

TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

MAY 19, 2009

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, May 19, 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, Leonard Genco, Al Link, Danny Ridgel, Sonya Traylor, Eric Dangerfield, Sandra Bailey-Simmons and Rose Dominguez

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Potts

President Ridgel announced Mr. Potts was absent due to the Sumner High School graduation.

Nicole Tribble, a student from Perrin Early Learning Center, led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Ponchatoula High School Talented Music Combo, Nathan Heck, Jonathan Lyons and Miles Lyons, played an instrumental patriotic medley.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Ms. Dominguez, to approve the Board minutes of May 5, 2009 as distributed. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

President Ridgel moved Item 10, "Consider Superintendent's evaluation", up on the agenda.

Assistant Superintendent Thomas Bellavia submitted the evaluation scores to the Board. He informed the Board that Superintendent Mark Kolwe had an excellent rating of 95.6%.

It was moved by Mr. Link, seconded by Ms. Traylor, to accept the Superintendent's evaluation. A roll call vote was taken, resulting with the motion passing.

YEAS (8): Ann Smith, Leonard Genco, Al Link, Danny Ridgel, Sonya Traylor, Eric Dangerfield, Sandra Bailey-Simmons and Rose Dominguez

ABSENT (1): Robert Potts

Superintendent Kolwe thanked the Board, administrators and staff for their support.

It was moved by Mr. Link, seconded by Mr. Genco, to direct President Ridgel and Vice-President Ann Smith, to negotiate a new contract indicating the extent of time and salary. A roll call vote was taken, resulting with the motion passing:

YEAS (8): Ann Smith, Leonard Genco, Al Link, Danny Ridgel, Sonya Traylor, Eric Dangerfield, Sandra Bailey-Simmons and Rose Dominguez
ABSENT (1): Robert Potts

Dr. James A. Richardson, Economic Consultant, gave a comprehensive review of the economic impact on Tangipahoa Parish relative to the proposed construction projects, new educational programs and additional new taxes and bond issue contingent upon approval of the Desegregation Plan by the Court.

Superintendent Kolwe and Ms. Smith left to attend Sumner High School graduation.

Assistant Superintendent Thomas Bellavia and Mr. Reginald Elzy, Assistant Director of Human Resources, recognized and presented certificates to the recipients of the 2008-2009 Outstanding School Support Employees:

Lucy Fedrick	Nesom Middle
Jodi Bordelon	Hammond High
Lataura Simmons	O.W. Dillon Elementary

It was moved by Mr. Dangerfield, seconded by Ms. Bailey-Simmons, for the entire Board to direct the Superintendent to develop an alternative/backup Desegregation Plan that would address community concerns with community input. After much discussion, a roll call vote was called resulting in a failed motion:

YEAS (2): Eric Dangerfield and Sandra Bailey-Simmons
NAYS (5): Leonard Genco, Al Link, Danny Ridgel, Sonya Traylor and Rose Dominguez
ABSENT (2): Robert Potts and Ann Smith

President Ridgel informed the Board that Item 7, Presentation of ASBA/GFOA Budget and CAFR awards would be pulled from the agenda.

It was moved by Ms. Bailey-Simmons, seconded by Mr. Genco, to submit the student project of constructing a faculty workroom at Loranger High School to the Court for approval. Board Attorney Alton Lewis stated that any construction that would increase the capacity of the facility has to be submitted to the Court and recommended that this matter be put on hold until the Court ruled on the submitted Plan. After much discussion Mr. Genco withdrew his second on the original motion. Ms. Dominguez called a point of order. Mr. Dangerfield seconded the original motion. A roll call vote was taken, resulting in a failed motion:

YEAS (2): Eric Dangerfield and Sandra Bailey-Simmons
NAYS (5): Leonard Genco, Al Link, Danny Ridgel, Sonya Traylor and Rose Dominguez

ABSENT (2): Robert Potts and Ann Smith

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Ms. Dominguez, to accept the Curriculum, Finance and Personnel Committee and the Loranger Delegation Reports contained on the agenda. Ms. Traylor requested that the Curriculum Report be pulled and voted on separately. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted. Following are the reports as approved:

FINANCE COMMITTEE – MAY 5, 2009

1. It was moved by Mr. Link, seconded by Mr. Ridgel, to accept the Accounts Payable Check Register dated March 26, 2009 through April 24, 2009 in the amount of \$6,325,731.97. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.
2. It was moved by Mr. Link, seconded by Ms. Dominguez, to adopt the 2008-09 Revised Budget. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.
3. It was moved by Mr. Ridgel, seconded by Ms. Dominguez, to approve and award Bid #2009-17, Garbage Collection Service to Parish Disposal. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.
4. It was moved by Mr. Link, seconded by Ms. Dominguez, to approve listed employees to exceed their 2008-09 Out-Of-Parish Travel. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted. Listed are the employees approved:

Gwen Myers, Supervisor – Recruitment – paid by grant funds

Vicki Blackwell, Director of Technology, Texas Distance Learning Conference and the Louisiana Distance Learning Conference – paid out of EETT & EEF funds

NECC Conference – paid from EET & EEF Grants:

Mike Diaz	Kathy Prine	Amy Ard
Dorothy Sledge	Melissa Stilley	Lyndy Painting
Colette Taillon	Dina Spears	Denise Grigas
Daniel Williams		

5. It was moved by Mr. Ridgel, seconded by Mr. Link, to reject the submitted grass cutting bids for the Independence District. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.
6. It was moved by Mr. Link, seconded by Mr. Ridgel, to approve financial assistance of \$3,000.00 to the Hammond High School's ProStart Culinary Team to attend the 8th Annual National ProStart Invitational

competition in San Diego, California on April 24-26, 2009. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – MAY 12, 2009

The regular agenda and Addendum #1 was presented by Mr. Genco, chairperson.

It was moved by Ms. Dominguez, seconded by Ms. Smith, to waive the rules to add the sabbatical/medical leave and retirement of Jo Whitmer, principal of Natalbany Elementary School, to Addendum #1. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

It was moved by Ms. Dominguez, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the items contained in the Agenda and Addendum #1 with the indicated changes. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.

It was moved by Ms. Dominguez, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the Superintendent to advertise for the principal positions within the parish.

LEAVES*RESIGNATIONS*RETIREMENTS

LEAVES

Wanda Forrest, Teacher – Vinyard Elementary (emergency medical sabbatical leave – May 22, 2009) March 18, 2009

April Holland, Teacher – O.W. Dillon Elementary (extended sick leave due to maternity using sick days first – May 22, 2009) May 11, 2009

Crystal Morgan, Teacher – Chesbrough Elementary (extended sick leave due to surgery using sick days first – May 22, 2009) April 20, 2009

Chasity Jenkins, Teacher – Ponchatoula Junior High (extended sick leave due to maternity using sick days first – May 22, 2009) April 21, 2009

Jennifer Wheat, Teacher – Vinyard Elementary (extended sick leave due to surgery using sick days first – May 22, 2009) May 7, 2009

Averil Turner, Teacher – West Side Middle (extended sick leave due to surgery using sick days first – May 11, 2009) April 9, 2009

RESIGNATIONS

Steven Chalmers, Teacher – Kentwood High, May 4, 2009

Kevin Billiot, Bus Driver, May 4, 2009

RETIREMENTS

Cynthia Foster, Principal – Ponchatoula High, July 30, 2009

Ava Ballard, Teacher – Chesbrough Elementary, May 23, 2009

Barbara Wax, Bus Driver – Midway Elementary, May 1, 2009
 Terry Burton, Teacher – Midway Elementary, June 3, 2009
 Mary Lavigne, IEP Facilitator – Special Services Center, June 16, 2009
 Brenda Daussat, Teacher – Woodland Park ELC, July 10, 2009
 Celestine Joiner, Teacher – Chesbrough Elementary, June 21, 2009

ADDENDUM #1

LEAVES*RESIGNATIONS*RETIREMENTS

LEAVES

JoAnn Whitmer, Principal – Natalbany Elementary (sabbatical/medical leave – June 30, 2010) August 11, 2009

RETIREMENTS

JoAnn Whitmer, Principal – Natalbany Elementary, July 1, 2010

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUMMER SCHOOL 2009

Rosie Jackson	Principal
Stephanie Cheramie	Math
Beth Brabham	Math – Part-time
Jodi Peco	Social Studies/Resource
Danny Thomasson	Science
Carolyn Waller	English
Ashley McElveen	English
Ralph Garner	Spanish
Bobby Matthews	Technology/Facilitator
Lashanna Pollard	7 th & 8 th Grades – Reading
Kathy Dagro	7 th & 8 th Grades – Math
Lisa Prevost	7 th & 8 th Grades – English/Language Arts

LORANGER DELEGATION – MAY 5, 2009

1. It was moved by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, seconded by Mr. Ridgel, to approve the low quote of \$28,000.00 from Cowart Fence, Co. for Loranger Middle School Fencing Project, to be paid from Pay-As-You-Go Funds. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted.
2. Mr. Genco will place the Loranger High School’s Faculty Workroom on the agenda of the next School Board Meeting.

Ms. Traylor expressed her concerns on the High School 7 Hour Day Pilot Program being at only one (1) school, Hammond High School. She believes the program should be parish wide and if the School System is not prepared to do this

then the program should be delayed until it can be implemented in all high schools, plus she sees more potential problems with the subjectiveness in determining hardship cases. After much discussion, it was moved by Ms. Dominguez, seconded by Ms. Bailey-Simmons, to accept the Curriculum Report of May 12, 2009. A roll call vote was taken resulting in the motion passing. Following is the report as approved:

YEAS (4): Leonard Genco, Danny Ridgel, Sandra Bailey-Simmons and Rose Dominguez
NAYS (3): Al Link, Sonya Traylor, Eric Dangerfield
ABSENT (2): Robert Potts and Ann Smith

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – MAY 12, 2009

1. Chief Academic Officer Melissa Stilley gave an update on the Academic Focus Areas for the 2009-2010 school year. She identified four (4) key areas:
 - College and career-ready standards and high-quality, valid and reliable assessments for all students, including ELLs and students with disabilities
 - Pre-K to high education data systems that meet the principles in the America COMPETES Act
 - Teacher effectiveness and equitable distribution of effective teachers
 - Intensive support and effective interventions for lowest-performing schools
2. It was moved by Mr. Ridgel, seconded by Mr. Genco, to approve the Pilot Program that will increase senior's instruction day to seven hours at Hammond High School. Mr. Link objected. Hearing no further objection, the motion was adopted.

Chief Academic Officer Stilley gave an update on the upcoming Northwood Academy Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) contract.

Chief Academic Officer Melissa Stilley recognized Ms. Kitty Faulkenberry, Talent Art Program teacher, for securing a grant through the Joe W. and Dorothy Doresett Brown Foundation to fund a special talented art project which included eighteen (18) students from Ponchatoula High School, Loranger High School and Hammond High School.

Chief Academic Officer Stilley, President Ridgel and Mr. Danny Williams, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, recognized and presented plaques to the recipients of the 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year awards:

Shannon Houglund	Amite Elementary
Gloria Steptoe	Amite High
Rosa Eleser	Champ Cooper Elementary
Lee Ann Fortenberry	Chesbrough Elementary
Janet Haydel	D.C. Reeves Elementary
Elizabeth Stockfleth	Hammond High
Ella Breakbill	Hammond Junior High
Michelle Cardaronella	Hammond Eastside Primary
Tangerine Hart	Hammond Eastside Upper
Katherine Johnson	Hammond Westside Primary
Yolanda Williams	Hammond Westside Upper
Libby Rick	Independence Elementary
Chasity Lynn Armato Collier	Independence High
Donnis Casanave	Independence Middle
Beth Brabham	Kentwood High
Mia Lewis	Loranger Elementary
Heather Husser	Loranger High
Glenda Husser	Loranger Middle
Jennifer Matheny	Midway Elementary
Casey Harrison	Natalbany Elementary
Stephanie Smith	Nesom Middle
Meranda Phinney	Northwood Academy
Ruby Ricks	Option III - Crystal
Richelle Votaw	O.W. Dillon Elementary
Marisha Carbo	Perrin Early Learning Center
Lisa Prevost	PM School
Jessica Kastner	Ponchatoula High
Sandy Lipscomb	Ponchatoula Junior High
Sharon Walker	Roseland Elementary
Noelle Bordelon	SLU Lab
Candy Ray	Spring Creek Elementary
Paula Splane	Sumner Middle/High
Kristy Rocquin	Tucker Elementary
Jill Foster	Vinyard Elementary
Stephanie Sims	West Side Middle
Valerie M. Prier	Woodland Park ELC

There was no Public Input.

In personal privilege, Mr. Link inquired about the health of Mr. Robert Morgan, Telecommunication Coordinator. Assistant Superintendent Bellavia reported that Mr. Morgan is steadily progressing.

In personal privilege, Mr. Ridgel noted that several employees have lost loved ones within the past few weeks.

In personal privilege, Ms. Dominguez thanked all the teachers who came to the meeting and wished them a good summer.

In personal privilege, Ms. Traylor stated that her son will be a senior in two (2) years and will look forward to a seven hour day at Ponchatoula High School.

It was announced that there was no one from Trinity Insurance present and that Executive Session would be held in open session.

Board Attorney Lewis read the *Plaintiffs' Response To Compliance Officer's Recommendations* which was filed by their attorney, Mr. Nelson Taylor, with the Court on May 18, 2009, which would consolidate Sumner and Kentwood High Schools; Amite, Loranger and Independence High Schools and the Hammond and Ponchatoula High Schools with no educational improvements. Mr. Michael Holley gave a summation of an estimated Cost Opinion of the plaintiffs proposed plan with an approximate cost of \$250,506,267.00 excluding improvement of educational programs and renovations to current facilities.. Attorney Lewis informed the Board that the *Board's Response to Recommendations of Court Compliance Officer and Motion for Leave of Court* were filed with the Court on May 18, 2009.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. (8:11 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Ridgel
Board President

Mark Kolwe, Secretary-Treasurer

Recorded by: Cynthia Jenkins, May 19, 2009