer the invocation according to the dictates of your own conscience. To maintain a spirit of respect and ecumenism, the Board requests only that the prayer opportunity not be exploited as an effort to convert others to the particular faith of the invocation speaker, nor to disparage any faith or belief different than that of the invocation speaker.

On behalf of the Tangipahoa Parish School Board, I thank you in advance for considering this invitation.

Sincerely,
Secretary to the Board

- h. As the invitation letter indicates, the respondents to the invitation shall be scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis to deliver the invocations.
5. No invocation speaker shall receive compensation for his or her service.
 6. The Secretary shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that a variety of eligible invocation speakers are scheduled for the Board meetings. In any event, no invocation speaker shall be scheduled to offer a prayer at consecutive meetings of the Board, or at more than three (3) Board meetings in any calendar year.
 7. Neither the Board nor the Secretary shall engage in any prior inquiry, review of, or involvement in, the content of any prayer to be offered by an invocation speaker.
 8. Shortly before the opening gavel that officially begins the meeting and the agenda/ business of the public, the President of the Board shall introduce the invocation speaker ~~and the person selected to recite the Pledge of Allegiance following the invocation,~~ and invite only those who wish to do so to stand for

~~these~~ this observances of and for the Board. No person who may be scheduled to speak and/or offer, perform, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, Preamble to the Constitution, or other ceremonial gesture after the Board meeting begins shall be required to attend or observe any invocation offered before the Board meeting. Instead, such person shall always be introduced and invited to speak or perform after the subsequent opening gavel and call to order for the meeting, and, unlike the invocation, such person's speech or performance shall be formally recognized and listed as a full part of the Board meeting and agenda.

9. This policy is not intended, and shall not be implemented or construed in any way, to affiliate the Board with, nor express the Board's preference for or against, any faith or religious denomination. Rather, this policy is intended to acknowledge and express the Board's respect for the diversity of religious denominations and faiths represented and practiced among the citizens of Tangipahoa Parish.
10. To clarify the Board's intentions, as stated herein above, the following disclaimer shall be included in at least 10 point font at the bottom of any printed Board meeting agenda: "Any invocation that may be offered before the official start of the Board meeting shall be the voluntary offering of a private citizen, to and for the benefit of the Board. The views or beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by the Board, and the Board does not endorse the religious beliefs or views of this, or any other speaker."

New Policy: August 2007
April 2009

Ref: Board minutes, 8-21-07, 9-4-07.

It was unanimously moved to approve the Personnel Committee Minutes of April 9, 2009. Following is the report as approved:

MAINTENANCE – NEW HIRE

Dustin Kirkland, G-7 Plummer (place of Amos Vinyard – resigned) April 6, 2009

SUPPORT PERSONNEL – RECLASSIFICATION

Leslie Dempster, From: Interventionist – Loranger Elementary To: 9 month Secretary – Loranger Elementary (place of Shannon Navarro – resigned) April 8, 2009

LEAVES*RESIGNATIONS*RETIREMENTS

LEAVES

Lisa Lee, Teacher – Amite High (extended sick leave using sick days first due to illness – May 22, 2009), March 5, 2009

Erin Dunnington, Speech Therapist – Independence Elementary (extended sick leave using sick days first due to maternity – May 22, 2009) April 20, 2009

Misty Holton, Teacher – Loranger High (extended sick leave using sick days first due to maternity – May 22, 2009) April 2, 2009

Maya Levy, Teacher – Vinyard Elementary (extend extended sick leave due to illness – May 22, 2009) April 1, 2009

Becky Tobin, Teacher – Hammond Eastside Upper (extended sick leave using sick days first due to maternity – May 22, 2009) April 6, 2009

Tiffany Boyles, Teacher – Woodland Park ELC (extend extended sick leave due to illness – May 22, 2009) March 18, 2009

Debra Piazza, Teacher – Ponchatoula Junior High (extended sick leave using sick days first due to surgery – May 22, 2009) April 7, 2009

Jill Wright, Teacher – Amite Elementary (extended sick leave using sick days first due to maternity – May 22, 2009) March 9, 2009

RETIREMENTS

Patricia Williams, Coordinator – Title I Resource Center, June 1, 2009
Kerry Letard, Teacher – Amite Elementary, January 14, 2009
Martha Quillen, Teacher – Hammond Westside Primary, June 21, 2009

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST

ADDENDUM #1

TEACHER/HEAD FOOTBALL COACH – NEW HIRE

James Gillyard, Teacher/Head Football Coach – Hammond High (place of Arthur Barrilleaux)
Zephaniah Powell, Teacher/Head Football Coach – Sumner High (place of Mark Catalanotto)

It was moved by Ms. Dominguez, seconded by Mr. Potts, to enter into Executive Session to discuss the case of Joyce M. Moore vs. TPSB. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

The Board entered Executive Session.

The Board returned to Open Session.

There was no action in the case of Joyce M. Moore vs. TPSB.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. (10:22 a.m.)

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Ridgel
Board President

Mark Kolwe, Secretary-Treasurer

Recorded by: Cynthia Jenkins, April 9, 2009