

TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

May 4, 2004

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, May 4, 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

The Amite Jr. R.O.T.C. along with their instructor - Master Sgt. Marvin Vernon, Posted the Colors.

Mrs. Sandra Bailey-Simmons, Board Member – District H, gave the invocation. She introduced students and faculty from Amite High School. Jessica Moore, student – Amite High School, led the Pledge of Allegiance and Bensley Brooks, student – Amite High School, sang “I’m Proud To Be An American.”

Superintendent spoke regarding Memorial Day and its significance. He indicated his gratitude toward the men and women who fought for our country in the past and those who are doing so currently.

Mr. Bob Morris, Publisher of the *Daily Star* spoke regarding teachers and their commitment to the students and education.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the Board Minutes of April 20, 2004 as distributed. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

Ms. Polly Broussard, Member, Sixth District Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, presented Exemplary School Awards to: Chesbrough Elementary, Hammond High, Independence Elementary, Lucille Nesom Middle, D. C. Reeves Elementary, Tucker Elementary, and Perrin Early Learning Center. Each school received a flag to fly above their campus and a monetary award.

Mr. Potts presented the “Above and Beyond” Award to Ms. Jan Hammons, Teacher – Sumner High School. Ms. Jo-Ann Frazier presented the “Common Courtesy” Award to Ms. Lorie Williams, receptionist at the Central Office. Each winner received a certificate of recognition along with a gift certificate.

Mr. Richardson discussed expulsions and suspensions. He requested information be presented at the next Board Meeting regarding the number of expulsions and suspensions. He also discussed the possibility of implementing a mentor program to help those students with problems.

Mr. Lolly Leger of Trinity Insurance Company, the Third Party Administrator for Tangipahoa Parish School System, gave the Board an update on the services provided by Trinity.

It was moved by Mr. Bardwell, seconded by Mr. Genco, to approve the Migrant Budget. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the Personnel Committee Report of April 28, 2004, and Addendum #1. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

1. Leaves, Resignations, Retirements

Leaves

Sandra Lavigne, Teacher – Hammond High (Extended Sick Leave using sick days first due to Maternity - May 17, 2004), effective March 29, 2004

Anita Johnson, Teacher – Ponchatoula High (Extended Sick Leave using sick days first due to maternity – May 27, 2004), effective May 5, 2004

Deborah Landry, Teacher – Amite Elementary (Extended Sick Leave using sick days first due to surgery – May 27, 2004), effective April 19, 2004

Ethelind Cyprian, Bus Driver (Extended Sick Leave using sick days first due to maternity – May 27, 2004), effective May 2, 2004

Retirements

Angietta Keen, Band Director – Hammond Jr. High, effective May 29, 2004

Virgie Pritchett, Paraprofessional – Amite Elementary, effective October 13, 2004

2. Substitute Teacher List

ADDENDUM #1

1. Summer School Employees

Katherine Meadors, Part-time Teacher (Science)

Donald Currier, Part-time Teacher (Science)

Ophelia Clark, Part-time Teacher (Science)

Ashley Gill, Full-time Teacher (English)

Rose Jackson, Full-time Teacher (Special Needs)

Michael Stant, Full-time Teacher (Social Studies)

Ralph Garner, Full-time Teacher (Spanish)

Kathleen Dagro, Full-time Teacher (Jr. High Grades)

Kathy Sewell, Full-time Teacher (Jr. High Grades)

2. Support Personnel – New Hire

Barbara Stevens, Office Assistant II – Central Office, effective May 5, 2004

3. Leaves, Resignations, Retirements

Leaves:

Shirley Forbes, Custodian – Amite Elementary (Straight Leave without pay using sick days first – May 27, 2004), effective April 26, 2004

Resignations:

George Carter, Paraprofessional – Hammond High, effective April 1, 2004

Jodi Boyle, School Psychologist, effective July 23, 2004

Retirements:

Ronald Chambers, Guidance Counselor – Loranger High, effective June 15, 2004

Shirley Culbreath, Billing Clerk, Hammond Eastside, effective July 4, 2004

Mr. Genco recognized the members of the Independence Middle School Building Committee and thanked them for their dedication to the students. They are as follows: Mr. Tom Stevens, Ms. Katie Simms, Mr. Buster Guzzardo, Mr. Phillip Domiano, Mayor of Independence, Mr. Ken Benitez, and Mickey Mizell, Principal, Independence Middle School.

It was moved by Mr. Bardwell, seconded by Mr. Potts, to waive the rules to consider an item from the 16th Section Ad Hoc Committee Meeting held prior to the Board Meeting. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

It was moved by Mr. Bardwell, seconded by Mr. Potts, to approve Bid #2004-27, Sale of Timber at Lewiston (Weyerhaeuser Co., Fernwood, MS), in the amount of \$254,040.00, and authorize the Superintendent to sign all necessary documents relative to the sale. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

It was moved by Mr. Bardwell, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the low quote of \$99,444.00 from Brunt Construction Company for a Daily Living Classroom at Amite Westside Middle School for Special Education, to be paid from Special Education Funds. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

Mr. Bardwell spoke in personal privilege and requested that the Superintendent ask the schools that received the Exemplary School Award to display the flag that they were given.

Mr. Richardson spoke in personal privilege and informed the Board Members that they each had a School System e-mail address.

Mr. Link informed the Board that Dr. Beth Moulds' mother had passed and that he would be attending the funeral in Alabama.

Mrs. Bailey-Simmons reminded the Board Members that they each had received an invitation to the National Day of Prayer in Amite on May 6, 2004. She encouraged them to participate.

Mrs. Bailey-Simmons requested that the names of the "Above and Beyond" and the "Common Courtesy" Awards be changed to the "Jake Bailey" Awards.

There were no requests for Public Input.

It was moved by Mr. Bardwell, seconded by Mr. Genco, to waive the rules to add an item to be considered in Executive Session. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

It was moved by Mr. Bardwell, seconded by Mr. Genco, to consider the case of Barbara Bridges vs TPSB in Executive Session. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Bailey absent.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons to enter Executive Session to consider the cases of Romeekia Richard vs TPSB, Nathan McElveen vs TPSB, Cherry Mae Stewart vs TPSB, and Rouchelle Dangerfield vs TPSB. 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. Bardwell, in the case of Romeekia Richard vs TPSB, to authorize the attorney to appeal the case to the First Circuit Court. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Bardwell, in the case of Nathan McElveen vs TPSB, to authorize the Third Party Administrator to move forward with settlement of the case. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

No action was taken in the case of Cherry Mae Stewart vs TPSB.

No action was taken in the case of Rouchelle Dangerfield vs TPSB.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Bardwell, in the case of Barbara Bridges vs TPSB, to authorize the attorney to settle the case. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mr. Caves, to waive the rules to consider the adoption of a resolution on unfunded mandated costs.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Williams, to adopt a resolution regarding unfunded mandated costs. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Tangipahoa Parish School Board has been notified that the employers' cost of contributions to the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana will increase from 13.8% to 17.3% of the salaries of the employees within that system and that such increase shall be effective July 1, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Tangipahoa Parish School Board has been notified that the employers' cost of contributions to the Louisiana School Employees Retirement Systems will increase from 8.5% to 18.8% of the salaries of the members of that system and that such increase shall be effective July 1, 2004; and

WHEREAS, Article 10, Section 29(E) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 provides that the legislature, in each fiscal year, shall provide an amount necessary to fund the employers' portion of retirement cost; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has not funded the employers' share of retirement contributions as required by the Louisiana Constitution and has given no indication that it intends to fund the increases in the employers' share of retirement contributions which will be effective July 1, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the net effect of the failure of the legislature to fund the employers' share of retirement contributions is to impose another mandated unfunded liability on them; and

WHEREAS, all public school boards of the State of Louisiana are negatively impacted by The failure of the legislature to fulfill its constitutional obligations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED by the Tangipahoa Parish School Board in regular session duly convened that it agrees to participate with other public school boards of the State of Louisiana as a plaintiff in any legal action to be taken against the State of Louisiana relative to the duties imposed upon the state by Article 10, Section 29 of the Louisiana Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a petition be filed with the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education asking it to take any and all action necessary to eliminate the additional mandated unfunded costs which are being imposed upon public school systems through increases in the employers' share of retirement contributions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the Resolution be sent to the office of the governor of the State of Louisiana, the members of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Office of the State Superintendent, members of the State Legislature, the Louisiana School Boards Association and all other public school systems in the State of Louisiana.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Tangipahoa Parish School Board in regular session duly convened on May 4, 2004 and that the same has not been rescinded or repealed.

Amite, Louisiana, this fourth day of May 2004.

SUPERINTENDENT

PRESIDENT

It was moved by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to adjourn (8:28 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 (5/04/04)