

SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

The Avoyelles Parish School Board met in regular session Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. at the School Board Office with the following members present:

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

Absent: None.

An Invocation was offered by Rev. Mary Hayward-Jones.

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

1. On motion Freeman Ford, seconded by Darrell Wiley, the Board adopted the minutes of the special meeting held Tuesday, March 15, 2011, as printed and mailed to Board members and published in The Weekly News, official journal of the Board. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Superintendent Dwayne Lemoine recognized and commended the Avoyelles High School Lady Mustangs. Mr. Lemoine acknowledged that the Lady Mustangs had placed second in State competition.

Principal Brent Whiddon introduced Coach Amanda Clemons and Volunteer Assistant Coach Derrick Marbs and the Lady Mustangs introduced themselves to the Board.

On behalf of the Board, President Van Kojis commended the team for this outstanding achievement.

3. Board Member Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr. recognized Karli McCaleb for being named Student of the Month. Mr. Mayeux stated that Karli is an eighth student at Avoyelles High School. She is currently a member of BETA, maintaining a 3.8 grade point average. Also, he stated that Karli is a fifth year member of 4-H and an active member of the Avoyelles Parish Livestock Team. She participated in the LSU State Livestock Show and was awarded Grand Champion and Reserved Grand Champion with her Pygmy Does. She was awarded a trip that will take place this summer to visit a variety of out-of-state livestock industry location. She was able to enhance her faith amongst her peers as a member of the Christian Fellowship Club. She is currently enrolled as a Cadet Girl Scout. Karli is also a Lady Mustang as a first baseman.

On behalf of the Board, President Van Kojis commended Karli for being named Student of the Month.

4. Superintendent Dwayne Lemoine recognized the school and district 2012 Teacher of the Year winners, as follows:

Elementary School Level Winners: Sara Riche, Bunkie Elementary School; Renee Suire, Cottonport Elementary School; Liza Jacobs, Lafargue Elementary School; Cicely Johnson, Marksville Elementary School; Angela Pastor, Plaucheville Elementary School; and Contina Anderson, Riverside Elementary School.

Middle School Level Winners: Eugenia Desselle, Avoyelles High School; Debra LeBlanc, Bunkie High School; Danielle Newsom, LaSAS; and Angie Champ, Marksville High School.

High School Level Winners: Kelsey Osman, Avoyelles High School; Melissa White, Bunkie High School; Dustin Moreau, LaSAS; and Susan Cole, Marksville High School.

Superintendent Lemoine announced that district winners include Liza Jacobs, Lafargue Elementary School; Danielle Newsom, LaSAS; and Susan Cole, Marksville High School. Mr. Lemoine presented a plaque and a monetary award to the winners.

President Van Kojis expressed the Board's concurrence with the Superintendent's remarks of congratulations to all of the selected teachers for the honor of being selected Teacher of the Year at each respective grade level.

5. Superintendent Dwayne Lemoine recognized Mr. Kirby Roy, JAG Coordinator, for receiving a national award for his work in the JAG Program. Superintendent Lemoine stated that on behalf of the School Board, he and the members are very proud of Mr. Roy's accomplishment for representing the JAG program.

6. Dr. Jim Guillory, Candidate for Member of Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, addressed the Board. Dr. Guillory reviewed a handout given to each of the Board members regarding his candidacy for member of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Dr. Guillory stated that he would appreciate any support by the Board Members, teachers, principals and the community.

President Van Kojis stated that Dr. Guillory was a member of the Avoyelles Parish School Board for eight years and during that time, he also served as President of the Board. Mr. Kojis stated that Dr. Guillory would definitely be an asset to Avoyelles Parish if elected to this position.

7. Mrs. Aloysia Ducote, Certified Public Accountant with Ducote and Company, presented a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. Mrs. Ducote stated that their firm issued an unqualified opinion for fiscal year audit, 2009-2010, and she noted no material instances of non-compliance with government auditing standards.

Mrs. Ducote recognized the Board as well as the staff for maintaining sound fiscal management practices.

8. Mr. Howard Desselle, Citizen of Marksville, addressed the Board concerning property taxes. Mr. Desselle stated that there is nothing greater for the people of Avoyelles Parish than to invest in their children's education.

9. Mr. Michael Lacombe, Chairman of the Building and Lands Committee, presented the following report:

Building and Lands Committee Report
March 22, 2011

The Building and Lands Committee of the Avoyelles Parish School Board met Tuesday, March 22, 2011, at 4:30 p.m. at the School Board Office with the following members present:

Michael Lacombe, Chairman; Darrell Wiley, Cindy Hill, Van Kojis, President; and Dwayne Lemoine, Superintendent. Rev. Mary-Hayward-Jones was absent. Also present were James Gauthier, Freeman Ford and Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., Board Members; and Steve Marcotte, Maintenance Supervisor.

1. Mr. Steve Marcotte, Maintenance Supervisor, presented an appraisal report regarding the easement on the end of Wall Street in Marksville to access property.

Upon motion by Darrell Wiley, seconded by Cindy Hill, the Building and Lands Committee recommended that the Board grant permission to enter into an agreement with Mr. Hiep Mai and Ms. Hoa Le for the granting of an easement for \$250.00 for a 10 year period in accordance with the terms of the agreement as prepared by Attorney James Lee. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Mr. Steve Marcotte, Maintenance Supervisor, presented a report on leasing of Bunkie Middle School Gymnasium and Mansura Middle School Gymnasium.

Upon motion by Cindy Hill, seconded by Darrell Wiley, the Building and Lands Committee recommended to receive proposals for in-kind services in lieu of money for the lease of Bunkie Middle School and Mansura Middle School gymnasium facilities. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Mr. Steve Marcotte, Maintenance Supervisor, presented a bid-opening committee report on repairs and renovations at Avoyelles High School (QSCB funding). Mr. Marcotte reported that the committee was in receipt of the following bids:

<u>Name of Bidder</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Alternate # 1</u>	<u>Alternate # 2</u>	<u>Alternate # 3</u>
Scallan Contractors, Inc.	\$746,244	\$114,344	\$88,778	\$9,806
Skip Converse, Inc.	\$782,000	\$131,500	\$84,000	\$12,000
Westerchil Construction Co.	\$731,500	\$130,700	\$93,300	\$14,600
Wilmar Construction Co.	\$768,000	\$127,000	\$85,500	\$12,340

Upon motion by Darrell Wiley, seconded by Cindy Hill, the Building and Lands Committee recommended to accept the low bid from Scallan Contractors, Incorporated and refer this item to the Finance Committee for a funding source. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Mr. Steve Marcotte, Maintenance Supervisor, presented a bid-opening committee report on the sale of four (4) buses. Mr. Marcotte reported that the committee was in receipt of the following bids:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Bus Number</u>	<u>Bid Price</u>
Robert Turnage	138 - 93' Chevrolet	\$300.00
Morgan Marcotte	138 - 93' Chevrolet	\$200.00
Morgan Marcotte	103 - 96' International	\$300.00
Morgan Marcotte	101 - 96' International	\$100.00
Morgan Marcotte	181 - 96' International	\$100.00

Upon motion by Darrell Wiley, seconded by Cindy Hill, the Building and Lands Committee recommended to reject all bids, re-advertise, and set a low bid price of \$500.00. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Mr. Steve Marcotte, Maintenance Supervisor, presented a bid-opening committee report on leasing of approximately 10.73 acres of farm land adjacent to Avoyelles High School. Mr. Marcotte reported that the committee was in receipt of the following bids:

Jason Gauthier/Arthur Bordelon: 20% or one-fifth

Upon motion by Cindy Hill, seconded by Darrell Wiley, the Building and Lands Committee recommended that the Board accept the bid submitted by Jason Gauthier/Arthur Bordelon in the amount of 20% or one-fifth. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Mr. Steve Marcotte, Maintenance Supervisor, presented a bid-opening committee report on janitorial supplies, light bulbs, air conditioner filters, paint and paint supplies for the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Marcotte stated that the committee acknowledged receipt of bids from Economical Supply, Long's Products, Interboro Packaging Corporation, All American, Sayes Office Supply, Coburn's Supply, Dru-Co Lumber, Sherwin Williams, Acadian Filter Service, and Sequel Electric.

Mr. Marcotte stated that the committee recommended to award the bid to the low bidders.

Upon motion by Darrell Wiley, seconded by Cindy Hill, the Building and Lands Committee recommended that the Board award the bid to the low bidders for janitorial supplies, light bulbs, air conditioner filters, paint and paint supplies for the 2011-2012 school year. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Mr. Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., Vice-President, addressed the committee regarding contacting the State Mineral Board for the leasing of School Board properties for oil and gas exploration.

Upon motion by Cindy Hill, seconded by Darrell Wiley, the Building and Lands Committee recommended that the Superintendent contact the State Mineral Board for leasing of School Board properties for negotiating oil and gas exploring for \$3600. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Michael Lacombe, Chairman
Building and Lands Committee

On motion by Michael Lacombe, seconded by Cynthia "Cindy" Hill, the Board adopted the Building and Lands Committee Report excluding item number 2 as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Steve Marcotte, Maintenance Supervisor, addressed the Board regarding Item Number 2 concerning a recommendation that the use of the Mansura Middle School Gymnasium and Bunkie Middle School Gymnasium be advertised for public bids in order to view the bids and services that the people offer.

Mr. Marcotte advised that with a recent change in law, the properties have to be appraised and advertised for public bid.

President Van Kojis stated that in order to adhere to the proper guidelines, interested lessors must provide the proper information to the Board regarding the in-kind services that can be applied towards the lease, in addition to any monetary value.

Board Member Shelia Blackman-Dupas addressed the Board with her concerns regarding the Mansura Middle School maintenance. Mrs. Dupas stated that the maintenance of the school needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

On motion by Michael Lacombe, seconded by Darrell Wiley, the Board granted permission to appraise the Bunkie Middle School Gymnasium and Mansura Middle School Gymnasium and further that that said gymnasiums be advertised for public bids. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Mr. Freeman Ford, Chairman of the Executive Committee, presented the following report:

Executive Committee Report
March 22, 2001

The Executive Committee of the Avoyelles Parish School Board met Tuesday, March 22, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. at the School Board Office with the following members present:

Freeman Ford, Chairman; Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., James Gauthier, Michael Lacombe, Van Kojis, President; and Dwayne Lemoine, Superintendent. Also present were Darrell Wiley and Cindy Hill, Board Members; and Robby Gaspard, Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance.

1. Mr. Robby Gaspard, Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance, presented a proposed 2011-2012 School Calendar for the committee's consideration.

Upon motion by Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., seconded by Michael Lacombe, the Executive Committee recommended to refer the proposed 2011-2012 School Calendar to the full Board at its next meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Mr. James Gauthier, Board Member, addressed the committee regarding the Board's graduation policy.

The Executive Committee noted that the discussion of the policy was for informational purposes only.

3. Mr. James Gauthier, Board Member, addressed the committee regarding the manner committee reports are presented to the full Board.

The Executive Committee did not take any action on this matter.

4. Superintendent Dwayne Lemoine reviewed the district's grant policy and his role and responsibility of the policy.

The Executive Committee did not take any action on this matter.

Chairman Freeman Ford stated that he objects to the process of writing large grants without approval from the full Board.

The Executive Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of this report.

Freeman Ford, Chairman
Executive Committee

On motion by Freeman Ford, seconded by Darrell Wiley, the Board adopted the Executive Committee Report as presented by Chairman Ford excluding Item Number 1.

The motion was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None.

Abstained: Shelia Blackman-Dupas and Rev. Mary Hayward-Jones

The Board discussed Item Number 1 with regards to adoption of the 2011-2012 School Calendar, as follows:

District Wide Staff Development	August 10 and 11, 2011
School Based Staff Development	August 12, 2011
First Day of School	August 15, 2011
Labor Day Holiday	September 5, 2011
End of First Six Weeks	September 23, 2011
After School Report Card Day	September 29 , 2011
Parent Teacher Conference	September 30, 2011
End of Second Six Weeks	November 4, 2011
Veterans Day Holiday	November 11, 2011
Report Cards Sent Home	November 14, 2011
Thanksgiving Holiday	November 21-25, 2011
Mid-Term Exams (8:00-12:30 p.m.)	December 20-23, 2011
End of Third Six Weeks/Semester	December 23, 2011
Christmas Holidays	December 26 – January 6, 2012
First Day of Second Semester	January 9, 2012
After School Report Card Day	January 12, 2012
Parent Teacher Conference	January 13, 2012
Martin Luther King Holiday	January 16, 2012
Mardi Gras Holiday	February 20-21, 2012
Staff Development Day	February 10, 2012
(No school for students)	
End of Fourth Six Weeks	February 23, 2012
Report Cards Sent Home	March 1, 2012
Phase I Leap/GEE 21 Testing	March 20, 2012
Easter Holidays	March 30 through April 6, 2012
End of Fifth Six Weeks	April 12, 2012
LEAP/iLEAP/GEE Testing	April 12-17, 2012
Report Cards Sent Home	April 19, 2012
End of Sixth Six Weeks/Semester	May 24, 2012
School Records Day	May 25, 2012
(No school for students)	

On motion by Freeman Ford, seconded by Darrell Wiley, the Board agreed to adopt the 2011-2012 School Calendar with changing the Easter holidays to start March 30, 2012 and the return date from the Easter holidays is April 9, 2012. MOTION CARRIED.

With regards to Item Number 4, Board Member Shelia Blackman-Dupas stated that all grants that are written should be approved by the Board. Also, Mrs. Dupas stated that the Board should be notified of the source, services, and all pertinent information regarding the grant.

President Kojis stated that the current policy states that the Superintendent or members of his staff may apply for grants, but once the grant is received then it will be presented to the Board for approval to accept or deny. He stated that the certain criteria must be met when applying for grants.

Board Member Freeman Ford stated that he voiced his objection during the committee meeting. Mr. Ford stated that he is concerned with applying for the grant(s) prior to Board approval.

Superintendent Lemoine stated that grants are placed on the Executive Committee agenda for discussion. Mr. Lemoine further stated that grants are a tremendous asset to this school district and that he and his staff will continue to aggressively secure grants. He further stated that he has no problem with reporting grants to the Board, but he is cautious that the Board would review the policy and make sure the members understand the parameters of what the Board is asking in order that there is no deviation from the requests. Mr. Lemoine further stated that these grants will be brought back before the Board. He stated that as a reminder that when these committee reports are presented, Board members have the ability at a full Board meeting to question these reports, not to approve of certain items, and request further information.

Board Member Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr. stated that at the committee meetings, members are advised of these matters. Mr. Mayeux further stated that that the current policy seems to be working.

11. Mr. Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the following report:

Finance Committee Report
March 29, 2011

The Finance Committee of the Avoyelles Parish School Board met Tuesday, March 29, 2011, at 4:30 p.m. at the School Board Office with the following members present:

Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., Chairman; Cindy Hill, Michael Lacombe, and Dwayne Lemoine, Superintendent. Mrs. Shelia Blackman-Dupas and President Van Kojis were absent. Also present were Darrell Wiley, James Gauthier, and Rev. Mary Hayward-Jones, Board Members; Mary Bonnette, Director of Finance; and administrators.

1. Superintendent Dwayne Lemoine reviewed budget concerns with the committee which are (1) third year of no growth in the Minimum Foundation Program, (2) increased retirement and health contributions, (3) loss of ARRA, (4) loss of EduJobs funding, (5) unfunded mandates, and (6) changes to student enrollment reporting. Superintendent Lemoine also reviewed the estimated revenues of \$37,389,677 and an estimated shortage of approximately \$1.4 million.

Superintendent Lemoine illustrated a method of allocating funds directly to schools which is a type of school-based budgeting. He expressed to the committee that he and the staff will review ideas to lessen the shortage to the schools and committed to update the

committee as information becomes available.

2. Upon motion by Michael Lacombe, seconded by Cindy Hill, the Finance Committee recommended to approve requests for overnight travel as presented by Superintendent Lemoine. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Superintendent Dwayne Lemoine addressed the Finance Committee regarding funding for Student of the Month.

After discussing costs of monthly student rewards, it was recommended that the Superintendent review possible funding with federal funds.

4. Mrs. Mary Bonnette, Director of Finance, on behalf of Mrs. Irma Andress, Supervisor of Federal Programs, discussed the E-Rate proposal for the 2011-2012 school year. Mrs. Bonnette informed the committee that this budget, which has been previously approved, totals \$573,878 with a district cost of 15%.

5. Mrs. Sharon Hargis, Food Service Supervisor, requested permission to extend bids for summer feeding until June 30, 2011.

Upon motion by Michael Lacombe, seconded by Cindy Hill, the Finance Committee recommended to extend bids for summer feeding until June 30, 2011. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Mrs. Sharon Hargis, Food Service Supervisor, acknowledged a mandate from the USDA which requires all School Boards to increase school lunch prices. A maximum increase of 10 cents per year is recommended by USDA for 2012. The committee agreed to review the School Food Service budget with the central office staff and have a recommendation for the April 5th Board meeting.

7. Mr. Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., Vice-President, addressed the Finance Committee regarding the payment fee for the demographer for the reapportionment plan.

Upon motion by Michael Lacombe, seconded by Cindy Hill, the Finance Committee recommended to discuss this matter at the April 5, 2011 School Board meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Mrs. Mary Bonnette, Director of Finance, presented a Needs Assessment Committee Report for the committee's review. Mrs. Bonnette reviewed district spending requests with the committee illustrating a total of \$182,407.

Upon motion by Cindy Hill, seconded by Michael Lacombe, the Finance Committee recommended to accept the Needs Assessment Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

9. Mrs. Mary Bonnette, Director of Finance, presented food service budget revisions for 2011-2012.

The committee commended the food service staff on the success of the program.

Upon motion by Michael Lacombe, seconded by Cindy Hill, the Finance Committee recommended to approve the food service budget revisions for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Superintendent Dwayne Lemoine presented a report on Student Data Software proposals.

Mr. Lemoine stated that as previously reported, proposals were accepted for student data software. A committee composed of the Superintendent, Mike Tanner, and Mary Bonnette reviewed proposals, contacted references of all three vendors and after careful consideration, recommended purchasing JPAMS student software with EdGEAR at an approximate cost of \$139,000.

Upon motion by Michael Lacombe, seconded by Cindy Hill, the Finance Committee recommended to purchase JPAMS Software from EdGear in the amount of \$139,000 to be funded from the General Fund. MOTION CARRIED.

11. Mrs. Mary Bonnette, Director of Finance, presented a report on QSCB Projects. Mrs. Bonnette reviewed the total projects approved versus funding sources indicating a shortage of approximately \$377,333.

Upon motion by Michael Lacombe, seconded by Cindy Hill, the Finance Committee recommended to fund excess QSCB projects with contingency funds. MOTION CARRIED.

12. Mr. Michael Lacombe, Member of the Finance Committee, addressed the committee regarding employees' pay raises.

After discussion, the committee felt the need to do more research on this item and refer the matter to the next Finance Committee meeting.

The Finance Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of this report.

Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., Chairman
Finance Committee

On motion by Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., seconded by Michael Lacombe, the Board adopted the Finance Committee Report as presented, excluding Items 1, 3, 6, and 7, for further discussion. MOTION CARRIED.

With regards to Item Number 1 pertaining to the budget, Superintendent Dwayne Lemoine delivered the following prepared statement:

“The Avoyelles Parish School Board will face what many people have been calling a “cliff year” regarding state finances for the upcoming 2011-2012 fiscal year. The Avoyelles Parish School Board is certainly not immune to the national and state economy and its impact on education. It was only two years ago that the district faced an MFP budget that did not contain an annual inflationary increase of at least 2.75%. The impact on the district was approximately \$900,000 less in MFP allocations to the district each year. However, at the same time President Obama infused the district with one-time stimulus dollars (ARRA) or approximately \$5 million in total to be used over a two year period. The district seized an opportunity to use these dollars to continue our literacy program in the elementary schools, as a result of the discontinuation of Reading First, provide academic coaches in all secondary schools, provide staff professional development, and other ARRA-approved expenditures. The idea being that this money should be spent on improving and supporting the teachers of the district, thus having a lasting effect on education in the district once these funds would expire. The district has also absorbed the annual increases to employee healthcare and retirement benefits, annual inflationary costs of 3-4%, rising costs of fuel and utilities, and the annual employee step increases all while maintaining a budget void of any increases in revenues. All things considered, the district will be asked to present a budget to the Board for approval that must reduce its 2010-2011 expenditures by \$1.4 million in order for it to be balanced. Considering that increases to employee related benefits alone represent over \$1 million in increased expenditures, this is certainly not an unexpected shortfall. A week ago in a Finance Committee meeting we presented the Board with an overview of our upcoming budget concerns, and outlined a plan for arriving at a solution. This past Thursday we met with all school principals and gave them an indication of our projected shortfall and its impact on their schools. The week we have begun budget meetings with all departments in an effort to reduce expenditures thus lessening the burden of these cuts on our schools. On April 12, we will be bringing before the Finance Committee a recommendation of budget cuts for their consideration and then before the entire Board on May 2. As always, the public is invited to all meetings”.

President Kojis expressed his thanks to the Superintendent for his comments and update with regards to the budget.

With regards to Item Number 3, Superintendent Lemoine stated that he has met with his staff concerning funding for Student of the Month and he will present a recommendation for funding from federal programs, which is part of a school community relations project. Mr. Lemoine stated that his recommendation will be presented at the next School Board meeting.

With regards to Item Number 6 concerning an increase in school lunch prices, Mrs. Sharon Hargis, Food Service Supervisor, acknowledged a mandate from the USDA which requires all School Boards to increase school lunch prices for paying students and paying adults. A minimum increase of \$.10 annually for students' breakfast and lunch per year is required by the USDA for 2012, but allows School Boards to establish a higher increase at their discretion. The increase must be equal to the difference in free meal reimbursement and paid meal

reimbursement.

A motion was offered by Darrell Wiley, seconded by Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., to accept the recommendation for the increase in school lunches and breakfast prices as presented by Mrs. Sharon Hargis in accordance with the following criteria: Breakfast: Increase paying students' breakfast by \$.40 to \$1.00 in 2011-2012 and increase by \$.22 in 2012-2013 to \$1.22; Lunch: Increase lunch paying students' by \$.40 in 2011-2012 to \$1.90 and increase by \$.22 in 2012-2013 to \$2.18. In addition, the mandated adult (staff) increase by July 2011 to at cost lunch of \$330.

The motion was adopted by the following vote: .

Ayes: Darrell Wiley, James Gauthier, Shelia Blackman-Dupas, Van Kojis, Carlos A. Mayeux, Rev. Mary Hayward-Jones, Michael Lacombe and Cynthia "Cindy" Hill.

Nays: Freeman Ford.

With regards to Item Number 7 pertaining to the employment of a demographer, District Attorney Charles Riddle, III provided the Board with an update regarding this matter.

On motion by James Gauthier, seconded by Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., the Board accepted the bid of Ms. Heather Urena, Demographer, in the amount of \$30,000.00.

The motion was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Freeman Ford, Darrell Wiley, James Gauthier, Shelia Blackman-Dupas, Van Kojis, Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., and Rev. Mary Hayward-Jones.

Nays: Cindy Hill and Michael Lacombe.

President Van Kojis stated that the reason the Board members voted in favor of the motion is because reapportionment is mandated and because of the time element to complete the process.

On motion by Freeman Ford, seconded by Shelia Blackman-Dupas, the Board authorized Superintendent Dwayne Lemoine to sign the contract, on behalf of the Board, for the employment of Ms. Heather Urena, Demographer, in the amount of \$30,000.00. MOTION CARRIED.

12. Mr. James Gauthier, Chairman of the Education Committee, presented the following report:

Education Committee Report
March 29, 2011

The Education Committee of the Avoyelles Parish School Board met Tuesday, March 29, 2011, at approximately 6:30 p.m. at the School Board Office with the following members present:

James Gauthier, Chairman; Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., Darrell Wiley, and Dwayne Lemoine, Superintendent. Mrs. Shelia Blackman-Dupas and President Van Kojis were absent. Also present were Michael Lacombe, Rev. Mary Hayward-Jones, and Cindy Hill, Board Members; Susan Welch, Randy Littleton, and Donna Bordelon, Supervisors; Dr. Ben Martindale, Mr. Joseph Rosier, President of The Rapides Foundation; and principals.

1. The Education Committee recognized Mr. Curtiss Lindsay, teacher at LaSAS, for receiving a QSM Grant.

2. Dr. Ben Martindale, Mr. Joseph Rosier, Jr, and Mr. Bill Delp presented a Rapides Foundation STEM-CTE Grant Report to the committee. Mrs. Jennifer Dismar updated the committee on the district's 2010-2011 STEM/CTE goals.

The committee recommended to accept the report.

3. Mrs. Susan Welch, Supervisor of Secondary Education, addressed the committee regarding summer school for LEAP/GEE Remediation to be held at APAS and Mansura Middle School.

4. Mrs. Susan Welch, Supervisor of Secondary Education, addressed the committee regarding the results of the high school rally. Mrs. Welch indicated that the official results have not been received from Louisiana College as a result of some grading errors. She stated that a report will be presented at a later date.

The Education Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of this report.

James Gauthier, Chairman
Education Committee

On motion by James Gauthier, seconded by Shelia Blackman-Dupas, the Board adopted the Education Committee Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

13. Mr. Wilfred Ducote, Sales Tax Collector, reported that sales tax collections for the month of January, 2011 totaled \$585,135.09. Mr. Ducote stated that of this amount the 1% sales tax generated \$390,090.66 and the ½% sales tax generated \$195,045.33.

Mr. Ducote also presented the sales tax report for the month of February, 2011 which totaled \$417,714.01. Mr. Ducote stated that the 1% sales tax generated \$278,476.01 and the ½% sales tax generated \$139,238.00.

14. Mrs. Susan Welch, Supervisor of Secondary Education, presented information on a possible IBM Grant.

15. Mr. Steve Marcotte, Maintenance Supervisor, presented a committee report on Avoyelles Parish Police Jury/Avoyelles Parish School Board Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Engineering Services.

Report on Mitigation Grant Program

On March 22, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. a committee met at the Avoyelles Parish School Board Office for the purpose of receiving statements of qualification for engineering services for the hardening of the Marksville High School Gymnasium in association with the HMGP grant award.

Members of the committee were: James Gauthier, Board Member; Tina Lemoine, Secretary-Treasurer for the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury; Mary Bonnette, Director of Finance; Steven Marcotte, Maintenance Supervisor; and Wilfred Ducote, Transportation Supervisor.

The committee acknowledged receipt of proposals from the firms of James Guillory, Architect, LLC of Marksville and Monica Martin, Providence Engineering of Baton Rouge.

The committee agreed to study the proposals and meet on March 29, 2011 to evaluate and score each firm in accordance with the specifications.

A committee reconvened at 1:30 p.m. on March 29, 2011, to evaluate the proposals received

Members of the committee were James Gauthier, Board Member; Mary Bonnette, Director of Finance; Steven Marcotte, Maintenance Supervisor; and Wilfred Ducote, Transportation Supervisor

The committee evaluated each proposal in accordance with the criteria specified and recommends Providence Engineering services to begin Phase I of the project.

A motion was offered by James Gauthier to accept the bid of Providence Engineering. The motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was offered by Michael Lacombe, seconded by Shelia Blackman-Dupas, to accept the bid submitted by James Guillory, Architect, LLC of Marksville.

Board Member Shelia Blackman-Dupas stated that she was in favor of supporting

the firm of Architect James Guillory because Mr. Guillory has worked for the Board on past projects and his work performance has been satisfactory.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Ayes: Freeman Ford, Shelia Blackman-Dupas, Rev. Mary Hayward-Jones, and Michael Lacombe.

Nays: Darrell Wiley, James Gauthier, Van Kojis, Carlos A. Mayeux and Cindy Hill.

A motion was offered by James Gauthier, seconded by Darrell Wiley, that the Board accept the bid of Providence Engineering of Baton Rouge.

The motion was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: Freeman Ford, Shelia Blackman-Dupas, Rev. Mary Hayward-Jones and Michael Lacombe.

Board Member Shelia Dupas stated that she voted “nay” because of reasons stated.

16. On motion by Freeman Ford, seconded by Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., the Board granted permission to advertise to create a pool for bus drivers and bus attendants. MOTION CARRIED.

17. Mr. Robby Gaspard, Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance, addressed the Board regarding approval of Majority-to-Minority transfer policy dates.

On motion by Freeman Ford, seconded by Darrell Wiley, the Board approved the revision in dates to the Majority-to-Minority transfer policy to begin April 7, 2011 and close on June 18, 2011 and further agreed to advertise dates. MOTION CARRIED.

18. Mr. Steve Marcotte, Maintenance Supervisor, requested permission to conduct a surplus inventory sale at the former Marksville Middle School on May 25, 2011.

On motion by Darrell Wiley, seconded by James Gauthier, the Board granted permission for the Maintenance Supervisor to conduct a surplus inventory sale at the former Marksville Middle School on May 25, 2011. MOTION CARRIED.

19. Superintendent Dwayne Lemoine presented personnel changes for the Board’s consideration, as follows:

PERSONNEL CHANGES

BUNKIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Appointment of Kenneth Godfrey, teacher, effective March 16, 2011 through May 20, 2011, replacing Ritchie Johnson; and resignation of Ritchie Johnson, teacher, effective at the end of the day February 24, 2011.

COTTONPORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Appointment of Alicia F. Brown, teacher, effective March 24, 2010 through May 20, 2011, replacing Marcie Carmouche while on leave.

LAFARGUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Resignation of Thelma Augustine Edwards, teacher, effective at the end of the day May 20, 2011, for the purpose of retirement; and resignation of Debra Jones, food service technician, effective at the end of the day March 25, 2011.

PLAUCHEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Resignation of Thelma S. Augustine, (retired) teacher, effective at the end of the day May 20, 2011; resignation of Dorothy Roy, bus driver, effective March 3, 2011, for the purpose of retirement.

AVOYELLES HIGH SCHOOL: Appointment of Marc Blake, teacher, effective March 14, 2011 through May 20, 2011, replacing Davani Tassin while on leave; resignation of Janice B. Barbin, teacher, effective at the end of the day May 20, 2011; resignation of Bert J. Dorgant, teacher, effective at the end of the day May 20, 2011; resignation of Catherine L. Dorgant, teacher, effective at the end of the day May 20, 2011; resignation of Nancy L. Gingras, teacher, effective at the end of the day May 20, 2011; and resignation of Sherill Pettus, teacher, effective July 27, 2011, for the purpose of retirement.

BUNKIE HIGH SCHOOL: Appointment of Jill Guidry, school secretary, effective April 6, 2011, replacing Tammy Riberia who resigned.

LOUISIANA SCHOOL FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES: Resignation of Rodney Dufour, teacher, effective at the end of the day March 11, 2011, for the purpose of retirement; and appointment of Monica Nicholson, teacher, effective March 21, 2011 through May 20, 2011, replacing Rodney Dufour who retired.

AVOYELLES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD CENTRAL OFFICE: Appointment of Wendy A. Coco, Payroll Clerk, effective April 6, 2011, replacing Carolyn Milam who transferred to the position of Purchase Order Clerk in the Finance Department.

AVOYELLES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT : Appointment of Dennis Decuir, maintenance crew employee, effective June 1, 2011, replacing Lynn Moreau.

ADDENDUM
4/5/2011

MOBILE CLASSROOM I: Resignation of Debra A. Thayer, teacher, effective May 24, 2011, for the purpose of retirement.

AVOYELLES HIGH SCHOOL: Resignation of Terrence Dupuy, teacher, at the end of the school day April 4, 2011.

On motion by Darrell Wiley, seconded by James Gauthier, the Board approved the personnel changes as presented by Superintendent Lemoine.

The motion was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Freeman Ford, Darrell Wiley, James Gauthier, Shelia Blackman-Dupas, Van Kojis, Carlos A. Mayeux, Rev. Mary Hayward-Jones, Michael Lacombe and Cynthia "Cindy" Hill.

Nays: None.

Abstained: Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr.

20. On motion by Shelia Blackman-Dupas, seconded by Freeman Ford, the Board granted permission to renew an administrative contract for Mary Speer, Principal, effective June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2013 for a period of two (2) years. MOTION CARRIED.

Ayes: Freeman Ford, James Gauthier, Shelia Blackman-Dupas, Van Kojis, Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., Michael Lacombe and Cynthia "Cindy" Hill.

Nays: None.

Abstained: Darrell Wiley and Rev. Mary Hayward-Jones.

21. On motion by Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., seconded by Michael Lacombe, the Board granted permission to renew an administrative contract for Sue White, R.N., School Nurse Coordinator, effective June 9, 2011 through June 8, 2013 for a two (2) year period. MOTION CARRIED.

22. On motion by Shelia Blackman-Dupas, seconded by Carlos A. Mayeux, Jr., the Board granted permission to renew an administrative contract for Michael Tanner, SIS Coordinator, effective June 28, 2011 through June 27, 2013 for a two (2) year period. MOTION CARRIED.

23. On motion by Shelia Blackman-Dupas, seconded by Freeman Ford, the Board granted permission to renew an administrative contract for Robby Gaspard, Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance, effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013 for a two (2) year period. MOTION CARRIED.

24. On motion by Freeman Ford, seconded by Michael Lacombe, the Board granted permission to renew an administrative contract for Rebecca Spencer, Tech/CLU Coordinator, effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013 for a two (2) year period. MOTION CARRIED.

25. The Board agreed to discuss pending litigation (Holmes versus Avoyelles Parish School Board) in open public session.

District Attorney Charles Riddle, III advised the Board that he is awaiting a decision from the United States Justice Department and Federal Court regarding construction at the Louisiana School for the Agricultural Sciences for the multi-purpose activity building. Mr. Riddle stated that there was a telephone conference last week with the Attorney for the Justice Department. He noted that the principal of the school conducted a survey to attract minority students and that 50% of the seventh grade class will more than likely be composed of minority students.

Board Member Freeman Ford questioned Principal Debbie Bain regarding competitive sports. Mr. Ford stated that if there will be 50% minority students, were the students told whether it is non-competitive?

Principal Bain advised that it is not competitive, however, the students are allowed to compete in sports at other high schools. Ms. Bain stated that the students who are interested are encouraged to participate, but some students are not all athletes.

Mr. Riddle stated that he, Superintendent Lemoine, and staff may research the charter for LaSAS and research whether the charter could possibly be revised.

Superintendent Dwayne Lemoine added that over the past three years at LaSAS there has been a continued increase in the minority student population each year.

Board Member Shelia Blackman-Dupas questioned whether it was mentioned to the Federal Judge regarding building a gymnasium at LaSAS in order to attract minority students. Mrs. Dupas also questioned what prevents LaSAS from having competitive sports? She also stated that she was not aware that the charter stipulated non-competitive sports for the students and she felt that this would not attract minority students.

District Attorney Riddle stated that this subject was discussed before the Federal Judge and further stated that even if you do not have a sports team, you would have physical education as part of the school's curriculum. Mr. Riddle further stated that the only criteria that prevents competitive sports is a requirement that the charter be changed. Mr. Riddle suggested that the Board look at the charter in order to interpret the original intent and determine whether or not it is in the best interest to add competitive sports.

Superintendent Lemoine stated that it could be initiated by the Board due to the fact that it is the Board's charter. He further stated that there is a Charter Board that oversees the school and also would require approval from the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Mr. Lemoine also stated that the data indicates that over the past three years the minority

population has increased every year. Mr. Lemoine also indicated that the charter is intended to service the at-risk population. The data indicates that over the past three years the minority has increased.

Mr. Riddle indicated that the Avoyelles High School building project is awaiting on Attorney Ryan Wilson's opinion on the budget for the contract.

There being no further business, on motion by Freeman Ford, seconded by Darrell Wiley, the meeting was adjourned.

AVOYELLES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

VAN KOJIS, President

DWAYNE LEMOINE, Secretary-Treasurer