

## TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

February 17, 2004

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, February 17, 2004, at 6:30 p.m., in the School Board Meeting Room, School Board Office, 59656 Puleston Road, Amite, Louisiana, with President Al Link, Presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Caves, Al Link, Carl Bardwell, Leonard Genco, Robert Potts, Jimmy A. Richardson, I, Sandra Bailey-Simmons and Donnie Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Maxine Dixon

Mrs. Sandra Bailey-Simmons, introduced students and faculty from Independence Middle School. Nikki Johnson gave the Invocation and Millard McElwee led the Pledge of Allegiance. Brooke Liuzza sang "God Bless America".

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mrs. Sandra Bailey-Simmons, to approve the Board Minutes of February 3, 2004 as distributed. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

President Link introduced State Representative Robbie Carter and gave him a plaque in recognition of his services to the Tangipahoa Parish School System.

President Link introduced Mr. Frank Neelis. Mr. Neelis discussed the planning for growth in Tangipahoa Parish and invited the Board and members of the public to attend a public forum to be held on February 26, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. at the University Center.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons to support the project for planning and growth in Tangipahoa Parish. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

Mr. Thomas Bellavia, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Darrell Fairburn, Supervisor of Personnel, recognized the Sumner FFA Parliamentary Team for winning first place in the State.

Mr. Bellavia also recognized the Ponchatoula FFA Chapter for achieving the honor of being the "Best in the State".

Assistant Superintendent Bellavia and Mr. Daniel Keen, Vocational Coordinator, introduced Ms. Patricia Johnson, who gave the Board an update on the ProStart Program. She stated that the ProStart Program trains students in the Food Service, Tourism, and Culinary aspects of life and prepares them for jobs in these industries.

Mr. Keen and Mr. Ron Genco, Principal – Independence High School, introduced a member of the Independence High School CNA Class. She explained that the eight-week CNA Program prepares students for careers in the health industry.

Mr. Keen introduced Brandy Potts, a special needs student at Sumner High School. Brandy thanked the Board for making it possible for her to attend the Louisiana Technical College and study business administration.

Mrs. Bailey-Simmons gave the Board a report from the Federal Networking Conference in Washington, D.C. She stated that the conference was very informative and rewarding. There were eight hundred participants, with forty participants from Louisiana.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Bardwell, to send the policy regarding the Hiring of Retirees to the Policy Committee for discussion. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

**TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM - February 17, 2004**

---

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Genco, to send the policy on Student Alcohol and Drug Use to the Policy Committee for further discussion. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the High School Graduation Dates for 2004. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the Finance Committee Report of February 3, 2004. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent. Following is the report as approved.

1. Approved the Accounts Payable Check Register dated 12/18/03 – 1/28/04.
2. The committee heard a presentation from Mr. Lucius McGehee, representative of Argent Financial Group, regarding financial services that can be provided by investment managers.
3. Approved soliciting RFP's to have Tangipahoa Parish School System's funds managed with maximum benefits. The RFP's are to be submitted to the committee for review prior to being mailed out.
4. Approved the extension of the bid with BFI for garbage collection service for 2004-2005.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mrs. Bailey-Simmons, to approve the Personnel Committee Report of February 11, 2004 and Addendum #1. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Richardson, to approve Addendum #2. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent. Following is the report as approved.

1. Support Personnel - New Hire

Donna Crayton, LA-4 Paraprofessional–Midway Elementary, effective February 2, 2004  
Dani Read, Lunchroom Monitor-Champ Cooper Elementary, effective February 3, 2004

2. School Food Service Employees

Jacqueline Jackson, New Hire – 4 hour Hammond High Sub-pool, effective January 21, 2004

Kimberly Accardo, New Hire – 4 hour Hammond High Sub-pool, effective January 21, 2004

Erica Erebia, New Hire – 4 hour Independence Satellite System Sub-pool, effective January 21, 2004

Bertha Smith, Re-hire – 4 hour permanent position Hammond Westside, effective January 26, 2004

JoAnn Thompson, From: 7 hour Food Service Worker – Independence Satellite System, To: 7 hour Midway Elementary, effective February 2, 2004

Reba Tycer, From: 4 hour Food Service Worker – Independence Satellite System, To: 7 hour Food Service Worker – Independence Satellite System, effective February 2, 2004

3. Substitute Teacher List

4. Leaves, Resignations, Retirements

Rescind Leave:

Melvin Holmes – Bus Driver 18-I – return to work on January 26, 2004

**TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM - February 17, 2004**

---

Leaves

Kristin Latham, Teacher – Chesbrough Elementary (Extended Sick Leave using sick days first due to Maternity – April 23, 2004), effective March 12, 2004

Cheryl Rae, Teacher – Hammond Westside Primary (Extended sick leave using sick leave first due to family illness – May, 2004), effective January 28, 2004

Laura Dalton, Teacher – Champ Cooper Elementary (Extended Sick Leave due to illness using sick days first – May, 2004), effective January 23, 2004

Judith Fournier, Teacher – Vinyard Elementary (Extended Sick Leave due to illness using sick days first – undetermined), effective January 23, 2004

Stephanie Rivet, Teacher – Hammond Westside Primary (Extended Sick Leave due to illness using sick days first – March 8, 2004), effective February 9, 2004

Patricia Milton, Teacher – Spring Creek Elementary (Extended Sick Leave due to maternity using sick days first – May 31, 2004), effective May 3, 2004

ADDENDUM #1

1. Teacher – New Hire

Demetria Jackson, Kindergarten Teacher – Roseland Elementary, effective February 5, 2004, Substitute

Marylee Allen, Special Education Teacher – Independence Middle, effective February 2, 2004, Substitute

Holly Duncan, Special Education Teacher – Loranger Middle, effective February 17, 2004, Substitute

2. Teacher - Reclassification

Stephanie Evans, From: Teacher – Hammond Westside Primary, To: Reading First Leader – Hammond Westside Primary, effective February 18, 2004, Substitute

Gina LaFauci, From: Title VI Teacher – Hammond Westside Primary, To: Reading First Leader – Hammond Westside Primary, effective February 18, 2004, Substitute

Paula Bryant, From: Kindergarten Teacher – Woodland Park Early Learning Center, To: Reading First Leader – Woodland Park Early Center, effective February 18, 2004, Substitute

Michelle Colwart, From: Kindergarten Teacher - Woodland Park Early Learning Center, To: Reading First Leader – Woodland Park Early Center, effective February 18, 2004, Substitute

Barbara Smith, From: Teacher – Hammond Eastside Primary, To: Reading First Leader – Hammond Eastside Primary, effective February 18, 2004, Substitute

Gail Gerike, From: Teacher – Hammond Eastside Primary, To: Reading First Leader – Hammond Eastside Primary, effective February 18, 2004, Substitute

3. Teacher – Transfer/Reclassification

Linda Baker, From: Teacher – Hammond Eastside Primary, To: Reading First District Coordinator – (12 month) Central Office, effective February 18, 2004

4. Support Personnel – New Hire

Susan Davis, Reading First Paraprofessional – Hammond Westside Primary, effective February 18, 2004

5. Support Personnel - Reclassification

Sharon Weary, From: Special Education Paraprofessional – Hammond Jr. High, To: Title I Computer Lab Paraprofessional – Hammond Jr. High, effective February 2, 2004

**TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM - February 17, 2004**

---

Shelly Walker, From: Special Education Paraprofessional (5 ½ hours) – D. C. Reeves,  
To: Special Education Paraprofessional (7 hours) D. C. Reeves, effective February 5,  
2004

6. Item for Discussion – Account Clerk for Reading First Program

7. School Food Service

Carolyn Addison, From: 4 hour Sub-pool Hammond High, To: 7 hour Food Service  
Worker – Hammond Westside Elementary, effective February 9, 2004

Kimberly Accardo, From: 4 hour Sub-pool Hammond High, To: 7 hour Food Service  
Worker – Hammond Westside Elementary, effective February 9, 2004

Amilia Arnoe, New Hire – 4 hour Sub-pool Hammond High, effective February 6, 2004

Windy Hanna, From: 7 hour Food Service Worker – Hammond Westside Elementary,  
To: 7 hour Billing Clerk – Hammond Westside Elementary, effective February 9, 2004

8. Leaves, Resignations, Retirements

Rescind Extended Sick Leave:

Siltanise Montgomery

Sabbatical Leave:

Siltanise Montgomery, Teacher – Hammond Jr. High, Medical - February 11, 2004 –  
May 27, 2004

Leaves:

Laura Brown, Teacher – Independence Elementary (Extended Sick Leave due to  
maternity using sick days first – May 27, 2004) effective March 12, 2004

Elouise Doty, Bus Driver – Ponchatoula (Extended Sick Leave due to illness using sick  
days first – undetermined) effective November 3, 2003

Ora Smith, Speech Therapist – Hammond Eastside Primary (Extended Sick Leave due to  
maternity using sick days first – March 29, 2004) effective January 31, 2004

Mary Dawson, Food Service Worker – Hammond Jr. High (Straight Leave due to illness  
using sick days first) effective February 2, 2004

Arthur Barrilleaux, Teacher – Hammond High (Extended Sick Leave due to surgery  
using sick days first – to be determined) effective February 9, 2004

Resignations

Rebecca Alford, Teacher – Loranger Middle, effective February 16, 2004

Darla Easley, Bus Driver, effective February 8, 2004

Charlotte Henry, Teacher – Woodland Park Early Learning Center, effective February 13,  
2004

Retirements

Joseph Morales, Bus Driver – Nesom Elementary, effective May 28, 2004

Linda Husser, Food Service Technician, effective May 28, 2004

ADDENDUM #2:

1. Teacher – New Hire

Tara Dugus, Teacher, Hammond Westside Primary, effective February 18, 2004

Melissa Riche`, Teacher – Hammond Eastside Primary, effective February 18, 2004

**TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM - February 17, 2004**

---

Carolyn Schwebel, Teacher – Hammond Eastside Primary, effective February 18, 2004  
 Jennifer Falcon, Teacher – Hammond Eastside Primary, effective February 18, 2004  
 Leda Zieske, Title IV Teacher, Hammond Westside Primary, effective February 18, 2004

2. Support Personnel – New Hire

Dorothy Williams, Special Education Aide – Hammond Westside Primary, effective February 9, 2004  
 Elizabeth Vita, Reading First Paraprofessional – Hammond Westside Primary, effective February 18, 2004

3. Termination – Support Personnel

John Trapen – Custodian – Natalbany Elementary, effective October 24, 2003

4. Leaves, Resignations, Retirements

Rescind Extended Sick Leave

Cheryl Rae, Teacher – Hammond Westside Primary, effective February 9, 2004

Leaves

Shannon Cusimano, Teacher – Independence Elementary (Extended Sick Leave due to maternity using sick days first – May 27, 2004) effective February 25, 2004

Resignations

Felicia Harmon, Teacher – Roseland Elementary, effective February 2, 2004

Retirements

Beverly Jones, Teacher – Amite Elementary, effective June 2, 2004

It was moved by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Genco, to approve the Amite Board Delegation Report of February 9, 2004. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent. Following is the report as approved.

1. Reelected Mr. Richardson as chairman for 2004.
2. On the Amite High School Baseball Field Lighting Project, Architect Michael Holly reported that Entergy needs more signatures to complete the right-of-way in order to relocate the existing power line. This will enable the contractor to place the baseball field poles to provide a proper lighting spread.
3. Architect Michael Holly reported that the contractor has not finished the punch list items on the Amite High School Auditorium Project. He suggested that the attorney write a letter to the contractor and give him a timeframe of ten (10) days to respond as to how he intends to finish the job.
4. Approved one (1) computer for Amite Elementary Library at a cost of \$984.28, from Pay-As-You-Go Funds.
5. Approved furniture and miscellaneous items for Amite High School in the amount of \$88,402.00, from Pay-As-You-Go Funds.

It was moved by Mr. Genco, seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve the Independence Board Delegation Report of February 3, 2004. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent. Following is the report as approved.

1. Elected Leonard Genco, Chairman for 2004.

**TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM - February 17, 2004**

---

2. Approved Change Order #2, Improvements to the Independence High School Project, in the amount of \$5,577.00.
3. Approved the Substantial Completion of the Independence High School Project.
4. Authorized the attorney to proceed to present an offer to purchase the land for Natalbany Elementary School at the appraised value of \$45,000.00.

It was moved by Mr. Bardwell, seconded by Mr. Caves, to approve the Ponchatoula Board Delegation Report of February 3, 2004. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent. Following is the report as approved.

1. Reelected Mr. Bardwell as Chairman for the year 2004.
2. Approved the request of Perrin Early Learning Center for two (2) administrative computers from Pay-As-You-Go Funds, in the amount of \$1,965.56.
3. Approved the request of Ponchatoula Jr. High School for reimbursement from Pay-As-You-Go Funds for the purchase of miscellaneous technology furniture and equipment, in the amount of \$2,164.91.
4. Authorized Architect Michael Holley to seek bids for a toilet facility addition at Perrin Early Learning Center.
5. Authorized the staff to obtain quotes on clearing the property adjacent to Tucker Elementary School.
6. Authorized Architect Michael Holley to prepare a feasibility study of the site for a Ponchatoula High School Classroom Addition and Multipurpose Facility that would enhance the present buildings while meeting the growth requirements of the school.
7. Authorized the staff to repair damage to electrical wiring and computer cabling at Ponchatoula Jr. High, to be paid from Maintenance Funds.
8. Authorized the staff to prepare a cost estimate for a handicap accessible drop off for students at Perrin Early Learning Center.
9. Discussed problems with the new roof at Tucker Elementary. The staff was instructed to follow up to make sure the problems are solved.
10. Discussed driveway at Vinyard Elementary School. No action was taken.
11. The request from Ponchatoula Schools to purchase JPAMS Grade Book Software for grade reporting was referred to Mr. Kolwe.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Bardwell, to approve the substantial completion of renovations to the Hammond Eastside Elementary Complex. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

Mr. Kolwe gave the Board an update on the proposed 2004-2005 Employer Contributions for Retirement and Health insurance and the impact this will have on the budget. The Board requested a report on the Sales Tax Revenue.

Mr. Bardwell spoke in personal privilege regarding Hammond High School's production of Schoolhouse Rock. He encouraged everyone to see this excellent production.

There were no requests for public input.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Genco, to enter Executive Session to discuss the cases of Doe, John, etal v TPSB and Diane Bellazer v TPSB. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

The Board entered Executive Session.

The Board returned to Open Session.

It was moved by Mr. Caves, seconded by Mr. Potts, to authorize the attorney to move forward with negotiations regarding the case of Diane Bellazer v TPSB. Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

**TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM - February 17, 2004**

---

It was moved by Mr. Potts, seconded by Mr. Genco, to adjourn (7:58 p.m. ). Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted, with Ms. Dixon absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Link, President

Louis L. Joseph, Secretary-Treasurer

Recorded By: Jo-Ann L. Frazier (2/17/04)