

TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

MARCH 17, 2009

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office Board room, 59656 Puleston Road, Amite, Louisiana, with President Danny Ridgel presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENTS: Ann Smith, Robert Potts, Leonard Genco, Al Link, Danny Ridgel, Sonya Traylor, Eric Dangerfield, Sandra Bailey-Simmons and Rose Dominguez

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Armond Wilson, a student at Sumner High School, led the Pledge of Allegiance and sang "The Star Spangled Banner." The Sumner High School choir sang "Domine Deus" and "If We Hold On Together."

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Ms. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the Board minutes of March 3, 2009 and March 10, 2009 as distributed. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

Ms. Dominguez introduced Mr. Jody Borne, 2009 Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Chairman.

It was unanimously moved to approve the Committee and Delegation Reports contained on the agenda. Following are the reports as approved:

FINANCE COMMITTEE – MARCH 3, 2009

1. It was moved by Mr. Link, seconded by Ms. Dominguez, to accept the Accounts Payable Check Register dated January 24, 2009 through February 20, 2009 in the amount of \$9,079,661.56. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.
2. Mr. Ron Caruso, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the revised General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 with the Committee members.
3. It was moved by Mr. Link, seconded by Ms. Dominguez, to enter into a Professional Service Contract for Public Relations with The Gagliano Group, as recommended by the Superintendent. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.
4. It was moved by Mr. Ridgel, seconded by Ms. Dominguez to defer reviewing the 2007-08 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) until the next Finance meeting.
5. It was moved by Ms. Dominguez, seconded by Mr. Link, to accept Bid #2009-11, Janitorial Chemicals, awarded to Economical Janitorial Supply. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MARCH 10, 2009

It was moved by Ms. Dominguez, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the items contained in the Agenda. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

TEACHER –NEW HIRE

Lisa Pardue, Speech Therapist – Spring Creek Elementary (place of Kathy Dyer – leave) March 1, 2009
Antonio Bagnet, Janitor, 9 mo 4 hr – Natalbany Elementary (place of Kenneth Hagans – transferred) March 1, 2009
Grace Woodman, "K" Child Specific Para – Perrin ELC (place of Emily Garaudy – transferred) March 1, 2009

Julie Quebedeaux, LPN Child Specific Para – Loranger Elementary (new position) March 9, 2009

SUPPORT PERSONNEL – TRANSFER

Geraldine Bennett, From: Child Specific Para – Hammond Eastside Primary,
To: Child Specific Para – Hammond High (place of Ricky Jones – reclassified)
February 6, 2009

LEAVES*RESIGNATIONS*RETIREMENTS

LEAVES

Debra Collins, Teacher – Vinyard Elementary (extended sick leave using sick days first due to illness – May 22, 2009) January 21, 2009
Brenda Johnson, Principal – Roseland Elementary (extended sick leave using sick days first due to illness – March 25, 2009) January 27, 2009
Stacey Lawson, Teacher – Vinyard Elementary (extended sick leave using sick days first due to surgery – February 25, 2009) January 5, 2009
Marjorie Titus, Teacher – Woodland Park ELC (extended sick leave using sick days first due to maternity – May 22, 2009) April 6, 2009
Tammy Scimeca, Physical Therapist – Special Services Center (extended sick leave using sick days first due to illness – June 5, 2009) February 9, 2009
Paulette Moore, Billing Clerk – Sumner High (extended sick leave using sick days first due to illness – March 23, 2009) February 23, 2009
Tiffany Boyles, Teacher – Woodland Park ELC (extend extended sick leave due to illness – March 18, 2009) March 3, 2009
Melissa Capadona, Teacher – Independence High (extended sick leave using sick days first due to maternity – March 30, 2009) January 29, 2009
Twanna White, Para – Midway Elementary (extended sick leave using sick days first due to illness – May 28, 2009, February 10, 2009
Heather McMillan, Occupational Therapist – Special Services Center (extended sick leave using sick days first due to maternity – May 22, 2009) February 17, 2009
Ruby Ricks, Teacher – Northwood (extended sick leave using sick days first due to surgery – March 30, 2009) February 4, 2009
Ava Ballard, Teacher – Chesbrough Elementary (extended sick leave using sick days first due to family illness – April 20, 2009) March 5, 2009
Natalie Bates, Ed. Diag. – Special Services Center (extended sick leave using sick days first due to family illness – May 22, 2009) February 18, 2009
Theolesia Carr, Bus Driver (extend extended sick leave due to surgery – May 22, 2009) January 6, 2009

RESIGNATIONS

Roslyn Cardona, Para – Independence High, May 22, 2009
Angela Perkins, Teacher – Independence Middle, March 2, 2009

RETIREMENTS

Gaye Guzzardo, Coordinator – Special Services Center, May 29, 2009
James Hulse, ROTC Instructor – Ponchatoula High, July 1, 2009

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST

POLICY COMMITTEE – MARCH 10, 2009

1. It was moved by Ms. Bailey Simmons, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the revisions of policy JCDB, Student Dress Code. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

FILE: JCDB

STUDENT DRESS CODE

The policy of the Tangipahoa Parish School Board shall be that no mode of attire will be considered proper for school wear that disrupts the classroom and/or the school's positive learning environment. The principal or his/her designee of each school shall make the final decision as to what is considered proper or improper dress according to the guidelines provided.

The Board's position is that it wants to teach each student to use good judgment in his/her total appearance so that the attention of others is not distracted from the purpose of the school. Cleanliness and the values of the community shall be a basic consideration.

BODY ARMOR

It shall be unlawful and against School Board policy for any student or non-student to wear or possess on his/her person, at any time, body armor on any School Board property, school campus, at a school-sponsored function, on a school bus or other school transportation, or in a firearm-free zone, with limited exception as enumerated in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §14:95.9. School-sponsored functions shall include, but not be limited to, athletic competitions, dances, parties, or any extracurricular activities. A firearm-free zone means any area within one thousand feet of any school campus and within a school bus.

Body armor shall mean bullet-resistant metal or other material intended to provide protection from weapons or bodily injury.

The School Board shall notify all students of the provisions of this policy.

DRESS AND GROOMING GUIDELINES

The dress and grooming of the students shall be that which, in the opinion of the ordinary reasonable person, contributes to the health and safety of the individual and which is non-disruptive to the educational activities and processes of a school. No student shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, blade, symbols, sign or other things which are evidence of affiliation with drugs, alcohol, violence or gang related activities or exhibits profane or obscene language/gestures.

Dress Code Regulation

The following regulations apply for grades K-3:

1. Appropriate clothing and footwear shall be worn.
2. Earrings may be worn in ears by females. Earrings shall not be worn by male students at school or any school-related activity.

The following regulations apply for grades 4-12:

1. Hairstyles and mustaches shall be clean, neatly groomed and shall not distract from the learning environment nor be a safety factor for any of the school's curricular offerings. Beards will not be allowed. Any hairstyles that distract from the unique environment of a school shall be dealt with by the principal or his/her designee of that school.
2. Earrings may be worn in ears by females. Earrings shall not be worn by male students at school or any school-related activity.
3. No sleeveless garments shall be worn.

4. No hats, caps, or other headwear shall be worn on school campuses on regular school days, except when a medical condition or religious belief so warrants.
- *5. Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 will be allowed to wear loose-fitting walking shorts if the bottom of the garment is knee-length ~~or below.~~ (Information in green moved from below.) No shorts shall be worn to school by students in grades 7-12.
6. The length of jumpers and skirts shall be knee-length or below.
7. No midriff shirts or blouses shall be worn.
8. Appropriate foot wear shall be worn to school ~~(no shower shoes, or flip-flops).~~ (Moved this information under "shoes" below)
9. Students who participate in extracurricular activities (e.g. cheerleaders, spirit group dancers, band members, other drill teams) cannot wear the group's uniform to class.
10. Modifications to the dress code may be made only with the approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee.
11. All pants must be worn at the waistline and if pants have belt loops a belt must be worn.
12. All items of clothing must be worn as intended by design.
13. All shirt tails must be worn tucked inside garments.
~~* Students in grades 4, 5, and 6 will be allowed to wear loose-fitting walking shorts if the bottom of the garment is knee-length or below. (Moved to number 5 above)~~

UNIFORM REGULATIONS

Pants

All students (boys and girls) pants shall be as follows:

Khaki or navy color twill "slacks" with or without pleats, with or without belt loops (if belt loops, students must wear a belt), with or without pockets.

NO khaki or navy color jeans shall be worn.

NO brand name or label of any type can be displayed on the slacks.

Pants must be bought in the child's appropriate size. No "sagging" no over-sized pants, no wide-legged, no bell bottoms, no cargo, no safari, or carpenter pants shall be allowed.

Shirts

All students K-12 shall have a choice of long or short sleeve, polo style (pull over) or oxford style (button up) white or navy color shirts. Each school shall have an option of a school color shirt to wear (principal's discretion and approval). Turtleneck shirts or shirts with a zipper are not acceptable.

~~Undershirts must be solid white T-shirts, with crew necks and have standard sleeves no longer than the sleeves of the "top" shirt.~~ Solid white T-shirts may be worn under regular uniform shirts. The sleeves of the shirts worn under the regular uniform shirts can be long or short and extend past the sleeve of the top shirt. Thermal underwear and turtleneck shirts are not allowed.

Elementary girls shall have an option to wear the "Peter Pan" collar white button up blouse.

Outer Garments

Campus and/or classroom wear shall consist of navy, white or school chosen color sweater (pull over, vest, button up, zipper, or snap) sweatshirt or windbreaker. ~~Outer garments with a hood or labels are unacceptable.~~ (Moved below)

Students/grades Pre-K through 12 shall be allowed to wear jackets or sweatshirts with a hood with the stipulation that hoods shall be removed upon entering a building. Jackets or sweatshirts should be blue, white or school chosen color and students should be allowed to wear them in a classroom. A regulation uniform shirt must be worn under all jackets or sweatshirts.

Students shall be allowed to wear school-sponsored organization jackets, sweatshirts and sweaters, i.e. FFA, BETA, athletic, etc. inside buildings and classrooms with the stipulation that the garments should be blue, white or the school chosen color. ~~Outer garments with any other labels are unacceptable.~~ (Moved from above)

Shoes

All shoes shall consist of a closed back and front.

No sandals, wedged soles, platforms, high heels, "crocs," slippers, shower shoes, flip flops, or knee-high shoes shall be allowed.

Jumpers

Optional to wear K-12 in khaki or navy color twill ONLY.

Basic A-line jumper or bib jumper.

Skirts

Skirts may be worn K-12 in khaki or navy color twill ONLY.

Shorts/Skorts

Shorts/skorts may be worn according to School Board policy. Loose-fitting walking shorts are allowed in grades K-6 only, and the bottom of the garment shall be knee-length.

Khaki or navy color twill ONLY.

Belts

- Belts must be a solid color (black, navy blue, khaki, or brown) and must be made of a solid material (no cloth, glitter or multicolor)
- Designs, emblems, insignias, monograms, logos, holes, studs, etc. are prohibited.
- Belts must be the appropriate length for the student's waist size.
- Belt buckles must be plain, standard style.
- Elementary students shall be encouraged to wear belts.

- Belts shall be mandatory for middle school, junior high school and high school students when wearing slacks or shorts.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

The Superintendent and/or his/her designee shall consider for approval all deviations to the uniform policy for special occasions/events upon written request from the school principal.

1. Positive Behavior Support
 - A. Once per six weeks to reward students for good behavior.
 - B. Students may wear uniform pants and school spirit shirt.
2. Charity Events
 - A. Twice per year.
 - B. The Superintendent will establish a consistent fee to use throughout the School System.
 - C. Students may wear jeans with uniform shirt.
 - D. Staff members may wear jeans.

VIOLATIONS

Violations of the Dress Code shall be addressed as follows:

1. The student shall be sent to the office. If the determination is made that the student is in violation of the Dress Code, the following steps will be taken:
 - a. The parents shall be notified of the violation; and
 - b. Requested to bring proper clothing to the school.
2. If the parents cannot be contacted by phone, or if proper clothing is not brought to the school, the student will be sent to a designated area determined by the principal or designee. Also a letter shall be sent home to the parents stating the violation and reminding them that suspension will result in future offenses.
3. Whenever a student has violated the Dress Code a second time, the student may be suspended for one (1) day due to disrespect for authority.

Revised: July, 1988

Revised: September, 1990

Revised: November, 1992

Revised: September, 1993

Revised: May, 1997

Revised: July, 1999

Revised: December, 2000

Revised: October, 2001

Revised: July, 2007

Revised: June, 1989

Revised: August, 1991

Revised: March, 1993

Revised: June, 1995

Revised: June, 1999

Revised: February, 2000

Revised: September, 2001

Revised: May, 2007

Revised: December, 2007

Ref: Scott v. Board of Education, 304 N.Y.S.S. 2d 601 (1969); Karr v. Schmidt; 460 F. 2d 609 (5th Cir. 1972); La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 14:95.9, 17:81, 17:416.7; Board minutes, 8-5-86, 9-6-88, 1-17-89, 6-19-90, 7-9-91, 8-4-92, 11-17-92, 7-6-93, 4-

18-95, 3-18-97, 4-20-99, 6-14-99, 7-20-99, 12-7-99, 10-16-00, 5-15-01, 9-4-01, 6-19-07, 11-6-07, 3-4-08, 12-9-08.

2. It was moved by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the revisions of policy JCDA, Student Code of Conduct. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

FILE: JCDA

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board mandates that each school establishes a schoolwide Assertive Discipline Plan with specific stated goals.

The goal of a schoolwide Assertive Discipline Plan is to develop a systematic, consistent way in which to deal with discipline problems throughout the school. To accomplish this goal there must be a two-sided effort from the staff:

1. Every teacher will develop and post a classroom plan, i.e. a set of rules, consequences, and rewards that are in effect at all times in his or her classroom. Teachers are encouraged to write rules in a positive manner that will instill appropriate behavior patterns in students. (Plan shall meet with prior approval of principal.)
2. There must also be a school-wide plan that governs student behavior in all of the common areas in the school.
3. School rules must be posted in all common areas.

ADMINISTRATOR'S ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE LADDER

The School Board has implemented the Assertive Discipline Plan for the treatment of students who violate school rules. Before a student is referred to the administrator for a violation of classroom rules, five steps designated by the classroom teacher will be followed in order to correct the student's discipline problem. Severe clause referrals will automatically be sent to the principal's office.

STEP I:

1. The Assertive Discipline Policy will be reviewed with each student. The student will be directed to inform their parents. The school has the option of sending a copy of the Assertive Discipline Policy to each parent.
2. Corporal Punishment or Alternative

STEP II:

1. Contact parents by telephone or mail.
2. Corporal punishment, Alternative Program, or Suspension of one (1) day.
3. Parent Conference - optional.

STEP III:

1. Contact parent by telephone or mail.
2. Corporal punishment, Alternative Program, or Suspension for three (3) days.
3. The principal may require a parent conference before the student can return to school. A student will be allowed to make up any work missed as a result of the parents' failure to attend the conference.

STEP IV:

1. Contact parent by telephone or mail.

2. Suspension, five (5) days.
3. Parents to accompany student back to school for conference with principal.

STEP V:

1. Contact parent by telephone or mail.
2. Suspension, five (5) days.
3. Child Welfare Officer will schedule a conference prior to the student's return to school.

STEP VI:

1. Contact parent by telephone or mail.
2. Suspended until a Due Process Hearing for Expulsion is held with the Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance.
3. Mail a letter to Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance requesting expulsion.
- *4. A student may be recommended for expulsion at any time if the administrator feels the student's actions warrant such recommendation.

Students committing the following offenses may receive the corresponding disciplinary actions:

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
A. 1. Assault	Step 6
2. Possession of a weapon with intent to use	Step 6
3. Possession of a firearm	Step 6
4. Distribution, use and possession of drugs and/or alcohol	Step 6
5. Inciting a riot	Step 6
6. Molesting students, immoral/ indecent behavior	Step 6
7. Verbal abuse of any school system employee	Step 6
8. Possession of beepers, pagers, cellular phones, walkie-talkies or other communication devices	Step 6
9. Promoting gang membership and/or activities	Step 6
10. Hazing	Step 6
B. 1. Extortion	Steps 2-5
2. Verbal abuse	Steps 2-5
3. Possession of a weapon (other than a firearm)	Steps 2-6
4. Verbal abuse of students	Steps 2-5
C. 1. Fighting -- student provoking a fight*	Steps 2-5
a. 1 on 1	
b. 2 or more on 1	
c. use of object	
D. 1. Vandalism	Steps 1-3 (to include restitution)
2. Possession or use of tobacco on school grounds	Steps 2-4
3. Profane language	Steps 1-3

4.	Stealing	Steps 2-4 (to include restitution)
5.	Possession of pornographic material	Steps 1-3
E.	1. Disrespect of authority	Steps 1-4
	2. Bullying, intimidation, or threatening	Steps 1-4
	3. Disobedience	Steps 1-4
	4. Classroom disturbance	Steps 1-4
	5. Gambling	Steps 3-4
	6. Leaving campus	Steps 2-4
	7. Cutting class	Steps 1-2
	8. Tardiness	Steps 2-6
	9. Truancy	Steps 2-4
	<u>10. Throwing objects</u>	<u>Steps 1-6</u>

*Provokers or instigators of fights will be handled according to the discretion of the principal or his/her designee. Students reasonably concluded to be acting in self-defense may not be disciplined.

These are suggested starting points. Chronic offenders can be moved to Steps V and/or VI in all categories.

Revised: August, 1988

Revised: August, 1991

Revised: January, 1994

Revised: June 20, 1995

Revised: September, 1997

Revised: November, 2004

Ref: Board minutes, 9-6-88, 7-9-91, 6-20-95, 7-20-04, 12-9-08.

3. It was moved by Ms. Bailey-Simmons, seconded by Ms Smith, to approve the revisions of policies BBBC, Board Member Continuing Education and BH, School Board Ethics. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

FILE: BBBC

BOARD MEMBER CONTINUING EDUCATION

Each Tangipahoa Parish School Board member shall be required to receive a minimum of ~~six (6)~~ four (4) hours of training and instruction annually in the school laws of this state, in the laws governing the powers, duties and responsibilities of school boards, the Open Meetings law, the Public Bid laws, and in educational trends, research, and policy. In a school district with a school(s) identified as academically unacceptable or in need of academic assistance, at least two (2) of the required hours shall focus on the improvement of schools. Such instruction may be received from ~~an~~ a post-secondary education institution ~~of higher education~~ in this state, from instruction sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Education, or ~~by~~ from an in-service training program conducted by a ~~city or parish~~ school board central office or the Louisiana School Boards Association (LSBA), provided that the instruction and method for demonstrating attendance has been approved by the LSBA. Each School Board's member's attendance shall be reported by the instructor to the LSBA.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for verifying that the instruction provided meets the requirements of state laws.

~~Board members who have completed the necessary instruction are not required to receive additional instruction upon being reelected to the School Board.~~

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. ' 17:53.

FILE: BH

SCHOOL BOARD ETHICS

Recognizing that as a member of a public school board and that each Board member is filling a position of public trust, responsibility, and authority endowed by the State of Louisiana, the Tangipahoa Parish School Board, individually and collectively, shall subscribe to the principles of the Louisiana School Boards Association, by which a school board member should be guided.

In addition, certain actions of elected officials may be considered improper, and in some circumstances, illegal. Actions which may present a conflict of interest, acceptance of gifts, or solicitations, or gratuities, abuse of authority of office or position, and decisions regarding the employment of a family member of an official are all subject to statutory restrictions. The ethical conduct of Board members, as well as other designated officials, shall be in accordance with state law.

GIFTS

Acceptance of personal gifts by any Board member or employee of the Tangipahoa Parish School Board from persons or firms doing business with the School Board, or any department or school thereof, is prohibited. Reduced cost and/or free travel expenses are also defined as gifts with regard to this policy provision. This policy provision does not preclude acceptance of food, ~~or~~ drinks, or refreshment of a social nature or participation in a social event, provided the value of the food, drink, or refreshment does not exceed that amount permitted under state law. It also shall not preclude the acceptance of campaign contributions for use in meeting campaign expenses by any employee or Board member who is or becomes a candidate for election to any public office.

NEPOTISM

No member of the immediate family of an agency head shall be employed in his/her agency. No member of the immediate family of a member of a governing authority or the chief executive of a governmental entity shall be employed by the governmental entity, with limited exception as outlined below.

The provisions above shall not prohibit the continued employment of any public employee nor shall it be construed to hinder, alter, or in any way affect normal promotional advancements for such public employee where a member of a public employee's immediate family becomes the agency head of such public employee's agency, provided that such public employee has been employed in the agency for a period of at least one year prior to the member of the public employee's immediate family becoming the agency head.

Exceptions

1. The School Board may employ any member of the immediate family of any Board member or the Superintendent as a classroom teacher provided that such family member is *certified to teach*. Any School Board member or Superintendent whose immediate family member is employed by the School Board shall recuse himself/herself from any decision involving the promotion or assignment of teaching location of the employee.
2. The School Board may employ an immediate family member of an athletic director of a school as a coach at such school.

PROHIBITED TRANSACTIONS

Any School Board member, Superintendent, or employee is prohibited by state law, with limited exception as provided in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. '42:1120, from participating in a transaction in which he/she has a personal substantial economic interest of which

he/she may be reasonably expected to know involving the governmental entity. Also, any School Board member, Superintendent, or employee is prohibited by state law, except as provided in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. '42:1120, from participating in a transaction involving the governmental entity in which, to his/her actual knowledge, any of the following persons has a substantial economic interest:

- (1) Any member of his/her immediate family.
- (2) Any person in which he/she has a substantial economic interest of which he/she may reasonably be expected to know.
- (3) Any person of which he/she is an officer, director, trustee, partner or employee.
- (4) Any person with whom he/she is negotiating or has an arrangement concerning prospective employment.
- (5) Any person who is a party to an existing contract with such public servant, or with any legal entity in which the public servant exercises control or owns an interest in excess of twenty-five percent, or who owes any thing of economic value to such public servant, or to any legal entity in which the public servant exercises control or owns an interest in excess of twenty-five percent, and who by reason thereof is in a position to affect directly the economic interests of such public servant.

Every public employee shall disqualify himself/herself from participating in a transaction involving the governmental entity when a violation of state law would result.

ABUSE OF OFFICE

No School Board member, Superintendent, or employee shall use the authority of his/her office or position, directly or indirectly, in a manner intended to compel or coerce any person or other public servant to provide himself/herself, any other public servant, or other person with any thing of economic value.

No School Board member, Superintendent, or employee shall use the authority of his/her office or position, directly or indirectly, in a manner intended to compel or coerce any person or other public servant to engage in political activity.

No School Board member shall act in an individual capacity without the authorization of the School Board to use the authority of his/her office or position as a member of the School Board, directly or indirectly, in a manner intended to compel or coerce any personnel decision, including the promotion, discipline, discharge, or assignment of work to any school employee.

No School Board member shall use the authority of his/her office or position as a member of the School Board, directly or indirectly, in a manner intended to compel or coerce any school employee to make any decision concerning benefits, work assignment, or membership in any organization.

TRANSACTIONS AFTER TERMINATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE

No former agency head or elected official shall, for a period of two (2) years following the termination of his/her public service as the head of such agency or as an elected public official serving in such agency, assist another person, for compensation, in a transaction, or in an appearance in connection with a transaction, involving that agency or render any service on a contractual basis to or for the Board.

No former member of the School Board shall, for a period of two (2) years following the termination of his/her public service on such Board, contract with, be employed in any capacity by, or be appointed to any position by the Board, except that the School

Board may employ a former member for any classroom teaching position which requires a valid Louisiana teaching certificate or a school psychologist with a valid certificate in school psychology, provided the former School Board member holds such a certificate.

DEFINITIONS

Agency means a department, office, division, agency, commission, board, committee, or other organizational unit of a governmental entity. For public servants of political subdivisions, it shall mean the agency in which the public servant serves, except that for members of any governing authority and for the elected or appointed chief executive of a governmental entity, it shall mean the governmental entity.

Agency head means the chief executive or administrative officer of an agency or any member of a board or commission who exercises supervision over the agency.

Immediate family as the term relates to a public servant means his/her children, the spouses of his/her children, his/her brothers and their spouses, his/her sisters and their spouses, his/her parents, his/her spouse, and the parents of his/her spouse.

Public servant means a public employee or an elected official.

Political activity means an effort to support or oppose the election of a candidate for political office in an election.

Substantial economic interest means an economic interest which is of greater benefit to the public servant or other person than to a general class or group of persons, except:

- (a) The interest that the public servant has in his/her position, office, rank, salary, per diem, or other matter arising solely from his/her public employment or office.
- (b) The interest that an elected official who is elected to a house, body, or authority has in a position or office of such house, body, or authority which is required to be filled by a member of such house, body, or authority by law, legislative rule, or home rule charter.
- (c) The interest that a person has as a member of the general public.

Transaction involving the governmental entity means any proceeding, application, submission, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, case, or other such particular matter which the public servant or former public servant of the governmental entity in question knows or should know:

- (a) Is, or will be, the subject of action by the governmental entity.
- (b) Is one to which the governmental entity is or will be a party.
- (c) Is one in which the governmental entity has a direct interest. A transaction involving the agency of a governmental entity shall have the same meaning with respect to the agency.

Revised: October, 1997
Revised: November, 1999

Revised: February, 2007
Revised: August, 2003

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 17:81, 17:428, 42:1101, 42:1102, 42:1112, 42:1115, 42:1115.1, 42:1116, 42:1119, 42:1121, 42:1123; Board minutes, 10-7-03, 2-6-07.

4. It was moved by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the revisions of EBC, Buildings and Grounds Security, as written. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

FILE: EBC

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS SECURITY

~~Buildings of the Tangipahoa Parish School Board constitute one of the greatest investments of the school district. It is deemed in the best interest of the district to protect the investment adequately.~~ It is the policy of the Tangipahoa Parish School Board that a concerted effort be made at all times by the Board and all personnel to provide for the security and protection of its students, employees, visitors, facilities, and equipment.

Security ~~should mean~~ not only encompasses maintenance of secure (locked) buildings but other strategies to make the school environment safe, such as protection from fire hazards and faulty equipment and safe practices in the use of electrical, plumbing, and heating equipment, and the protection of students, staff, and visitors at school functions, whether on or off campus.

Access to school buildings and grounds outside of regular school hours shall be limited to personnel whose work requires it. An adequate key control system shall be established which will limit access to buildings to authorized personnel *only* and will safeguard against the potential of entrance to buildings by ~~keys in the hands of~~ unauthorized persons with keys.

Records and funds shall be kept in a safe place and under lock and key when required.

Protective devices designed to be used as safeguards against illegal entry and vandalism shall be installed when appropriate to the individual situation. Employment of watchmen may be approved in situations where special risks are involved.

It will be the duty of the school principal or building administrator to develop a plan of action that includes the following:

1. Care shall be taken to see that all windows and doors are properly secured before leaving the school or central office buildings at the close of the day.
2. Care shall be taken to ensure that all burglar alarm systems, where installed, are activated at the end of the day and deactivated at the beginning of a work day.
3. All gates controlling access to facilities and parking areas shall be secured when school plant or facility is not in use.

FIREARM-FREE ZONES

The areas surrounding the school campus or within 1,000 feet of any such school campus, or within a school bus, shall be designated *Firearm-Free Zones*. It is unlawful for a student or non-student to intentionally possess a firearm on school property or within 1,000 feet of school property or while on a school bus. The School Board, in cooperation with local governmental agencies and the Louisiana Department of Education, shall designate and mark *Firearm-Free Zones* which surround all schools and school property.

BODY ARMOR

It shall be unlawful and against School Board policy for any student or non-student to wear or possess on his/her person, at any time, body armor on any School Board

property, school campus, at a school-sponsored function, on a school bus or other school transportation, or in a firearm-free zone, with limited exception as enumerated in La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §14:95.9. School-sponsored functions shall include, but not be limited to, athletic competitions, dances, parties, or any extracurricular activities. A firearm-free zone means any area within one thousand feet of any school campus and within a school bus.

Body armor shall mean bullet-resistant metal or other material intended to provide protection from weapons or bodily injury.

The School Board shall post permanent notices of such prohibition at each major point of entry to the school.

DRUG-FREE ZONES

The area within 1,000 feet of any property used for school purposes by any school, or on a school bus, shall be designated as *Drug-Free Zones*. It is unlawful for anyone to use, distribute, be under the influence of, manufacture or possess any controlled substances as defined by statute in a *Drug-Free Zone*. The Tangipahoa Parish School Board, in cooperation with local governmental agencies, and the Louisiana Department of Education, shall designate and mark *Drug-Free Zones* which surround all schools and school property.

SEARCH OF PERSONS OTHER THAN STUDENTS

Any school principal, administrator, teacher, or school security guards may search the person, book bag, briefcase, purse or other object in the possession of any person who is not a student enrolled in the school, or any school employee, while in or on school grounds. This search may be done randomly with a metal detector, or physically when there is reasonable suspicion that such person has any weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, stolen goods, or objects in violation of School Board policy.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS ON SCHOOL CAMPUS

In order to assist in the protection and safety of employees and students, the Tangipahoa Parish School Board shall authorize the installation of surveillance cameras at various locations on school campuses, but shall not allow placement in bathrooms and/or dressing rooms. Students or employees viewed violating school rules and regulations shall be disciplined, in accordance with Board regulations, up to and including expulsion/termination. Action may be taken against visitors viewed breaking regulations, including notification of law enforcement officials.

ELECTRONIC TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES

Except as may be allowed by School Board policy, no person, unless authorized by the school principal or designee, shall use, possess, or operate any electronic telecommunication device including any facsimile system, radio paging service, mobile telephone service, intercom, or electromechanical paging system in any elementary or secondary school building, or on the grounds thereof while school is in session or in any school bus.

Revised: August, 2003

Revised: December, 2008

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. ' ' 14:95.6, 14:95.9,17:81, 17:239, 17:240, 17:405, 17:416.6; Board minutes, 10-7-03.

5. It was moved by Mr. Ridgel, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the adoption of policy EDC, Student Transportation Safety Program. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

NEW POLICY**FILE: EDC****STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROGRAM**

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board recognizes the responsibility of school bus operators and the need for bus operators to practice extreme caution in transporting children to and from school. Therefore, the School Board shall require the implementation, maintenance, and observance of a transportation safety program.

VIDEO EQUIPMENT ON SCHOOL BUSES

As a means to help ensure safety and proper conduct on School Board owned and/or contracted school buses, it shall be the policy of the Board that video surveillance equipment be allowed and/or required when such equipment is requested and approved by the Supervisor of Transportation, and operated under rules and regulations established by the Superintendent.

The purchase and installation of such equipment shall be the responsibility of the Board for Board owned buses, or of the contract drivers for their buses. Ownership of the equipment, including the housing thereof, shall remain with the Board or contract driver.

Strict adherence to laws and rules of confidentiality shall be maintained in the viewing of tapes and use of equipment to assure compliance with laws and regulations regarding the privacy rights of students and employees.

USE OF CELLULAR TELEPHONES

The School Board may authorize the issuance of cellular telephones to all bus drivers. However, no person shall engage in a call on a cellular telephone or similar device while driving a school bus. The use of cellular telephones by school bus operators may be authorized in an emergency situation involving:

1. An emergency system response operator, 911 safety dispatcher, or school administrator;
2. A hospital or emergency room;
3. A physician's office or health clinic;
4. An ambulance or fire department rescue service;
5. A fire department, fire protection district, or volunteer fire department;
6. A law enforcement agency.

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§32:289, 32:398, 32:871; School Transportation Handbook, Bulletin 1191, Minimum Standards for School Buses, Bulletin 1213, Operational and Vehicle Maintenance Procedures, Bulletin 1475, Louisiana Department of Education.

6. It was moved by Ms. Bailey-Simmons, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the revision of policies EFA, Technology Acceptable Use (AUP) and JCDAE, Electronic Devices. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

**FILE: EFA
Cf: JCDAE****TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP)**

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board believes it is necessary for all persons to become aware of acceptable use of computers. Any person using computers or other electronic information resources shall be required to use such equipment and resources in a responsible, legal manner. The School Board retains the right to

monitor all computer usage and files for compliance to all regulations and/or procedures.

[All elementary schools, beginning with the third grade and all secondary schools shall provide instruction for educating children regarding Internet safety.](#)

Technology, particularly Internet access, is available to students and employees in the Tangipahoa Parish School System. The School Board is very pleased to bring access to these resources to our school system. Technology offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to students, teachers, and administrators.

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board's goal in providing these resources to its students is to enhance innovative education for students through access to unique resources and collaborations. Furthermore, teachers will improve learning and teaching through research, teacher training, collaboration, and dissemination of successful educational practices, methods, and materials.

Guidelines are provided so that the technology users are aware of the responsibilities they are about to assume. Responsibilities include appropriate, efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of network resources. [All users shall sign the Technology Contract on a yearly basis.](#) The ~~users'~~ signature ~~on the attached contract~~ shall be binding and indicates that he/she has read the terms and conditions carefully, ~~and~~ understands their significance, [and shall adhere to their provisions.](#) ~~In addition, ALL students and employees must sign and adhere to the provisions of this acceptable use policy on a yearly basis.~~ These should be kept on file at each school or office.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Acceptable Use - Technology resources in our school system shall ONLY be used to support teaching and learning. By providing access to unique resources and opportunities for collaborative work, technology can enhance student performance.
2. Privileges - The use of technology is a privilege, not a right, and therefore inappropriate use may result in the cancellation of those privileges by the administrator in each school, the Tangipahoa Parish School System (TPSS) Director of Technology or the Superintendent or his/her designee.
3. Acquisition of Technology - ALL hardware and software purchases and installations shall be pre-approved by the TPSS Technology Department.
 - a. All technology hardware and software resources purchased by TPSS are the property of the Tangipahoa Parish School System and are loaned to students and faculty for their use.
4. Appropriate Network Usage - Users are expected to abide by the Tangipahoa Parish School System rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Be polite; do not send abusive, threatening, bullying, intimidating and/or harassing messages to others.
 - b. Use appropriate language.
 - c. Hardware or software shall not be destroyed, modified, or abused in any way.
 - d. Do not use the network in a way that would disrupt the use of the network by other users (e.g. downloading huge files during prime time, sending mass E-mail messages, installation of unapproved software, or annoying other users using chat, talk, or write functions). The network should be used only for research, information gathering, and academic

- practice directly related to school assignments and extracurricular projects supervised by school faculty.
- e. The network is NOT designed to be used as a radio or television for the classroom. Any such use should be DIRECTLY related to instruction. All streaming media not directly related to instruction is prohibited.
 - f. Malicious use of the network to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer, computing system, or network is prohibited. Use of the network to damage the software components of a computer or computing system is prohibited.
 - g. Using the network for commercial purposes, financial gain, fraud, illegal acts, or threatening the safety of a person is prohibited.
 - h. Use of the network to access or process pornographic materials, inappropriate text files, and files dangerous to any individual or group is prohibited.
 - i. Network use for product advertisement, political lobbying, or illegal activities is strictly prohibited.
 - j. Use or posting of information related to the school, school staff, students, use images of the school, the school logo, initials or seal, in any form on the Internet or in any form of electronic communication without specific written permission of the Superintendent and/or his/her designee shall be prohibited. The posting of any such information on any website, bulletin board, chat room, email, or other messaging system without permission, or the posting or transmission of images or information in any format related to the school, staff, or students that are defamatory, abusive, pornographic, or which could be construed as threatening or impugning the character of another person is prohibited.
5. Security – Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem on the Internet or WAN, you must notify the school administrator who will notify the TPSS Technology Department. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer users may be denied access to technology resources.
- a. Do not reveal personal addresses or phone numbers of students or colleagues.
 - b. Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities is prohibited. Users should access only those files that belong to them or which they have been granted permission to use by faculty or coworkers.
 - c. Files stored on district computers and servers should be limited to those relating to formal school courses or activities.
 - d. Using the account or password of another user is prohibited. Distribution of passwords by other than designated staff is forbidden.
 - e. Users will log off or lock their personal accounts when they step away from the computer for more than a few moments to prevent unauthorized access.
 - f. Bypassing Filters or Security Systems - Attempts to remove, modify, or bypass software, hardware, and configurations installed to prevent Internet or other access to pornographic material, other objectionable materials, or prohibited resources is forbidden. Such violations shall

8. Violating Copyright Laws

- a. The illegal installation of copyrighted software for use on district computers is prohibited.
- b. Transmission of any materials in violations of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes - but is not limited to - copyrighted software, music, videos, and other materials protected by trade institutions.

9. Vandalism – Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and/or other disciplinary actions. Vandalism related to technology is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy the equipment or data of another user, LAN, WAN, or other networks that are connected to the TPSS network. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.10. Consequences of Misuse

- a. According to the Tangipahoa Parish School Board *Policy Manual*, school principals shall discipline any user who accesses, sends, receives, or configures electronically any profane, threatening, bullying, intimidating, harassing, pornographic and/or obscene language or pictures.
- b. The use of off campus resources including web pages, social networking sites, or Web 2.0 sites that subsequently cause “material disruption” at school is prohibited and the responsible student will be disciplined in accordance with the parish assertive discipline plan.
- c. Any individual failing to follow the above “Terms and Conditions” is subject to appropriate disciplinary measures as determined by school administrators, the Superintendent, and/or the TPSS Technology Department. Students may receive consequences of steps 2 through 6 on the assertive discipline ladder.
- d. Employees who choose to violate the *Acceptable Use Policy* may be subject to adverse personnel action.

11. Monitoring – Teachers agree to instruct the students on acceptable technology use and monitor all student technology use to ensure student compliance with this policy. Students agree that teachers and administrators have the right to monitor ALL student activity using the network and other technology resources.CODE OF CONDUCT

This *Code of Conduct* applies to all users of these technology resources. Honesty, integrity, and respect for the rights of others should be evident at all times. Photographs may only be permitted with current, signed state department of education photo release on file. Students will not be identified by name in conjunction with a recognizable picture. Students will only be identified by first names.

The technology user is held responsible for his/her actions and activities. Unacceptable uses of the network will result in disciplinary action including possible revocation of these privileges.

Revised: May 5, 1998
Revised: August, 1999
Revised: July, 2006
Revised: July, 2008
Revised: August, 2008

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. ' 17:81, 17:100.6; Board minutes, 3-19-96, 5-5-98, 7-10-06, 7-1-08

FILE: JCDAE
Cf; JD

ELECTRONIC ~~TELECOMMUNICATION~~ DEVICES

No student, unless authorized by the school principal or his/her designee, shall use or operate any electronic telecommunication device, including any facsimile system, radio paging service, mobile telephone service, intercom, or electro-mechanical paging system in any elementary or secondary school building, or on the grounds thereof or in any school bus used to transport public school students. A violation of these provisions may be grounds for disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension from school. Nothing shall prohibit the use and operation by any person, including students, of any electronic telecommunication device in the event of an emergency. *Emergency* shall mean an actual or imminent threat to public health or safety which may result in loss of life, injury, or property damage.

The use of all recording devices of any kind, including but not limited to all kinds of cameras, video recorders, audio recorders, etc. except for instructional purposes or TPSS official business is strictly prohibited.

Student use of the Internet, cameras, cell phones, "IPODS" video or audio recorders, and/or any other electronic systems, on or off campus, that subsequently causes substantial disruption to the educational environment, interferes with the rights of others, or can be considered a threat, will result in the student receiving discipline in accordance with the parish assertive discipline plan.

For purposes of this policy, the terms *use* and *operation* shall mean whenever the electronic ~~telecommunication~~ device is turned on.

Revised: August, 2003

Revised: August, 2008

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 17:239, 17:416, 17:416.1; Board minutes, 10-7-03.

7. After discussing cell phone usage by students and review of a cell phone survey conducted with school system principals, it was determined that Assistant Superintendent Thomas Bellavia should survey other school districts concerning their cell phone policy.
8. It was moved by Ms. Bailey-Simmons, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the revisions of policy FDC, Naming of School Facilities. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

FILE: FDC

NAMING OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

It is recognized that a number of educators, school system employees, and others, have distinguished themselves with outstanding public service and have contributed greatly to the cause of public education in our parish.

It is further recognized that most of these distinguished individuals are most worthy of recognition, honors, and memorials, including the designation of a school facility bearing the honored person's name. However, the number of school facilities is insufficient to accommodate those past, present, and future persons worthy of such honor.

Therefore, schools or School Board facilities, except classrooms, may be named or designated by the majority vote of the School Board, after meeting the requirements as listed below, and the Board may consider recommendations from civic or educational organizations.

No school, school building, or other public building shall be named after any living person. However, any existing athletic facilities at a high school within the Board's jurisdiction may be named in honor of a living person. Schools or School Board facilities shall not be named for any person, living or deceased, except when:

- a. Money or property is donated sufficient for the construction of a school or facilities. The donor may designate a name pending a favorable community public hearing and a majority approval of the School Board.
- b. A majority of the registered voters within the school district file a petition to the Board, designating a name, and the Board approves by a majority vote. The Registrar of Voters or other lawfully authorized persons shall certify registered voters, and any expense thereof shall be the responsibility of the petition sponsors.

Revised: July, 1992

Revised: January, 1994

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:81, 17:85, 42:267; Board minutes, 4-21-92, 5-5-92, 9-7-93.

9. It was moved by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the revision of policy IDDF, Special Education. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

SPECIAL EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES

~~It shall be the policy of the Tangipahoa Parish School Board to identify, locate, and evaluate each exceptional child residing within the Parish who is in need of special education and related services, and to provide or cause to be provided a free appropriate public education to each eligible exceptional child residing within the Parish who is not voluntarily enrolled in an approved nonpublic school program.~~

~~Accordingly, it is the policy of the Board to:~~

~~1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION~~

~~Provide for making the application and all pertinent documents related to such application available to parents, guardians, and other members of the general public and provide that all evaluations and reports required shall be public information.~~

~~2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION~~

~~Provide an appropriate, free public education to all exceptional children within its jurisdiction who are not voluntarily enrolled in an approved nonpublic school program and whose third birthday has occurred but whose twenty-second birthday has not occurred. Exceptional children whose third birthday occurs after the beginning of a regular school year but before January 1, or whose twenty-second birthday occurs during the course of the regular school year shall be regarded as eligible exceptional children for the entire school year. This responsibility shall continue unabated regardless of whether the exceptional child is provided special education and related services:~~

~~(a) Through a contract entered into by the School Board with a public or private agency;~~

~~(b) By an educational cooperative of which the School Board is a member;~~

- ~~_____ (c) By the school district as a result of placement, referral or judicial commitment; or~~
- ~~_____ (d) By an approved non-public school program if following placement or referral by the school district or judicial commitment.~~

~~_____ 3. FULL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY GOAL~~

~~_____ Establish a goal of providing full educational opportunities to all exceptional children, including:~~

- ~~_____ A. procedures for the implementation and use of the comprehensive system of personnel development established by the State educational agency.~~
- ~~_____ B. the provision of, and the establishment of priorities for providing a free appropriate public education to all handicapped children, first with respect to handicapped children who are not receiving an education, and second, with respect to handicapped children, within each disability, with the most severe handicaps, who are receiving an inadequate education;~~
- ~~_____ C. the participation and consultation of the parents or guardian of such children; and~~
- ~~_____ D. to the maximum extent practicable and consistent with the provisions of state law the provision of special services to enable such children to participate in regular educational programs.~~

~~_____ 4. PRIORITIES~~

~~_____ Locate and identify each child under the Board's jurisdiction suspected of being exceptional and in need of special education and related services and provide or cause to be provided, a free appropriate public education to each eligible exceptional child residing within the Board's jurisdiction who is not voluntarily enrolled in an approved nonpublic school program.~~

~~_____ 5. CHILD IDENTIFICATION~~

~~_____ Provide for the conduction of appropriate activities for identifying, locating and evaluating all children suspected of being exceptional and in need of special education or related services. Children who may require special education or related services shall be referred to the school system for evaluation. Such referral may be initiated by a parent or, with parent approval, by teachers, principals, or other relevant school/community professionals.~~

~~_____ 6. INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION~~

~~_____ Provide for the conduction of individual evaluations, consisting of the Pupil Appraisal Assessment Program and/or a Diagnostic Assessment, of each child suspected of being exceptional and in need of special education or related services.~~

~~_____ 7. INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM~~

~~_____ Provide assurances that the local education agency or intermediate educational unit will establish, or revise, whichever is appropriate, an individualized education program for each exceptional child at the~~

~~beginning of each school year and will then review and, if appropriate, revise its provisions periodically, but not less than annually.~~

~~8. LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT~~

~~Require, to the maximum extent appropriate, exceptional children, including those in public or private institutions be educated with children who are not handicapped. Such placement shall be evaluated and determined at least annually. Removal of exceptional children from the regular educational environment should occur only when the nature and severity of the handicap is such that education in regular classes cannot be achieved satisfactorily. The child shall be placed as close to home as possible and shall have the option to participate in nonacademic and extra-curricular services and programs.~~

~~9. PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS~~

~~Provide satisfactory assurance that the local educational agency or intermediate educational unit will establish and maintain procedural safeguards in accordance with the provisions of P.L. 94-142, La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:1941 to :1958 and appropriate regulations developed by the Louisiana Department of Education.~~

~~10. PROTECTION IN EVALUATION PROCEDURES~~

~~Assure, throughout the evaluation process, that:~~

~~1. Each individual evaluation is based on a comprehensive assessment of information drawn from a variety of sources.~~

~~2. Each child is evaluated in each area of suspected exceptionality.~~

~~3. Full and complete records of information collected or generated in connection with an individual evaluation are maintained in accordance with confidentiality requirements.~~

~~4. An integrated report describing the findings and recommendations of the evaluation process is prepared.~~

~~5. The integrated report is disseminated to the supervisor of special education who shall take appropriate action.~~

~~6. The evaluation findings and recommendations are interpreted for the child's teacher(s).~~

~~7. A copy of the integrated report and an oral interpretation of the findings and recommendations is provided to the child's parent(s).~~

~~8. A pupil appraisal staff member who participated in the evaluation is designated, when necessary, to attend the IEP Committee meeting to assist in the process of developing the IEP.~~

~~11. PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT~~

~~Assure that all special education personnel are properly certified and employed on a nondiscriminatory basis. The Board shall also provide continuous inservice training to school personnel as it relates to identifying, evaluating, placing exceptional children and providing all other Special Education and related services to exceptional children. Such training shall be provided according to annual needs assessments and recent legislative action.~~

~~12. PARTICIPATION OF NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN~~

~~Provide, to the extent possible, appropriate opportunities for approved non-public school students to participate in Special Education programs and services consistent with their number, needs and legislative requirements.~~

~~13. PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS~~

~~Provide for the development of an individualized education program for each child that is placed in an approved nonpublic school for special education or related services. Further, the Board shall assure that all students placed in such schools have all rights they would have if served by public state or local agencies.~~

~~The Board shall also provide for the monitoring of programs in private facilities to which students have been referred to or placed in to ensure that the student is receiving special education and related services in conformance with the individualized education plan developed for each student.~~

~~14. PUBLIC CONTROL OF FUNDS~~

~~Provide satisfactory assurance that the control of funds provided under this part, and title to property derived from such funds, shall be in a public agency for the uses and purposes provided in this part, and that a public agency will administer such funds and property.~~

~~15. EXCESS COST AND NON-SUPPLANTING~~

~~Assure federal funds expended by local educational agencies and intermediate educational units for programs (i) shall be used to pay only the excess costs directly attributable to the education of handicapped children, and (ii) shall be used to supplement and, to the extent practicable, increase the level of State and local funds expended for the education of handicapped children, and in no case to supplant such State and local funds.~~

~~16. COMPARABLE SERVICES~~

~~Assure that facilities which are identified as being for exceptional children and the services and activities provided therein are of the same standards and levels of quality as are facilities, services, and activities provided other children.~~

~~17. INFORMATION REPORTS~~

~~Provide for furnishing such information and all appropriate reports as may be necessary to enable the State education agency to perform its required duties, including information relating to the educational achievement of handicapped children participating in applicable programs.~~

~~18. RECORDS~~

~~Provide for the proper maintenance of all pertinent records associated with the special education program and to provide for such access by appropriate personnel to inspect and review any educational records and verify their accuracy. Such records shall include a record of all parties obtaining access to educational records including name, date of review, and purpose.~~

~~19. LOCAL POLICIES CONSISTENT WITH STATUTE~~

~~Provide satisfactory assurance that policies and programs established and administered by the local educational agency or intermediate educational unit shall be consistent with the provisions of state and federal laws, and any standards adopted by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).~~

~~20. NONDISCRIMINATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS~~

~~a. Assure that the program assisted will be operated in compliance with Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 4 (Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap in Programs and Activities Receiving or Benefiting from Federal Financial Assistance).~~

~~b. Assure that it shall make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified handicapped individuals in programs assisted.~~

~~21. ADVISORY COUNCIL~~

~~Assure the appointment of an Advisory Council, consisting of such members appointed and serving for such terms as may be provided for by law, which shall aid the school system in the development of local plans for the provision of special education and related services to exceptional children.~~

~~22. GENERAL SUPERVISION~~

~~Delegate to the Supervisor of Special Education the responsibility for the efficient functioning of the special education program. He/she shall develop, implement, and evaluate all special education services, supervise all personnel involved in providing services to handicapped/exceptional students, and maintain contact with pertinent federal and state agencies.~~

~~23. MONITORING~~

~~Provide for constant review and monitoring of all special education services being rendered by or on behalf of the school district, including:~~

- ~~1. Self-monitoring~~
- ~~2. Monitoring by the Advisory Council~~
- ~~3. Monitoring by the Louisiana Department of Education~~
- ~~4. Monitoring by appropriate federal agencies.~~

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board shall provide a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment to every student with an exceptionality, ages three through twenty-one, who is a resident of the geographical boundaries of the school district. Special education and related services may be provided by the School Board for eligible children under three years of age. Generally, identified children shall be screened and evaluated for eligibility to receive special educational services while receiving educational support in the regular classroom. If it is determined in the evaluation process that a child has a disability, impairment, or condition that impedes educational progress, then the child is classified according to the *Pupil Appraisal Handbook*, Bulletin 1508, guidelines and becomes eligible to receive special education services. All special education services shall be performed in accordance with the regulations outlined in *Regulations for the Implementation of the Exceptional Children's Act*, Bulletin 1706.

The School Board shall establish and maintain regulations and procedures in accordance with federal and state law to ensure that students with exceptionalities and their parents are provided the necessary procedural safeguards with respect to the provision of free appropriate public education by the School Board.

Revised: December, 2008

Ref: 20 USCA ' 1400 et seq. (*Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*); 34 CFR ' 300.308 (*Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities*); La. Rev. Stat. Ann. ' ' 17:1941, 17:1942, 17:1943, 17:1944, 17:1945, 17:1946, 17:1947; *Pupil Appraisal Handbook*, Bulletin 1508, Louisiana Department of Education; *Regulations for the Implementation of the Exceptional Children's Act*, Bulletin 1706, Louisiana Department of Education.

10. It was moved by Ms. Bailey-Simmons, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the deletion of policy IDDFA, Technology Assistive Devices for Disabled Students. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.
- 11.. It was moved by Ms. Bailey-Simmons, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the revision of policies JBA, compulsory School Attendance Ages and JBCD, Student Transfer and Withdrawal. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

**FILE: JBA
Cf; JBD**

COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AGES

Except as provided by law, every child in the state is required by state law to attend public or private school from the child's seventh (7th) birthday until his/her eighteenth (18th) birthday, unless the child graduates prior to his/her eighteenth (18th) birthday. Any child below the age of seven (7) who legally enrolls in school shall also be required to attend school. If a child in these age brackets was a resident of this parish when school opened and enters school late without having attended another public or private school or approved home study program during the current school session within or without the parish, a statement should be secured from the parents or guardian giving the reasons why the child has not been in school. If these reasons are not satisfactory, the matter should be referred to the Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance, who may find it necessary to refer it to the proper court.

EXCEPTIONS

The only exceptions to the compulsory school attendance provisions of state law are as follows:

1. Children mentally, physically, or emotionally incapacitated to perform school duties, and children unable to profit from further school experience, such exceptions to be certified in writing by a psychiatrist, psychologist, recognized evaluation centers or clinics, or other professionally qualified person or agency designated by the Board.
2. Children temporarily excused from school, as follows:
 - (a) Children who are ill and whose attendance in school would endanger their own health or that of their classmates, and who have a certificate of a physician or nurse practitioner licensed to practice in Louisiana verifying said illness;
 - (b) Children in whose families there is serious illness which would reasonably necessitate the absence from school, if in the judgment of the Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance, such absence is justified, or if the illness is substantiated in writing by a licensed Louisiana physician or nurse practitioner;

- (c) Children in whose immediate family a death has occurred, such absence is not to exceed one week because of and at the time of such death;
 - (d) Children whose religious faith requires absence for the observance of a special and recognized holyday of the child's own faith.
 - (e) Children whose parent is a member of United States Armed Forces or National Guard of a state and such parent has been called to duty for, or is on leave from, overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, such leave not to exceed five (5) school days per school year for child to visit the parent.
3. Any minor employed to perform or render artistic or creative services under a contract pursuant to statutory provisions.

A child between the ages of seventeen (17) and eighteen (18) may withdraw from school prior to graduation with the written consent of his/her parent or guardian. Such consent must be submitted to the Superintendent or designee.

The parent, tutor, or other person responsible for the school attendance of a child between the ages of sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) who is enrolled in school may request that the student be allowed to attend an alternative education program or a vocational-technical education program.

Compulsory attendance does not apply to any child who is under the age of seventeen (17) and is attending or seeking admission to a National Guard Youth Challenge Program in Louisiana.

The principal may require certificates from practicing physicians, dentists, or nurse practitioners substantiating all illness. The principal may also require written evidence from church authorities relative to requiring religious observances.

Children granted excused absences for the above reasons shall be allowed to make up any school work which was missed or failed to be completed during the prescribed time. In such instances, the student's grade will not be given until the makeup work has been completed.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

Failure to abide by the compulsory school attendance laws of the state may result in a referral to *Families in Need of Services (FINS)* which is a state mandated program or to the District Court with jurisdiction.

Revised: August, 2001
Revised: June, 2002

Revised: August, 2005
Revised: December, 2008

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:221, 17:226, 17:226.1, 17:233; La. Children's Code Art. 730; Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, Louisiana Department of Education.

**FILE: JBCD
Cf: JBCC**

STUDENT TRANSFER AND WITHDRAWAL

TRANSFER

Students shall be required to attend the school in the attendance area in which their residence is located. Students who wish to attend a school other than the one

designated for their resident attendance zone may apply for transfer when circumstances warrant. All requests for transfer shall be in writing, and shall include reasons for the transfer as well as other pertinent information that the Tangipahoa Parish School Board may require.

The Superintendent shall consider for approval all requests for student transfer if such transfer is determined to be in the best interests of the student and the school system. No school shall accept a student not residing in that school's attendance zone unless the student has an approved transfer application on file. Applications which are approved are for one school year only and must be renewed by application for subsequent years. Any decision made by the Superintendent regarding the transfer of a student may be appealed to the School Board for a final determination in accordance with state law.

WITHDRAWAL

Students shall be required to attend school in accordance with statutory provisions. Students may be permitted to withdraw from school however, if approved by the Superintendent and Board. Such withdrawal must be in accordance with such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Board.

A child between the ages of seventeen (17) and eighteen (18) may withdraw from school prior to graduation if both of the following circumstances exist:

- 1) with the Written consent ~~of~~ is granted by his/her parent, tutor or legal guardian; and,
- 2) An exit interview is conducted where the student and his/her parent, tutor, or legal guardian provide written acknowledgement that withdrawal from school shall likely reduce the student's future earning potential and increase the student's chance of unemployment.

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 17:81, 17:101, 17:102, 17:103, 17:104, 17:104.1, 17:105, 17:106, 17:108, 17:109, 17:111, 17:221, 17:226, 17:227; Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, Bulletin 741, Louisiana Department of Education.

12. It was moved by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the revision of policy JGCB, Immunizations. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

FILE: JGCB
Cf: JBC

IMMUNIZATIONS

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board shall require all children entering any school for the first time and upon entering the sixth grade to present satisfactory evidence of immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases according to state law and a schedule approved by the state office of public health, or shall present evidence of an immunization program in progress. In addition, a student who is eleven (11) years old and entering a grade other than the sixth grade shall provide satisfactory evidence of current immunization against meningococcal disease. The Board may require immunizations or proof of immunity more extensive than required by the office of public health. Any student failing to meet the immunization standards shall be prohibited from attending school until such time as the immunization standards are met.

A child transferring from another school system in or out of the state, shall submit either a certificate of immunization or a letter from his/her personal physician indicating immunization against the diseases mentioned above and/or any others which may be required, and certificate or statement indicating that the tests required have been performed, or a statement that such immunizations and tests are in progress. *In*

progress shall mean that the child has an immunization due after the date school has begun, because the child began his/her immunization late, or because the child's pediatrician has provided written orders for the child to receive an immunization after a certain date.

If booster injections for the diseases enumerated on the state schedule are advised, such booster injections shall be administered before the child enters a school system within the state.

Principals, or their designated representatives, of all schools shall be responsible for checking students' records to see that the provisions of this policy are enforced.

No child seeking to enter any school in the school district shall be required to comply with the provisions of this written policy if the child or his/her parent or guardian submits either a statement from a physician stating that this procedure is contraindicated for medical reasons, or a written dissent from the parents is presented. [Exception in compliance may also apply to any person who is unable to comply due to a shortage in the supply of available vaccinations against meningococcal disease.](#)

If an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurs, upon the recommendation of the state office of public health, school administrators may exclude from attendance unimmunized students until the appropriate disease incubation period has expired, or the unimmunized person presents evidence of immunization.

Revised: December, 2008

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 17:170, 170.1, 17:170.2, 17:170.3.

13. It was moved by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the revision of policy JGCE, Child Abuse. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

FILE: JGCE
Cf: GAMC, JDA

CHILD ABUSE

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board shall endeavor to ensure that all instances of child abuse and/or neglect are reported in accordance with appropriate state and local laws and regulations. Therefore, the School Board directs that all school personnel be informed of their responsibilities under law as mandatory reporters when performing their occupational duties.

DEFINITIONS

Child, for purposes of child abuse, is defined as a person under eighteen (18) years of age, who prior to juvenile proceedings, has not been judicially emancipated or emancipated by marriage.

Abuse means any one of the following acts which seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child:

- (a) The infliction, attempted infliction, or, as a result of inadequate supervision, the allowance of the infliction or attempted infliction of physical or mental injury upon the child by a parent or any other person.
- (b) The exploitation or overwork of a child by a parent or any other person.
- (c) The involvement of the child in any sexual act with a parent or any other person, or the aiding or toleration by the parent or the caretaker of the child's sexual involvement with any other person or of the child's involvement in pornographic displays, or any other involvement of a child in sexual activity constituting a crime under the laws of this state.

Neglect means the refusal or willful failure of a parent or caretaker to supply the child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, care, treatment, or counseling for any injury, illness, or condition of the child, as a result of which the child's physical, mental, or emotional health is substantially threatened or impaired. In accordance with statutory provisions, the inability of a parent or caretaker to provide for a child due to inadequate financial resources shall not, for that reason alone, be considered neglect. Whenever, in lieu of medical care, a child is being provided treatment in accordance with the tenets of a well-recognized religious method of healing which has a reasonable, proven record of success, the child shall not, for that reason alone, be considered to be neglected or maltreated. However, nothing herein shall prohibit the court from ordering medical services for the child when there is substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare.

A *mandatory reporter* is any person who provides training and supervision of a child, including any one of the following individuals performing their occupational duties: teacher, teacher's aide, instructional aide, school principal, and school staff member.

Caretaker means any person legally obligated to provide or secure adequate care for a child, including a parent, tutor, guardian, legal custodian, foster home parent, an employee of a public or private day care center, an operator or employee of a registered family child day care home, or other person providing a residence for the child.

PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

Any *mandatory reporter*, notwithstanding any claim of privileged communication, who has cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare is endangered as a result of abuse or neglect, as defined by this policy, or that abuse or neglect was a contributing factor in a child's death, shall report immediately suspected abuse/neglect in accordance with the following:

- I. The *mandatory reporter* having the information shall contact the principal or designee immediately. The principal or other supervising employee shall immediately:
 - (A) When the suspected abuser is believed to be a parent or caretaker, make the report to the local child protection unit of the Department of Social Services.
 - (B) When the abuse or neglect is believed to be perpetrated by someone other than a parent or caretaker, and a parent or caretaker is not believed to have any responsibility for the abuse or neglect, make the report to the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the place where the abuse/neglect occurred.
- II. If the initial report was in oral form, it shall be followed by a written report on the approved form, which written report shall be delivered within five (5) days to the local child protection agency or the local law enforcement agency to whom the initial report was made.
- III. The principal, assistant principal, or other supervisory employee to whom the initial reporter gave the report shall have the primary responsibility of reporting the information to the appropriate agency as herein provided. The teacher or other Board employee who was the initial reporter is not relieved of responsibility, however, and to ensure that the report is delivered to the appropriate agency as required by law, the principal/designee/supervisory employee shall confer with the initial reporting employee and confirm that the report was made to the appropriate agency. If the principal/designee/ supervisory employee fails or refuses to make a required report, the initial reporting employee shall

make the required report to the appropriate agency and shall, within five (5) days of filing the required written report file a confidential report of the entire matter in writing with the Superintendent.

The report shall contain the following information, if known:

- 1) The name, address, age, sex, and race of the child.
- 2) The nature, extent, and cause of the child's injuries or endangered condition, including any previous known or suspected abuse to this child or the child's siblings.
- 3) The name and address of the child's parent(s) or other caretaker.
- 4) The names and all the ages of all other members of the child's household.
- 5) The name and address of the reporter.
- 6) An account of how this child came to the reporter's attention.
- 7) Any explanation of the cause of the child's injury or condition offered by the child, the caretaker, or any other person.
- 8) The number of times the reporter has filed a report on the child or the child's siblings.
- 9) Any other information which the reporter believes might be important or relevant.

The report shall also name the person or persons who are thought to have caused or contributed to the child's condition, if known, and the report shall contain the name of such person if he/she is named by the child.

If the initial report was in oral form by a mandatory reporter, it shall be followed by a written report made within five (5) days to the local child protection unit, or if necessary, to the local law enforcement agency.

INVESTIGATION OF REPORTS

Admission of the investigator on school premises or access to the child in school shall not be denied by school officials.

ALLEGATION AGAINST SCHOOL EMPLOYEES OR VOLUNTEERS

When an employee is accused of the use of impermissible corporal punishment or moral offenses involving students, the principal shall initiate an investigation (see procedures under policy *GAMC, Employee Investigations*). If the offender is a central office employee, or principal, the immediate supervisor will initiate an investigation.

Upon any school employee receiving a report of, or information about, child abuse, against another school employee or volunteer, and the employee receiving said information has cause to believe the truthfulness thereof, the reporting procedure as outlined in this policy shall be followed, depending upon whether the employee or volunteer is considered a caretaker or someone other than a caretaker.

The school employee shall also, as soon as reasonably possible, notify the appropriate immediate supervisor of the accused individual, and that supervisor in turn will as soon as reasonably possible, notify the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent and the Board's attorney will determine what appropriate action the school system may take over and above the investigation being conducted by the

appropriate state agency. In any incident involving an employee or volunteer which is reported to the Superintendent or designee, the person shall be removed from all activities involving direct contact with students until the matter is resolved.

ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL OFFENSES

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be required to notify the local law enforcement agency of any allegation made by a student of the commission of a sex offense as defined by La. Rev. Stat. Ann. . §15:541(14.1 17). Such notification shall be made by the Superintendent or his/her designee within twenty-four (24) hours of the time the student notified the Superintendent or other appropriate personnel. Any school employee who receives information from a student concerning the possible commission of a sexual offense shall immediately inform the Superintendent and/or his/her designee.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The circumstances and information of the initial report, the fact that a report was made to an agency, and the written report shall be held in confidence and shall not be disseminated to third parties other than those persons or agencies designated by this policy or required by state law. Any written report or other written information regarding the report shall be kept in a confidential file separate from the child's routine school records and accessible only by the principal/designee/supervisory employee or by court order.

INSERVICE TRAINING

At the beginning of each school year, each principal shall provide mandated inservice training for mandatory reporters and other school personnel and volunteers on how to recognize and report suspected child abuse or child neglect. Each employee and volunteer shall sign a form indicating he/she has received and understands the guidelines for reporting child abuse/neglect.

IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY

Any person who in good faith makes a report, cooperates in any investigation arising as a result of such report, or participates in judicial proceedings authorized under the Louisiana Children's Code shall have immunity from civil or criminal liability that otherwise might be incurred or imposed. This immunity, however, does not extend to (1) a person who participates in or conspires with a participant or an accessory to an offense involving the abuse or neglect of a child; (2) any person who makes a report known to be false or with reckless disregard for the truth of the report.

LIABILITY

The Louisiana Children's Code and Louisiana criminal law provide substantial penalties for mandatory reporters who fail to report facts which would support a reasonable belief that child abuse or neglect has occurred. Additionally, educators or other employees of the Tangipahoa Parish School Board who fail or refuse to report child abuse/neglect as provided by law or by this policy may be subject to disciplinary and/or dismissal proceedings for neglect of duty.

Revised: September, 2004

Revised: November, 2007

Revised: December, 2008

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 14:403, 15:539, 17:81.6; La. Children's Code, Title VI, Art. 601 et seq.; Board minutes, 12-7-04, 2-6-07, 3-4-08.

14. Mr. Genco tabled the discussion on In-School Suspension.

STUDENT SERVICES/DYSLEXIA COMMITTEE – MARCH 10, 2009

Ms. Bailey-Simmons opened the meeting welcoming everyone.

Senator Ben Nevers gave an update regarding the recently approved Dyslexia Bill and funding that would result from the bill. He stated he will set up a meeting with the State Department in the next two (2) weeks for us to meet and talk about the funds and how we could use the funds.

Chief Academic Officer Melissa Stilley gave an update on current Dyslexia/504 student numbers, fund expenditures and progress the district is making in regards to reading.

Ms. Tammy Thibodeaux, parent, gave an overview and handouts from the Dyslexia Conference held at Nichols University on January 31, 2009.

Mr. Thomas Jarlock, Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention Center, gave an update on the learning disabled students at the facility, stating many students cannot read on grade level and the need to address this problem.

LORANGER BOARD DELEGATION – MARCH 3, 2009

1. It was moved by Mr. Potts, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to approve Bid 2009-1 for one (1) Loranger Steamer/Kettle from Alack Refrigeration Co., Inc., for \$23,939.00 from Pay-As-You-Go Funds. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.
2. The delegation and Mrs. Higgenbotham discussed the court approval time limit on the faculty workroom at Loranger High School.
3. Mr. LaMarca gave an update on the security cameras at Loranger High School. The projected start date is March 16, 2009, with a completion date of March 25, 2009.

It was moved by Mr. Ridgel, seconded by Mr. Potts, to waive the rules to add an item to the agenda.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mr. Potts, to discuss fencing the Loranger Middle School campus.

It was moved by Mr. Ridgel, seconded by Mr. Potts, to authorize Mr. LaMarca to seek quotes for a 6-foot fence at Loranger Middle School. The delegation, principal and Mr. LaMarca are to meet Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at the school to discuss where to place the fence.

It was moved by Mr. Link, seconded by Ms. Smith, to accept the 2009-2010 School Calendar, Option II. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

Ms. Dominguez introduced Ms. Tommie Robertson, Career and Technical Education Supervisor. Ms. Robertson commended the Ponchatoula High School FFA Chapter for being chosen as the Top Chapter in the nation for Student Development and the Top Chapter in the nation for having the most community service hours logged. Superintendent Mark Kolwe, Ms. Dominguez, Ms. Bailey-Simmons and Ms. Traylor presented Ms. Alice Dubois, FFA Sponsor, with two plaques for the Ponchatoula Chapter.

Mr. Danny Williams, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, recognized March as "Music in Our Schools Month." He introduced Ms. Ellen Sweetman and Ms. Gina Anthon, who narrated a PowerPoint Presentation on music education in the Tangipahoa Parish School System.

It was moved by Mr. Link, seconded by Ms. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the 2009 Graduation Dates presented. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

Ms. Quida Forsythe, Ed.S, Project Director of the Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning, showed a PowerPoint Presentation on the success of the Tangipahoa Parish School System's Pre-Kindergarten Program. She stated that Tangipahoa Parish School System's Pre-K students consistently scored in the top percentile and exceeded the national average. She stated this is evidence of the hard work and dedication of the teachers and staff to address the needs of their students.

There was no Public Input.

In personal privilege, President Ridgel recognized Mr. Lamar Marshall, Mr. Thurrell McClendon and Mr. Jeff Oglesbee.

In personal privilege, Ms. Bailey-Simmons praised Ponchatoula High School for their production of the play "Annie" and mentioned that it was a great example of the incredible music program.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Ms. Smith, to enter into Executive Session to discuss the case of Joyce M. Moore vs. TPSB. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

The Board entered Executive Session.

The Board returned to Open Session.

Superintendent Kolwe announced to the audience that the proposed desegregation plan would be shown in a PowerPoint presentation. He stated that Mr. Nick Gagliano would serve as moderator, Chief Academic Officer Melissa Stilley would present the proposed New Education Program, Ms. Lynell Higgenbotham, Chief Desegregation Implementation Officer would present the Enhanced Educational Quality Aspects of the proposed plan, Mr. Mike Holley, Architect, would provide an overview of the Construction and Renovation Projects and Mr. David Henderson, Bond Attorney, would discuss Funding Issues and Sources.

Mr. Gagliano stated that this is time to realize the potential of our educational process in our Tangipahoa Parish School System. If implemented, the plan will benefit many people, first and foremost the children, second, families and third, the business community. He stated with the world class education system will attract businesses nationwide to locate in Tangipahoa Parish. He gave an overview of the Educational Highlights for the new Magnet Programs, Educational Quality and New Construction/Renovations of the proposed plan.

Chief Academic Officer Stilley highlighted the Educational Magnet Programs planned:

- Hammond Eastside School – PreK - 8
 - Fine and Performing Arts
 - International Baccalaureate (IB) Magnet Program
- Hammond Junior High School – Grades 7 & 8
 - International Baccalaureate (IB) Magnet Program
- Hammond High School
 - International Baccalaureate IB Magnet Program
 - Medical Professions Magnet Program
- Montessori Magnet Schools – PreK - 6
 - Hammond Westside School
 - Roseland Elementary School
- Communications Magnet Schools
 - Woodland Park Elementary School – PreK - 6
 - Amite Elementary School – PreK – 6
 - Independence Middle School – Grades 5 – 8
- Kentwood High School – Grades 7 -12

Fine and Performing Arts Magnet Program

- High Tech Career Education Center (CEC) – Grades 9 -12

Ms. Higgenbotham expounded on the Improved Educational Qualities of the proposed plan:

- Magnet School Administration and Faculty qualifications
- Parental/Community Involvement strategies
- Art and Music Teachers for all Elementary School benefits
- Enhanced Discipline Reporting
- Equal Distribution of Certified/Advanced Degree Teachers plans
- Academic Transfers opportunities
- Junior/Senior Option
- Drop Out Reduction

Mr. Holley gave an overview of the New Construction and Facility Renovations of the proposed plan:

- Construction of 4 New Elementary Schools
 - Kentwood Area – PreK – 6
 - Ponchatoula Hammond Area – PreK – 6
 - Hammond/Natalbany/Loranger Area – PreK – 6
 - Amite/Loranger/Chesbrough Area – PreK – 6
- Pre-K/Kindergarten Early Learning Center
 - Perrin Early Learning Center – Ponchatoula Area
 - Lower 6th Ward – Natalbany/Tickfaw Area
- High Tech Career Education Center (CEC)
 - Centrally located in the parish
- Development of Magnet Facilities
- Existing Facility Improvements

Mr. Henderson explained the three (3) Funding Sources for the proposed plan, if implemented:

- Existing one cent sales and use tax, authorized in November 1982
- Proceeds of general obligation bonds (parish wide school district to be created)
- New one cent sales and use tax by the newly created Educational Facilities Improvement District

Mr. Gagliano informed the audience the Proposed Desegregation Plan would be on the School System's website tonight after 10:00 p.m. and copies were available in the lobby. He stated the Public Input Sessions are as follows:

April 18, 2009

- 9:45 a.m. Loranger High School
- 10:20 a.m. Kentwood High School
- 12:45 p.m. Hammond High School
- 1:30 p.m. Amite High School
- 3:45 p.m. Ponchatoula High School
- 4:30 p.m. Independence High School

April 19, 2009

- 2:00 p.m. Sumner High School

It was moved by Mr. Dangerfield, seconded by Ms. Dominguez, to enter into Executive Session to discuss the cases of Ronnie Wesby vs. TPSB and Cornell/Abraxas vs. TPSB. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

The Board entered Executive Session.

The Board returned to Open Session.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Ms. Dominguez, to accept the attorney's recommendation on the cases of Ronnie Wesby vs. TPSB and Cornell/Abraxas vs. TPSB. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. (7:54 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Ridgel
Board President

Mark Kolwe, Secretary-Treasurer

Recorded by: Cynthia Jenkins, March 17, 2009