

## TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

**April 6, 2004**

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, April 6, 2004, at 6:30 p.m., in the School Board Meeting Room, School Board Office, 59656 Puleston Road, Amite, Louisiana, with President Al Link, Presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Caves, Al Link, Leonard Genco, Robert Potts, Jimmy A. Richardson, I, Sandra Bailey-Simmons, Carl Bardwell and Donnie Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Maxine Dixon

Mrs. Sandra Bailey-Simmons, introduced students and faculty from Loranger High School. Mr. Travis Riddle, Choral Music Director, gave the invocation, and Selena Harris, student – Loranger High School, led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Loranger High School Chorus sang “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “This Land is Your Land.”

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the Board Minutes of March 16, 2004 as distributed. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Williams, to waive the rules to add an item to the agenda. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Williams, to add the item: Discuss Alleged Employee Misconduct. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

Mrs. Bailey-Simmons recognized the recipients of the “Above and Beyond” Award (Mrs. Therese Domiano, Principal- Hammond Westside Primary, Mrs. Glenda O’Banion, Principal – Hammond Eastside Primary, Mrs. Eloise Richmond, Principal – Woodland Park Early Learning Center, Mrs. Linda Baker, Reading First District Coordinator, Ms. Gina LaFauci, Teacher – Hammond Westside Primary, Ms. Michelle Cowart, Teacher – Woodland Park Early Learning Center, Ms. Paula Bryant, Teacher – Woodland Park Early Learning Center, Ms. Gail Gerike, Teacher – Hammond Eastside Primary, Ms. Barbara Smith, Teacher – Hammond Eastside Primary and Ms. Cathy Stevens, Special Education Curriculum Specialist) and the “Common Courtesy” Award – Mrs. Jo-Ann Frazier, Board Secretary. Each person received a certificate and a \$25.00 Gift Certificate to Murphy’s in Hammond.

Mr. Williams discussed the item regarding the 12-month employees’ holiday schedule. It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mr. Potts, to give 12-month employees an additional day at Easter. If the School Calendar reverts to five (5) days for the Easter Holiday, 12-month employees will return to the two days for the Easter Holiday. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mr. Potts, to approve the Personnel Committee Report of March 31, 2004, and Addendum #1. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mr. Caves, to approve Addendum #2. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent. Following is the report as approved.

### 1. School Food Service Employees

Peggy LeBlanc, New Hire – 4-hour sub-pool, Hammond High, effective March 15, 2004  
Sylvia Robinson, From: 7-hour Food Service Worker – Hammond Westside, TO: 7-hour Food Service Worker – Natalbany Elementary, effective March 15, 2004

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2. Leaves, Resignations, Retirements

Leaves

Tammy Campo, Speech Therapist (Extended Sick Leave using sick days first due to Maternity - May 28, 2004), effective February 15, 2004

Tryphaena Lewis, Teacher – Nesom Middle (Extended sick leave using sick leave first due to maternity – May 11, 2004), effective March 2, 2004

Rachel Mixon, Teacher – Amite Elementary (Extended Sick Leave due to surgery using sick leave first – April 9, 2004), effective February 26, 2004

Gayle Oller, Food Service Worker – Midway (Straight leave without pay using sick days first due to illness – May 27, 2004), effective March 16, 2004

Annie Bezue, Food Service Worker – Nesom (Straight leave without pay using sick days first due to illness – May 27, 2004), effective March 22, 2004

Resignations

Tammy Graziano, Office Assistant II – Sales Tax Department, effective March 18, 2004

Nina Ploof, Office Assistant II – Sales Tax Department, effective March 10, 2004

Louis Green, Custodian – Ponchatoula Jr. High, effective March 10, 2004

3. Substitute Teacher List

ADDENDUM #1

1. Support Personnel – New Hire

Byron Jackson, Child Specific Aide – Natalbany Elementary, effective March 19, 2004

Patrice Williams, Special Education Paraprofessional – 5 ½ hours – Hammond Jr. High, effective April 1, 2004

Jerry Lindsay, Grass Cutter – Maintenance Department, effective April 7, 2004

2. Leaves, Resignations, Retirements

Leaves:

JoAnn Perkins, Food Service – Westside Middle (Straight leave without pay due to personal reasons – August 2004), effective March 24, 2004

Resignations:

Richard Garner, Teacher – Independence High, effective April 19, 2004

Reginald Sibley, Special Education Attendant – Hammond High, effective March 26, 2004

Retirements:

Martha Cooper, Teacher – Loranger Elementary, effective May 29, 2004

Patricia Waddell, Teacher – Tucker Elementary, effective May 29, 2004

ADDENDUM #2

1. Leaves, Resignations, Retirements

Retirement

Jacqueline Fleet, Pupil Services Facilitator, effective June 12, 2004

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It was moved by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, seconded by Mr. Genco, to approve the Dyslexia Task Force Report of March 18, 2004. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent. Following is the report as approved.

The following items were discussed:

1. Parents' perspective on services rendered to dyslexic students in the Tangipahoa Parish School System. Parent concerns are as listed below:
  - a. Students making A's and B's receive no accommodations to guide them to make sure that they are on the right track.
  - b. Students must be prepared to pass the LEAP Test.
  - c. Getting an evaluation completed is a very slow process.
  - d. Parents are often told that a student must be failing in order to qualify for Section 504.
  - e. Teachers don't always know the rules for qualifying for Section 504.
  - f. Teachers often confuse Section 504 and Special Education.
  - g. Administrators are not always knowledgeable about Section 504.
  - h. The State does not offer the necessary accommodations for Section 504 students.
  - i. Teachers need to be educated to understand Section 504 students.
  - j. Information should be placed on-line that can be accessed by parents to work with students at home.
  - k. Students should be tested beyond the third grade for Reading Dibels.
  - l. More information regarding the Parenting Center should be made available to parents.
  - m. More preparation should be given to teachers in college.
2. The committee discussed possible ways to further accommodate dyslexic students in the classroom.

Possible Solutions

- a. Encourage teachers to accommodate students that need it.
- b. Create a school site for dyslexic students.
- c. Increase the amount of time students spend in reading instruction.
- d. Students receiving medication that helps their problem should be allowed to remain in the program.
- e. Students should be allowed to transfer to other school districts in order to receive the accommodations needed. Parents would have to make this request through the Compliance Officer.
- f. Form a Parent Advocate Group for the Tangipahoa Parish School System.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Genco, to approve the items listed below:

1. Sumner High School Gym Bleacher Replacement Project low bid (Hahn Enterprises) of \$60, 533,00 plus Alternate #1 - \$5,940,00, total \$66,493 from Bond Fund 633.
2. Chesbrough Elementary School Roof Replacement Project low bid (Dunn Construction) of \$56,000.00 plus Alternate #1 - \$8,000.00, total \$64,000.00 from Bond Fund 633.
3. Spring Creek Elementary Gym Roof Replacement Project low bid (Dunn Construction) of \$92,000.00 plus Alternate#1 - \$26,000.00 and Alternate #2 - \$10,900.00, total \$128,900 from Bond Fund 633.
4. Substantial Completion of the 8-classroom addition at Loranger Middle School.

Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

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It was moved by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to waive the rules to add an item to the agenda. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

It was moved by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the list of names of committee members recommended to serve on the 2004-2005 Pupil Progression Plan Committee. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

President Link spoke in Personal Privilege and thanked the Central Office Clerical Staff for the Easter Basket they prepared for the Board Members.

Mr. Donnie Williams requested an update on Ms. Maxine Dixon's medical condition. Superintendent Joseph responded that she was doing well.

Mrs. Karen Bell, Tangipahoa Association of Educators, spoke in public input regarding MFP funded pay raises and the School Calendar.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Genco, to enter Executive Session to discuss the cases of Amy Wall v TPSB, Joel St. Romain v TPSB and Cherry Mae Stewart v TPSB, Latasha Lewis v TPSB, Jessica Hayse v TPSB, and Discuss Employee Misconduct. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

The Board entered Executive Session.

The Board returned to Open Session.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Potts, to accept the attorney's recommendation regarding the cases of Amy Wall v TPSB, Joel St. Romain v TPSB and Cherry Mae Stewart v TPSB. No action was taken on the other items. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted with Ms. Dixon absent.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mr. Bardwell, to adjourn (8:09 p.m.). Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Link, President

Louis L. Joseph, Secretary-Treasurer

Recorded By: Jo-Ann L. Frazier (4/06/04)