

SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

The Avoyelles Parish School Board met in regular session Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at the School Board Office with the following members present:

Van Kojis, President; Michael Lacombe, Vice-President; Freeman Ford, Darrell Wiley, Chris LaCour, James Gauthier, Shelia Blackman-Dupas, Lizzie Ned, and John Gagnard.

Absent: None.

An Invocation was offered by Board Member Chris LaCour.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America led by Board Member James Gauthier.

1. On motion by John Gagnard, seconded by Michael Lacombe, the Board adopted the minutes of the special Board meeting held Tuesday, February 10, 2015, as printed and mailed to Board members and published in The Weekly News, official journal of the Board. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Mrs. Lizzie Ned, Board Member, read a resolution of respect to the late Carolyn Green, former teacher.

On motion by Lizzie Ned, seconded by Freeman Ford, the Board adopted the resolution of respect to the late Carolyn Green. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Mr. Van Kojis, Board President, read a resolution of respect to the late Hilda Simon, former teacher.

On motion by Van Kojis, seconded by Darrell Wiley, the Board adopted the resolution of respect to the late Hilda Simon. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Mr. John Gagnard, Board Member, read a resolution of respect to the late Audrey Fuqua, former teacher.

On motion by John Gagnard, seconded by Shelia Blackman-Dupas, the Board adopted the resolution of respect to the late Audrey Fuqua. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Mr. Ward Bordelon, teacher at the Louisiana School for the Agricultural Sciences, presented a Certificate of Achievement to student Stanley Celestine for being chosen as a distinguished finalist for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards and receiving the President's Volunteer Service Award.

6. Mr. Blaine Dauzat, Superintendent, recognized the Students of the Month. Mr. Dauzat presented a plaque to each student. Also, each Board Member read a short biography detailing the accomplishments of each student.

The Students of the Month include: Gracie Gaspard, Bunkie Elementary Learning Academy; Rebecca Ewing, Cottonport Elementary School; Colt Courville, Lafargue Elementary School; Aubrie Harrell, Marksville Elementary School; Reese Benard, Plaucheville Elementary School; Alicia Barfield, Riverside Elementary School; Bree Mayeux, Avoyelles High School; Dynasty Thompson, Bunkie New Tech High School; Haley Hallmeyer, LaSAS; and Andre' Boyer, Marksville High School.

On behalf of the Board, President Van Kojis commended the students on their accomplishments.

7. Mrs. Thelma Prater, Assistant Superintendent, recognized the Teachers of the Month. Mrs. Prater presented a plaque to each teacher, as follows:

Chrissy Grayson, Bunkie Elementary Learning Academy; Adrienne Brouillette, Cottonport Elementary School; Kelley Juneau, Lafargue Elementary School; Craig Normand, Marksville Elementary School; Vicki Dufour, Plaucheville Elementary School; Maggie Mury, Riverside Elementary School; Eric Dauzat, Avoyelles High School; Bruce Webb, Bunkie New Tech High School; Amy Pitre, LaSAS; and Megan Soucy, Marksville High School.

On behalf of the Board, Assistant Superintendent Prater commended the teachers on their achievements.

8. Mrs. Wendy Marchand, Data/Instructional Coordinator, recognized the 2014-2015 Student of the Year winners, as follows:

Fifth Grade Student of the Year:

Cole Thomason, Bunkie Elementary Learning Academy; Daylan Juneau, Cottonport Elementary School; Hanlin Riddle, Lafargue Elementary School; Aaliyah Hudson, Marksville Elementary School; Nicolas Bordelon, Plaucheville Elementary School; and Joseph Baudin, Riverside Elementary School.

Eighth Grade Student of the Year:

Savannah Ducote, Avoyelles High School; Destiny Woodall, Bunkie New Tech High School; William Gaspard, LaSAS; and Shelby Marcotte, Marksville High School.

Twelfth Grade Student of the Year:

Summerprett Sandhu, Avoyelles High School; Jenna Chagnard, Bunkie New Tech High School; Hannah Kelly, LaSAS; and Shelbie Sampson, Marksville High School.

Mrs. Marchand named the district winners, as follows: Fifth Grade, Nicolas Bordelon, Placheville Elementary School; Eighth Grade, William Gaspard, LaSAS; and Twelfth Grade, Shelbie Sampson, Marksville High School.

9. Mr. Wilfred Ducote, Supervisor of Transportation, recognized Ms. Darlene Knox as PCAL's 2015 Bus Driver of the Year.

10. Mr. Wilfred Ducote, Sales Tax Collector, reported that sales tax collections for the month of December 2014 generated \$601,487.83. Mr. Ducote stated that of this amount, the 1.5% sales tax generated \$515,561.26 and the 0.25% generated \$85,926.57.

Also, Mr. Ducote reported that sales tax collections for the month of January 2015 generated \$820,171.48. Mr. Ducote stated that of this amount, the 1.5% sales tax generated \$703,047.89 and the 0.25% generated \$117,123.59.

11. Mrs. Mary Bonnette, Director of Finance, addressed the Board regarding public funds.

On motion by Freeman Ford, seconded by Lizzie Ned, the Board adopted the Public Funds Resolution with Capital One Bank. MOTION CARRIED.

12. On motion by Freeman Ford, seconded by Chris LaCour, the Board granted permission to advertise for an auditor for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. MOTION CARRIED.

13. On motion by Darrell Wiley, seconded by James Gauthier, the Board granted permission to advertise for bids for milk, milk products, and juice; bread and bakery products; supplies and equipment; non-hazardous waste disposal; grease trap maintenance; and staple foods and produce. MOTION CARRIED.

14. Mrs. Mary Bonnette, Director of Finance, addressed the Board regarding the adoption of millage rates.

On motion by Freeman Ford, seconded by John Gagnard,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2015 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Avoyelles Parish School Board:

	<u>MILLAGE</u>
Constitutional Tax	3.62 mills
Operational and Maintenance Tax	5.00 mills
Special Maintenance Tax	5.00 mills
Salary Tax	10 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Avoyelles, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2015, and to make the collection of taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

Yeas: Freeman Ford, John Gagnard, Darrell Wiley, Chris LaCour, James Gauthier, Van Kojis, Michael Lacombe, Shelia Blackman-Dupas, and Lizzie Ned.

Nays: None.

Abstained: None.

Absent: None.

15. Mr. Michael Lacombe, Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the following report:

Finance Committee Report
February 11, 2015

The Finance Committee of the Avoyelles Parish School Board met on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. at the School Board Office with the following members present:

Michael Lacombe, Chairman; Freeman Ford, John Gagnard, Chris LaCour, Van Kojis, President; and Thelma Prater, Assistant Superintendent. Also present were Darrell Wiley and James Gauthier, Board Members; Blaine Dausat, Superintendent-Elect; and Mary Bonnette, Director of Finance.

1. Upon motion by John Gagnard, seconded by Chris LaCour, the Finance Committee recommended approval of requests for overnight travel as presented by Assistant Superintendent Thelma Prater. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Consultants from Norris Insurance addressed the Finance Committee.

Upon motion by Freeman Ford, seconded by John Gagnard, the Finance Committee recommended to renew the contract with Norris Insurance Consultants for one (1) year. MOTION CARRIED.

Upon motion by Chris LaCour, seconded by Freeman Ford, the Finance Committee recommended to send a letter to adopt the recommended timeline as presented by Norris Insurance Consultants, Incorporated. MOTION CARRIED.

Avoyelles Parish School Board
Calendar of Events
Property and Casualty Insurance Renewals 2015

<u>Item</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Description of Event</u>
<u>Finance Committee</u>	2/11/15	4:30 p.m.	Wednesday	Give update on handling of Property and Casualty Insurance Renewals 2015
<u>Renewal Indication Letters</u>	2/16/15	10:00 a.m.	Monday	Send renewal indications letters to current Agents
<u>Indication Letters Due</u>	3/5/15	2:00 p.m.	Thursday	Deadline to receive renewal indications from current Agents
1) Bid Notice to Agents (if needed)	3/19/15	3:00 p.m.	Thursday	Notice sent to agents invited to participate
2) Agents Meeting (if needed)	3/26/15	2:00 p.m.	Thursday	Agent review of RFP, Losses and approve carriers selected by agents
3) Open Bids (if needed)	5/1/15	2:00 p.m.	Friday	Open bids in public forum, read excerpts aloud, take under advisement
4) Finance Committee Meets	5/19/15	4:30 p.m.	Tuesday	Reviews quotes, votes recommendation to Board
5) School Board Meets	6/2/15	5:00 p.m.	Tuesday	Board votes award to agent
6) Award Notice to Agent	6/3/15	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday	Agents advised of award
7) Binders to be issued	6/10/15	2:00 p.m.	Wednesday	Binders received by School Board
8) Policy renewal date	7/1/15	12:01 a.m.	Wednesday	New insurance takes effect
9) Policy delivery date	9/1/15	2:00 p.m.	Tuesday	Board receives renewal policies

The Finance Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of this report.

Michael Lacombe, Chairman
Finance Committee

On motion by Michael Lacombe, seconded by Chris LaCour, the Board adopted the Finance Committee Report as presented by Chairman Lacombe. MOTION CARRIED.

16. Mr. James Gauthier, Chairman of the Building and Lands Committee, presented the following report:

Building and Lands Committee Report
February 11, 2015

The Building and Lands Committee of the Avoyelles Parish School Board met on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at the School Board Office with the following members present:

James Gauthier, Chairman; Michael Lacombe, Darrell Wiley, Van Kojis, President; and Thelma Prater, Assistant Superintendent. Ms. Shelia Blackman-Dupas was absent. Also present were Freeman Ford, Chris LaCour, and John Gagnard, Board Members; Blaine Dautat, Superintendent-Elect; Mary Bonnette, Director of Finance; and Steve Marcotte, Maintenance Supervisor.

1. Mr. Darrell Wiley, Member of the Committee, discussed turning lanes at Lafargue Elementary School, LaSAS, and Bunkie New Tech High School.

Upon motion by Darrell Wiley, seconded by Michael Lacombe, the Building and Lands Committee recommended to draft a resolution concerning the safety and concern for turning lanes and forward said resolution to the Department of Transportation and Development and the Board's legislation delegation. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Mr. Steve Marcotte, Maintenance Supervisor, addressed the committee regarding Section 16 Lands (Poisson Arme) located in Township 3 North, Range 6 East.

Discussion ensued on this matter, and it was noted that the Board had developed an Ad Hoc Committee to study the School Board lands.

3. Mr. Chris LaCour, Board Member, addressed the committee regarding the Old River section campsites.

Upon motion by Darrel Wiley, seconded by Michael Lacombe, the Building and Lands Committee recommended to employ Attorney James Lee to advise the Board on the leasing of the School Board lands. MOTION CARRIED.

The Building and Lands Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of this report.

James Gauthier, Chairman
Building and Lands Committee

On motion by James Gauthier, seconded by Darrell Wiley, the Board adopted the Building and Lands Committee Report as presented by Chairman Gauthier. MOTION CARRIED.

17. Mr. John Gagnard, Chairman of the Education Committee, presented the following report:

Education Committee Report
February 11, 2015

The Education Committee of the Avoyelles Parish School Board met on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. at the School Board Office with the following members present:

John Gagnard, Chairman; James Gauthier and Chris LaCour; Van Kojis, President; and Thelma Prater, Assistant Superintendent. Ms. Shelia Blackman-Dupas was absent. Also present were Freeman Ford, Darrell Wiley, and Michael Lacombe, Board Members; Blaine Dautat, Superintendent-Elect; Mary Bonnette, Director of Finance; Susan Welch, Supervisor of Secondary Education; and Celeste Voinche, Principal.

1. Mr. James Gauthier, Member of the Committee, discussed the possibility of additional high school counselors.

Ms. Prater provided the committee with information concerning high school counselors taken from Bulletin 741.

The committee did not take any action on this matter.

The Education Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of this report.

John Gagnard, Chairman
Education Committee

On motion by John Gagnard, seconded by Freeman Ford, the Board adopted the Education Committee Report as presented by Chairman Gagnard. MOTION CARRIED.

18. Mr. Darrell Wiley, Chairman of the Executive Committee, presented the following report:

Executive Committee Report
February 25, 2015

The Executive Committee of the Avoyelles Parish School Board met on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. at the School Board Office with the following members present:

Darrell Wiley, Chairman; John Gagnard, Lizzie Ned, Van Kojis, President; and Thelma Prater, Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Freeman Ford was absent. Also present were Chris LaCour, James Gauthier, and Michael Lacombe, Board Members; Blaine Dausat, Superintendent-Elect; Mary Bonnette, Director of Finance; Debbie Bain, Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance; and Luke Welch, SIS Coordinator.

1. Mrs. Mary Bonnette, Director of Finance, addressed the Executive Committee regarding reorganizing positions in the Finance Department to include Sales Tax Collector. Mrs. Bonnette presented the committee with a current and proposed organizational chart as well as a proposed job description for Chief Accountant/Sales Tax Supervisor and Grants Accountant.

Upon motion by John Gagnard, seconded by Lizzie Ned, the Executive Committee recommended to approve the job description for Chief Accountant/Sales Tax Supervisor and Grants Accountant. MOTION CARRIED.

Upon motion by John Gagnard, seconded by Lizzie Ned, the Executive Committee recommended to advertise for the position of Grants Accountant. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Mrs. Thelma Prater, Assistant Superintendent, addressed the Executive Committee regarding advertising for the position of Supervisor of Elementary Education.

Upon motion by Lizzie Ned, seconded by John Gagnard, the Executive Committee recommended to advertise for the position of Supervisor of Elementary Education. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Ms. Debbie Bain, Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance, and Mr. Luke Welch, SIS Coordinator, presented options for the 2015-2016 Avoyelles Parish School Board Calendar.

Upon motion by John Gagnard, seconded by Lizzie Ned, the Executive Committee recommended to adopt Option 1 as the 2015-2016 Avoyelles Parish School Board Calendar. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Ms. Debbie Bain, Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance, requested approval to amend the Student Handbook as it pertains to the "Grading Policy K-6" as follows:

"The lowest numerical 'F' recorded on attempted work shall be a '60'."

Upon motion by Lizzie Ned, seconded by John Gagnard, the Executive Committee recommended to amend the Student Handbook as it pertains to the “Grading Policy K-6”, as follows:

“The lowest numerical ‘F’ recorded on attempted work shall be a ‘60’.”
MOTION CARRIED.

5. Mr. Chauncey Hardy addressed the Executive Committee regarding the Avoyelles Coalition for Suicide Prevention.

The Executive Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of this report.

Darrell Wiley, Chairman
Executive Committee

On motion by Darrell Wiley, seconded by Lizzie Ned, the Board adopted the Executive Committee Report as presented by Chairman Wiley. MOTION CARRIED.

19. Mrs. Lizzie Ned, Chairwoman of the Bus Committee, presented the Bus Committee Report.

Bus Committee Report
February 25, 2015

The Bus Committee of the Avoyelles Parish School Board met on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at the School Board Office with the following members present:

Lizzie Ned, Chairwoman; James Gauthier, Michael Lacombe, Chris LaCour, Van Kojis, President; and Thelma Prater, Assistant Superintendent. Also present were Darrell Wiley and John Gagnard, Board Members; Blaine Dautat, Superintendent-Elect; and Wilfred Ducote, Transportation Supervisor.

1. Mr. Wilfred Ducote, Transportation Supervisor, addressed the Bus Committee regarding Act 654, which deals with bus drivers and their routes. The Bus Committee recommended to study this matter and not take any action at this time.

The Bus Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of this report.

Lizzie Ned, Chairwoman
Bus Committee

On motion by Lizzie Ned, seconded by Freeman Ford, the Board adopted the Bus Committee Report as presented by Chairwoman Ned. MOTION CARRIED.

20. Mrs. Thelma Prater, Assistant Superintendent, presented personnel changes for the Board’s review:

PERSONNEL CHANGES

MARKSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Re-appointment of Robyn D. Desotell, teacher, effective March 26, 2015 through May 21, 2015.

PLAUCHEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Transfer/appointment of Teresa Gauthier, from Autism Teacher to K-3 special education inclusion teacher, effective February 19, 2015 through May 21, 2015, replacing Porsha Bradley who resigned; Appointment of Lyman Hayes, (retired) Autism Teacher, effective February 19, 2015 through May 21, 2015; and Resignation of Brenda Wilson, food service technician, effective March 13, 2015, for the purpose of retirement.

RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Appointment of Kayla M. Bordelon, (TAT) teacher, effective February 2, 2015 through May 21, 2015; Transfer/appointment of Barbara L. Bordelon, from food service technician to school secretary, effective February 19, 2015; Transfer/appointment of Alis Chaudoir, special education teacher, from Cottonport Elementary School, effective March 2, 2015 through May 21, 2015; and Transfer/appointment of Dana Brassette, special education paraprofessional, from Cottonport Elementary School, effective March 2, 2015.

AVOYELLES HIGH SCHOOL: Appointment of Hillary M. Shields, (TAT) teacher, effective February 2, 2015 through May 21, 2015, replacing Darielle Christman.

AVOYELLES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD CENTRAL OFFICE: Renewal of administrative contract for Jennifer Welch, Food Service Supervisor, effective March 24, 2015 through March 23, 2016; Resignation of Wilfred Ducote, Transportation Supervisor/Sales Tax Collector, effective June 30, 2015, for the purpose of retirement; Resignation of Randy Littleton, Supervisor of Elementary Education, effective August 30, 2015; and Resignation of Brenda Lemoine, Sales Tax Clerk, effective at the end of the day September 4, 2015, for the purpose of retirement.

ADDENDUM(S) 3/3/2015

COTTONPORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Resignation of Dana Brasette, special education paraprofessional, effective February 26, 2015.

AVOYELLES HIGH SCHOOL: Appointment of Michael Rachal, Acting Principal, effective March 23, 2015 through June 30, 2015.

BUNKIE NEW TECH HIGH SCHOOL: Resignation of Linda M. Thomas, paraprofessional, effective May 21, 2015, for the purpose of retirement.

LOUISIANA SCHOOL FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES: Transfer/appointment of Celeste Voinche, from Principal on Assignment to Principal at LaSAS, effective March 2, 2015 through March 1, 2017.

MARKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL: Re-appointment of Queen Alexander, (retired) special education mild/moderate teacher, effective March 3, 2015 through May 21, 2015.

21. On motion by John Gagnard, seconded by Freeman Ford, the Board agreed to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation (Holmes versus Avoyelles Parish School Board bearing Civil Action 12,721 on the docket of the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana.) MOTION CARRIED.

On motion by Chris LaCour, seconded by John Gagnard, the Board reconvened in open public session at approximately 7:20 p.m.

On motion by Michael Lacombe, seconded by John Gagnard, the Board agreed to continue negotiations regarding a settlement offer made by the United States Justice Department with the exception of Section IX, Number 59, as discussed in Executive Session. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no further business, on motion by Darrell Wiley, seconded by Shelia Blackman-Dupas, the meeting was adjourned.

AVOYELLES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Van Kojis, President

Blaine Dausat, Secretary-Treasurer