

TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

February 15, 2005

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, February 15, 2005, at 6:30 p.m., in the School Board Meeting Room, School Board Office, 59656 Puleston Road, Amite, Louisiana, with President Leonard “Tank” Genco, Presiding.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

President Genco recognized Mr. Logan Guess, former Board Member for the Tangipahoa Parish School System.

Mr. Al Link, Board Member District A, gave the invocation. Greg Crovetto, Student – Ponchatoula Jr. High, and grandson of Board Member, Mr. Al Link, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary Beth Crovetto, Administrative Assistant – Ponchatoula High School, and daughter of Mr. Link, sang a patriotic song.

It was moved by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve the Board Minutes of February 1, 2005, as distributed. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

Superintendent Joseph requested that the Board and the members of the audience observe a moment of silence in memory of the ten (10) students and one (1) teacher that the school system had lost.

Assistant Superintendent Thomas Bellavia recognized Tangipahoa Parish Students of the Year.

ELEMENTARY

Student of the Year - Jessica Elizabeth Vernon

1st Runner Up - Jourdan Leigh Settoon

2nd Runner Up - Henry Clay Parker, IV

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Student of the Year - Kyle Rhoads Kraemer

1st Runner Up - Ariel Kristin Candies

2nd Runner Up - Nguyen Anthony Thanh

3rd Runner Up - Jonathan Reeve Kirkland

HIGH SCHOOL

Student of the Year - Michael Keith Carona, Jr.

1st Runner Up - Annette Zacharia

2nd Runner Up - Jane Frances Rownd

3rd Runner Up - Ashlee Elaine Guess

4th Runner Up - Bruce Peter King

Mrs. Bailey-Simmons recognized the recipient of the “Jake Bailey Above and Beyond” Award – Mr. William “Dickie” Allmand, Bus Driver.

It was moved by Mr. Link, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the 2004-2005 High School Graduation Dates. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

It was moved by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Potts, to approve the resolution to hold a Divided Referendum regarding Medicare contributions. Hearing no objections, the motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Act No. 204, Regular Session, Louisiana Legislature of 1952 (LA R.S. 42: 1001-1011 as amended by Act 280 of 2004) established procedures whereby members of retirement system(s) in political subdivisions of the State of Louisiana may obtain Hospital Insurance-Medicare only coverage ("Medicare"), and

WHEREAS, Tangipahoa Parish School System desires to offer Medicare coverage to its eligible employees,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Tangipahoa Parish School Board does hereby adopt the following resolution:

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared to be the policy and purpose of the Tangipahoa Parish School Board to extend the provisions of Section 1, Act 204, 1952 Regular Session, as amended by LA Act 280 of 2004, providing Medicare coverage to eligible officers and employees of the Tangipahoa Parish School System.

SECTION 2. In pursuance of said policy, the Tangipahoa Parish School Board requests the State Treasurer's Office to conduct a divided vote referendum, under Section 218(d)(6) of the Social Security Act, for employees hired before April 1, 1986, who are members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System. The divided vote referendum will be conducted pursuant to applicable State and Federal laws and regulations for the purpose of allowing eligible employees the option of paying the Medicare-only tax.

SECTION 3. The Superintendent of Schools is hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with the State of Louisiana to secure Medicare coverage of eligible officers and employees as provided in Section 1 hereof.

SECTION 4. The coverage of eligible officers and employees shall be effective as of **July 1, 2005** for the employees who voted "Yes" in the divided vote Medicare referendum.

SECTION 5. Withholdings from salaries or wages of officers and employees for the purposes provided in Section 1 hereof of this resolution are hereby authorized to be made in the amounts and at such times as may be required by applicable State and Federal laws and regulations, and shall be paid to the Internal Revenue Service, in such amounts and at such times as are designated in IRS Code 3121 (b)(7)(E) and 3126.

SECTION 6. Employer contributions shall be paid from amounts appropriated for such purposes to the Internal Revenue Service in accordance with applicable Federal laws.

SECTION 7. The Tangipahoa Parish School System shall maintain such records and submit such reports as may be required by applicable State and Federal laws or regulations.

SECTION 8. This resolution shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage.

Amite, Louisiana, this 15th day of February 2005.

Tangipahoa Parish School System

**BY: _____
Louis L. Joseph, Superintendent**

Mrs. Bailey-Simmons gave the Board a report on the 32nd Annual Federal Relations Network Conference, held in Washington, D.C. on January 30, - February 1, 2005.

It was moved by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, seconded by Mr. Link, to approve the Finance Committee Report of February 1, 2005. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted. Following is the report as approved.

There was no quorum of committee members present for the meeting. The committee discussed each item and they were presented to the full Board for approval.

1. Approved Accounts Payable Check Register dated 12/15/04 – 1/26/05
2. Approved renewal of last year's bid for the SFS employee uniforms with LifeCare Uniforms for another year.
3. Approved Bid #2005-02, SFS Commodity Processing.
4. Granted the staff authorization to seek proposals for Child Nutrition Software.

It was moved by Mr. Link, seconded by Mr. Bardwell, to approve the Personnel Committee Report of February 15, 2005. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted. Following is the report as approved.

February 16, 2005

1. TEACHER - NEW HIRE

Brandi Abadie, Kindergarten Teacher – Woodland Park Early Learning Center, effective January 31, 2005, Substitute
Hoyt Ponder, Teacher – Florida Parishes Detention Center, effective January 26, 2005, Substitute
Katherine Lanser, Teacher – Hammond Westside Upper, effective February 1, 2005, Substitute

2. SUPPORT PERSONNEL – NEW HIRE

Denise Livaudais, Special Education Paraprofessional 5 ½ hours – Loranger Elementary, effective January 24, 2005
Donald Weber, Jr., Child Specific Aide 7 hours – Hammond High, effective January 25, 2005
Darnell Allen, Janitor 9 months 8 hours – Loranger High, effective January 25, 2005

3. SUPPORT PERSONNEL – TRANSFER/RECLASSIFICATION

Paul Levi, From: Custodian 9 months 8 hours – Loranger High, To: Custodian 12 months 8 hours – Loranger Elementary, effective January 27, 2005

4. *LEAVES*RESIGNATIONS*RETIREMENTS

LEAVES:

Annette Nichols, Teacher – Loranger Middle (Extended Sick Leave using sick days first due to Maternity – March 14, 2005), effective January 27, 2005

Pauline O'Connor, Bus Driver (Extended Sick Leave using sick days first due to surgery – March 18, 2005), effective January 18, 2005

Darlene Dykes, Food Service Manager – Amite Elementary (Straight Leave without pay using sick days first due to family illness – April 4 2005), effective February 9, 2005

Kenneth Gardner, Teacher – Hammond High (Extended Sick Leave using sick days first – May 30, 2005), effective January 18, 2005

Retirements:

Carol Wiggins, Teacher – Ponchatoula Jr. High, effective May 31, 2005

Resignations:

Denise Burches, Office Assistant I – Central Office, effective February 15, 2005

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the Policy Committee Report of February 1, 2005. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted. Following is the report as approved.

1. Approved the revision of Policy GBRIB: Sick Leave, to extend Extended Medical Leave to those employees holding ancillary degrees.

EXTENDED SICK LEAVE

The Board shall permit each teacher and bus driver to take up to ninety (90) days of extended sick leave in each six-year period of employment within a Louisiana School System, as dictated by Louisiana Law, which may be used for personal illness or illness of an immediate family member at any time the teacher or bus driver has **no** remaining regular sick leave balance at the time the extended sick leave is set to begin. Immediate family member means a spouse, parent, or child of the teacher or bus driver. “Teacher, as defined in this policy, shall include any member of the teaching staff who holds a valid Louisiana Teaching Certificate, and any guidance counselor, social worker, school psychologist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist or school nurse who holds a valid Louisiana professional ancillary certificate in their respective area.

It was moved by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Link, to waive the rules to consider an item from the Curriculum Committee Meeting held on February 14, 2005. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

It was moved by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to direct the staff to survey students at all parish high schools to determine the interest in the Bible course and if the needed personnel is available and report their findings to the Board. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Potts, to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$2,855.37 for the Tangipahoa Parish Special Services Center Parking Improvements Project. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to send the proposed policy change/employment of school bus drivers, to the Policy Committee for further discussion. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

Mr. Kolwe gave the Board a PowerPoint presentation regarding a review of the State Department of Education Report of Financial Risk Factors for school systems. The Tangipahoa Parish School System rating was very favorable.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to waive the rules to consider conducting an Expulsion Hearing for Chase Warden. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM - February 15, 2005

Mr. Chris Moody explained that the hearing for Chase Warden would be conducted in Executive Session per the wishes of the student/parents and their attorney.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to enter Executive Session to conduct an Expulsion Hearing for Chase Warden. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

The Board entered Executive Session.

The Board returned to Open Session.

It was moved by Mr. Link, seconded by Mr. Potts, to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation of Expulsion for Chase Warden, with the stipulation that the student will be allowed to finish the course requirements for the 1st semester at Loranger High School off campus. (The superintendent was directed to offer alternative education for the completion of his studies for this semester.) Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

Josh Yarborough and Lauri Girgenti spoke in public input in support of the administrators at Sumner High School.

Mrs. Bailey-Simmons spoke in personal privilege and read a letter that she received commending the generosity and helpfulness of some of the Central Office Staff.

Mr. Potts spoke in public input regarding the misinformation that had been circulating regarding the situation at Sumner High. He requested that community put this incident behind them and move forward for the good of the students at Sumner High School.

It was moved by Mr. Link, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to enter Executive Session to discuss the cases of Debra Taylor, Individually, and on behalf of her minor son, Brent Taylor v. Vanessa Divitorrio, etal, Lauren Hayse on behalf of her daughter, Jessica Hayse v. TPSB, etal, and Parker, Tyrone v. Earl Richardson, etal. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

The Board entered Executive Session.

The Board returned to Open Session.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Link, to accept the attorney's recommendation in the case of Lauren Hayse on behalf of her daughter Jessica Hayse v. TPSB, etal. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

No action was taken in the cases of Debra Taylor, Individually, and on behalf of her minor son, Brent Taylor v. Vanessa Divitorrio, etal and Parker, Tyrone v. Earl Richardson, etal.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Williams, to adjourn (8:27 p.m.). Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard "Tank" Genco, President

Louis L. Joseph, Secretary-Treasurer

Recorded By: Jo-Ann L. Frazier (2/15/05)