

**JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
JANUARY 16, 2025**

The Jefferson Davis Parish School Board met in Regular session at 203 E. Plaquemine Street, Jennings, LA 70546, on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. , with the following School Board members present: President, Greg Patterson, Vice-President, Phillip Arceneaux, Members, Greg Bordelon, Charles Bruchhaus, Malon Dobson, Blake Frey, Paula LeJeune, Summer LeJeune, Blake Petry, Paul Trahan and Russell Walker.

Absent: David Doise and Janet Jones.

Legal Counsel Present: Lauren Heinen

The meeting was called to order by President Patterson.

Roll call was done by Mrs. Debbie Abshire. Mrs. Abshire verified that there were no requests for public comment.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag was led by Mrs. Paula LeJeune, followed by an invocation by Jayden Butler, a 6th grade student at Jennings Elementary School.

Motion by Mr. Bordelon, seconded by Mr. Arceneaux and unanimously carried to approve the School Board minutes of the Regular meeting on December 19, 2024.

Motion by Mr. Trahan, seconded by Mrs. S. LeJeune and unanimously carried that the Board call for a vote to take care of items of business not listed on the original agenda or to change the order of topics to be addressed.

REQUEST TO SPEAK:

1. Rev. Gerald Perkins

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

The following recommendations were made by Mr. Phillip Arceneaux, Finance Committee Chairman, that the School Board:

Accept the recommendation by the Director of Finance and Superintendent to accept the report of Mike Gillespie, CPA, External Auditor of the School Board. Motion seconded by Mr. Petry and unanimously carried.

Grant permission to accept the following donations:

- A. JHS
 1. Jennings QuarterBack Club, \$1,000.00. Funds to be used towards the supplemental pay of Philip Bell and Tyler Theunissen.
- B. LAHS
 1. Greater Houston Community Foundation, \$1,000.00. Funds to be used equally for powerlifting team and weight room renovations.

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C. WHS:

1. Kade Kelly, \$100.00. Funds to be used for SWPBIS.
2. WHS Baseball Backers, \$405.00. Funds to be used for season costs.
3. Town of Elton, \$300.00. Funds to be used for WHS Band towards costs for being in Elton Christmas parade.
4. Pat Deshotel, \$100.00. Funds to be used towards WHS Band expenses.
5. Anonymous, \$600.00. Funds to be used towards WHS football expenses.

Motion seconded by Mrs. P. LeJeune and unanimously carried.

FINANCE INFORMATION:

1. Review of 2nd quarter Budget-to-Actual Comparisons on the General Fund and all Special Revenue Funds was presented by Director of Finance, Christin LeGros.
2. Presentation of the 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements and Audit Opinion by Mike Gillespie, CPA, External Auditor of the School Board was done at the Finance Committee meeting.

The following committees had no reports to present:

Insurance - Blake Petry, Chairman

Building & Grounds - David Doise Chairman

Policy - Russell Walker, Chairman

Transportation - Greg Bordelon, Chairman

16th Section - Charles Bruchhaus, Chairman

Ward II - Paula LeJeune, Chairman

Legislative Liaison - Greg Bordelon, Chairman

Long Range Planning - Malon Dobson, Chairman

Food Service - Greg Patterson, Chairman

The Sales Tax report was given by Mrs. Christin Legros, Finance Director.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Mr. Arceneaux, seconded by Mr. Dobson and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution regarding School Board meetings:

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, ACT 707 of the 1977 Louisiana Legislature makes substantive changes in Louisiana's Open Meeting Law, and WHEREAS, one change exempts the Board from having to give written notice of each regular meeting (1) if the Board adopts a resolution each January establishing the day, time, and place of the regular meeting, (2) written public notice of this resolution is given at least one time, and (3) the day, time, and place remain the same or, if changed,

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the Board gives written public notice at least once to the amendment or new resolution no less than twenty-four hours in advance of the changed regular meeting, and

WHEREAS, this Board would like to conform to this change,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Jefferson Davis Parish School Board in regular session duly convened on January 16, 2025, that the Board does hereby adopt an official resolution establishing the regular meeting schedule for the year 2025 to be on the third Thursday of each consecutive month, the meeting place to be at the School Board Central Office, 203 East Plaquemine Street, Jennings, Louisiana, and the time to be 6:00 p.m. throughout the year. EXCEPTIONS: In May, 2025, the Board will meet on the second Thursday, May 8, 2025, (due to parish Graduations.) In December the meeting shall be held on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Elton Elementary School, 614 Powell Road, Elton, LA 70532 (due to Holiday schedule). The above Resolution, having been put to a vote and having passed, was duly declared adopted and ordered spread on the minutes of this Board.

/s/ _____
Greg Patterson, President

/s/ _____
John Hall, Superintendent

Motion by Mr. Trahan, seconded by Mr. Frey and unanimously carried to approve the submission to the Louisiana State Department of Education of all 2024-2025 federal and state flow-through projects and any new programs enacted.

Motion by Mr. Petry, seconded by Mrs. Paula LeJeune and unanimously carried to declare the following as critical shortage for the 2024-25 school year:

All grades Special Education, Speech Therapist/Pathologist, 6-12 Mathematic, 6-12 Science, 6-12 Spanish, 6-12 English, 6-12 French, 6-12 Social Studies, FACS, 6-12 Business Education, Bus Operator, Counselor, Administration, Pre-K -5 All Subjects, and Librarians.

MOTION BY:	SECONDED BY:	PUBLIC COMMENT	DISCUSSION	VOTE
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Motion by Mr. Bordelon, seconded by Mr. Bruchhaus and unanimously carried to grant permission for the following out-of-state travel request:

1. JES Principal, David Reed to travel to San Diego, CA from February 23-28, 2025 for the 2025 Annual Teacher Clarity Conference & Teacher Clarity Playbook Certification. To be paid with JES Title I funds.
2. Assistant Superintendent, Ben Oustalet and WAR Principal, Chris Humble to travel to National Harbor, MD June 22 - 25, 2025 for the Model School Conference. To be paid with District Title II funds.

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Motion by Mrs. S. LeJeune, seconded by Mr. Trahan and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Child Nutrition Program to declare the following items as surplus and send to the next available public auction:

1. Fenton Elementary: ASBER Reach in 2 Section Freezer Model SN 81020488225.

Motion by Mr. Petry, seconded by Mr. Frey and unanimously carried to grant permission to approve the following non-faculty coaches for 2024-2025 upon completion of LHSAA coaching course certification and Board policy requirements.

1. Laina Bryant, LAHS powerlifting.
2. Joey Thibodeaux, LHS baseball.

INFORMATION

1. School Board President Patterson has named the following 2025 School Board committees:

FINANCE COMMITTEE - PHILLIP ARCENEUX, CHAIRMAN

Paula LeJeune, David Doise, Charles Bruchhaus, Blake Petry, Paul Trahan and Russell Walker.

POLICY COMMITTEE - RUSSELL WALKER, CHAIRMAN

Phillip Arceneaux, Summer LeJeune, David Doise and Paul Trahan

INSURANCE - BLAKE PETRY, CHAIRMAN

Malon Dobson, Janet Jones, David Doise and Charles Bruchhaus.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - DAVID DOISE, CHAIRMAN

Greg Bordelon, Paul Trahan, Blake Frey and Russell Walker.

TRANSPORTATION - GREG BORDELON, CHAIRMAN

Malon Dobson, Summer LeJeune, Janet Jones, Blake Frey.

16TH SECTION - CHARLES BRUCHHAUS, CHAIRMAN

Malon Dobson, Phillip Arceneaux, Paula LeJeune and Russell Waker.

WARD II AD HOC (JENNINGS BOARD MEMBERS) - PAULA LEJEUNE, CHAIRMAN

Phillip Arceneaux, Summer LeJeune, Janet Jones and Greg Patterson.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON - GREG BORDELON

LONG RANGE PLANNING - PAUL TRAHAN,

Malon Dobson, Paula LeJeune, Blake Petry, and Blake Frey.

SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE - SUMMER LEJEUNE, CHAIRMAN

Greg Bordelon, Charles Bruchhaus, Blake Petry and Blake Frey.

2. Condolences are extended to the families of:

1. Wanda Martin, LAHS Teacher and Curriculum Supervisor, who retired in 2014 with 34 ½ years of service.
2. Rebecca Swift, LAES Teacher, who retired in 1990, with 27 years of service.
3. Mary Guillory, FES Cafeteria Manager, who retired in 1996, with 23 years of service.

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3. Teachers of the Year

Elementary

Welsh Elementary - Gabrielle Thibodeaux - District Winner

Elton Elementary - Sydney Augustine

Fenton Elementary - Kaylyn Trahan

Hathaway High - Maggie Baxter

Jennings Elementary - Jeremy Thibodeaux

Lacassine High - Makenna Hardwick

Lake Arthur Elementary - Jacqueline Prielipp

Middle

WARD Center of Excellence - Kim Harris - District Winner

Elton High - Kieshaunna Clayton

Hathaway High - Alexis Hargroder

Jennings High - Elizabeth McCleery

Lacassine High - Marie Willis

Lake Arthur High - Elizabeth Vallo

Welsh Roanoke - Jenny McNabb

High

Jennings High - Aaron Beaubouef - District Winner

Elton High - Lana Myers

Hathaway High - Jodi Deshotel

Lacassine High - Natalie Trahan

Lake Arthur High - Mercedes Gonzales

Welsh High - Shannon McSwain

24-25 School Support Employees of the Year

Elementary

Welsh Elementary - Danielle Broussard - District Winner

Elton Elementary - Sarah Reeves

Fenton Elementary - Candice Prejean

Hathaway High - Tasha Adickes

Jennings Elementary - Lori Fontenot

Lacassine High - Morgan Augustine

Lake Arthur Elementary - Kevin Lacombe

Middle

Welsh Roanoke - Camille Landry - District Winner

Hathaway High - Samantha Gary

Jennings High - Eva Broussard

Lacassine High - Jo Chadwick

WARD Center of Excellence - Lisa Duplechin

High

Lake Arthur High - Rachel Dugas - District Winner

Elton High - Sandra Davis

Hathaway High - Coby Miller

Jennings High - Trish Boudreaux

Lacassine High - Monica Ardoin

Welsh High - Laura Onken

2025 Principals of the Year:

Elementary - David Reed - Jennings Elementary School

Middle - Lori Lemons - James Ward Center of Excellence

High - Jason Jagneaux - Hathaway High School

24-25 Students of the Year

Elementary

District Winner - Lydia Carter - Hathaway

EES - Brandon Shallow

FES - Kohen Leblanc

LHS - Demi Deville

LAES - Westin Fluitt

JES - Maya Munoz

WES - Audra Ardoin

Middle School

District Winner - Chloe Austin - Hathaway

EHS - Adeline Bertrand

LHS - Anderson Veuleman

LAHS - Ella Grace Istre

JHS - Elli Hill

WRJH - Avery Leblanc

High School

District Winner - Andrew Nguyen - Hathaway

EHS - Kenzly Shuff

JHS - Avi Coleman

LHS - Audrey Hardy

LAHS - Jalea Prudhomme

WHS - Alyssa Touchet

School Health Provider Nominees:

Nurse

Ashley Galley - nominated by Welsh Roanoke

Speech Pathologist

Heidi Parker - nominated by Lake Arthur Elementary

PERSONNEL CHANGES

A. Personnel changes:

APPOINTMENTS

1. Bryson McCoy, HHS Teacher, 01/06/25, re: Joseph Manuel resignation.
2. Alexia LaComb, JES Teacher, 12/13/24, re: Debra Marceaux promotion.
3. Alicia Broussard, JHS Teacher, 01/06/25, re: Raven Babineaux Granger resignation.

TRANSFERS

1. Taddy Doucet, Central Office Sales Tax Bookkeeper to Central Office Sales Tax Specialist, 12/1/2024, re: new position.
2. Morgan Fontenot Vanicor, WES Teacher to LAES Teacher, 01/27/25, re: Elizabeth Schexnayder resignation.

LEAVE WITHOUT PAY

1. Kelly Dronet, HHS Teacher, 04/07/25.

RESIGNATIONS

1. Joseph Manuel, HHS Teacher, 12/21/24.
2. Elizabeth Schexnayder, LAES Teacher, 01/13/25.
3. Benjamin Martin, Central Office Sales Tax Auditor, 01/28/25.

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RETIREMENTS

1. Kimberly Bertrand, EHS Teacher, 12/21/24. (RTW)
2. Amy Hulseley, JES Teacher, 05/24/25, with 15 years of service.
3. Sandra Simien, JES Teacher, 05/24/25, with 21 years of service.
4. Charlotte St. Germain, HHS Paraprofessional, 05/24/25, with 37 years of service.
5. Rosalind Broussard, Pupil Appraisal SPED SER Data Advisor, 07/01/25, with 31 years of service.

DISCUSSION:

Discussion was held on finger printing costs for subs. Couple of options will be presented at the next Policy meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

1. Upcoming weather potential.
2. Congrats to new Board President, Mr. Patterson.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Arceneaux and seconded by Mr. Trahan to enter into Executive Session to discuss 20 acres of land adjacent to JHS owned by Harris Downes Properties. The following people were asked to remain for Executive Session: School Board Members, Mr. Hall, Mr. Oustalet, Ms. Heinen, Mrs. Legros and Mrs. Abshire.

Motion by Mr. Bordelon and seconded by Mr. Dobson to return to Regular Session.

ADJOURN

There being no other business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mrs. S. LeJeune and unanimously carried, to adjourn at 7:06 pm.

/s/ Greg Patterson, President

ATTEST:

/s/John Hall, Secretary/Superintendent

Note: Items purchased by quotes or bids may be reviewed at the School Board office during normal business hours. All policies can be reviewed at any facility under the jurisdiction of the Jefferson Davis Parish School Board.