

SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

The Avoyelles Parish School Board met in regular session Tuesday, June 5, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. at the School Board Office with the following members present:

James Gauthier, President; Michael Lacombe, Vice-President; Freeman Ford, Darrell Wiley, Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., Shelia Blackman-Dupas, Lizzie Ned, Van Kojis, and Cynthia "Cindy" Hill.

Absent: None.

An Invocation was offered by Assistant Superintendent Craig Foster.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America led by Board Member Shelia Blackman-Dupas.

Mrs. Susan Decuir of The Avoyelles Journal appeared before the Board and asked their approval to make a special presentation regarding the "Avoyellean of the Year, 2011". Mrs. Decuir requested that Board Member Carlos Mayeux, a former Avoyellean, present the nomination. The award was presented to Superintendent Dwayne Lemoine by Ms. Nettie Chenevert, "Avoyellean of the Year, 2010". Several past winners as well as members of Mr. Lemoine's family were in attendance for the presentation. Mr. Lemoine humbly accepted this prestigious award and felt it was an honor to be chosen. He stressed that no matter what the future holds, the most important thing is children's education and it must be supported by family, teachers, and citizens.

1. A motion was offered by Van Kojis, seconded by Darrell Wiley, to adopt the minutes of the regular Board meeting held Tuesday, May 1, 2012, as printed and mailed to Board members and published in The Weekly News, official journal of the Board.

Board Member Freeman Ford noted that the "Superintendent's Report" was never made a part of the regular minutes. In the past it has always been. Secondly, Mr. Ford referred to Item Number 6 of the minutes and questioned why when he mentioned the \$515,000.00 compromised by the Bunkie Community and he said it was never acted upon or addressed, nothing was mentioned by Mr. Lemoine or Mr. Foster when in fact the April 18, 2012 minutes of the "Superintendent's Committee" stated otherwise. Mr. Ford also referred to page 10 of the May 1, 2012 minutes. A discussion ensued between Mr. Ford and Superintendent Lemoine as to the meaning of "acted upon" or "addressed. Mr. Ford concluded by saying a resolution was adopted by the Superintendent's Committee and he felt this meant it was acted upon." Superintendent Dwayne Lemoine explained that in the Needs Assessment process, a committee comprised of himself, the Assistant Superintendent, the Supervisor of Maintenance, and the Director of Finance meets to determine whether or not a spending is equitable or not and should go before the Needs Assessment Committee. They met on April 18, and after reviewing the proposed changes to the BELA gym improvements presented by the community members (which would require taking \$275,000 from four other schools plus a \$52,000 surplus amount), they determined that this would not be cost-effective and would also not be considered instructional improvements. The committee recommended at that time to accept the original Seven-Year Capital Improvement Plan pending the

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availability of funding and to also consult with the architect regarding feasibility costs for improvements suggested by the community members, pending funding. This was brought before the Needs Assessment Committee, who voted against the proposed Seven-Year Plan. Mr. Ford again brought up the fact that the community members' proposals were "addressed" or "acted upon" before the regular School Board meeting on May 1, and he is upset that he was not made aware of this until May 3.

Board Member Shelia Blackman-Dupas stated that at the last meeting, she asked Superintendent Dwayne Lemoine the reason this matter appeared before the three Board member committee when it failed in the Superintendent's Committee. Ms. Dupas further stated that Mr. Lemoine advised her that it did not fail, however, Ms. Dupas said that she had a document which stated that the minutes reflected that the subject matter discussed had failed. Furthermore, Ms. Dupas said that a month later, Board members received the minutes. Ms. Dupas said that she did not have any idea as to the reason these minutes were not presented to the Board a month ago when it was actually acted upon eight or nine weeks ago. Therefore, Ms. Dupas stated that it was discussed by the Superintendent's committee and later brought to the three Board member Assessment Committee.

Also, Mr. Ford requested that his statement in Item Number 5 of the Finance Committee Report dated April 24, 2012, be deleted--he did not say he "expressed concerns about informing the Judge about the Board's actions" but did say he did not want to send the judge a negative report and asked that the judge be called instead.

Board Member Lizzie Ned asked that her comments in Item Number 6 of the regular meeting minutes be corrected. Upon review of the tape, Ms. Ned's actual comments were, "In our last court hearing with Judge Drell, the facility expert, Mr. Brewer and the Department of Justice informed the Court that the current gymnasium at Bunkie Elementary School is not compatible to the other elementary schools in the district. Mr. Brewer recommended to the Board to construct a new gym compatible to Lafargue Elementary School. At this hearing, Judge Dee Drell also mentioned that the Board should try to start working together with some integrity in the process that would allow the community involvement in the construction projects." Ms. Ned also asked that this correction be made on the copies being sent to Judge Drell and the Justice Department.

The motion to accept the minutes as corrected was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: James Gauthier, Michael Lacombe, Darrell Wiley, Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., Van Kojis, and Cindy Hill.

Nays: Shelia Blackman-Dupas, Freeman Ford, and Lizzie Ned.

2. Ms. Shelia Blackman-Dupas, Board Member, read a resolution of respect to the late George G. Voinche, former teacher, principal, and School Board Member. Ms. Dupas noted that Mr. George was her principal at Mansura High School. Mrs. Dupas further stated that there were no suspensions or detentions in those days and Mr. George knew all of the parents personally. She said that she had much respect for him and she expressed her heartfelt sympathy to the family.