

**TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
201 STADIUM DRIVE
HOUMA, LOUISIANA 70360**

School Board Meeting – January 17, 2012

Order of Business

7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Citizen Concern
 - A. Gene Toups (A+PEL Chapter President) – Introduction of Terrebonne Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana Officers and Acknowledgement of Terrebonne Parish School Volunteer of the Year, Ms. Andrea Messina, Schriever Elementary School
6. Superintendent's Agenda
 - A. Agenda Items
 - (1) Request Board Approval to send Notice of Termination to Ms. Chiffon Randolph
 - (2) Request Board Approval to send Notice of Termination to Ms. Natasha Crappel
 - (3) Approval of Resolution Recognizing February 2012 as African American History Month

(4) Personnel Section

(a) Personnel Actions for Period of December 15, 2011, through January 11, 2012

(5) Matter Pertaining to Adoption of Resolution Regarding Employment of Special Counsel, in Accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 42:263, as it Relates to the case of "Gwendolyn D. Williams v. Terrebonne Parish Schools," Case No. 11cv4294 of the United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois

7. Individual Board Member

A. Mr. L. P. Bordelon, III - Consideration of Approval of Appointments to Executive Committee

B. Mr. L. P. Bordelon, III – Announcement of Standing Committee Appointments

C. Mr. L. P. Bordelon, III – Reschedule School Board Meeting of February 21, 2012, to February 14, 2012 (Due to Mardi Gras Holidays), and Reschedule Agenda Deadline from Noon Wednesday, February 15, 2012, to Noon Wednesday, February 8, 2012

8. Announcements

1/23

5:00 Buildings, Food Service, & Transportation Committee

1/30

5:00 Finance, Insurance, & Section 16 Lands Committee

2/6

5:00 Education & Policy Committee

2/7

7:00 Regular School Board Meeting

9. Adjournment

AGENDA ITEMS

(1) REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO SEND NOTICE OF TERMINATION TO MS. CHIFFON RANDOLPH

On December 21, 2011, the Board voted to uphold the recommendation of Superintendent Philip Martin and dismiss Ms. Chiffon Randolph, tenured bus operator in the Terrebonne Parish School System, effective at the beginning of the day on Thursday, December 22, 2011, on the grounds of willful neglect of duty and incompetence. According to La. R.S. 17:493, a termination notice, approved by the Board, must be forwarded to the employee.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve a request to authorize Superintendent Philip Martin to send Ms. Chiffon Randolph a Notice of Termination according to the provisions of La. R.S. 17:493.

(2) REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO SEND NOTICE OF TERMINATION TO MS. NATASHA CRAPPEL

On December 21, 2011, the Board voted to uphold the recommendation of Superintendent Philip Martin and dismiss Ms. Natasha Crappel, tenured bus operator in the Terrebonne Parish School System, effective at the beginning of the day on Thursday, December 22, 2011, on the grounds of willful neglect of duty and incompetence. According to La. R.S. 17:493, a termination notice, approved by the Board, must be forwarded to the employee.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve a request to authorize

Superintendent Philip Martin to send Ms. Natasha Crappel a Notice of Termination according to the provisions of La. R.S. 17:493.

(3) APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2012 AS AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve the following resolution recognizing February 2012 as African American History Month in Terrebonne Parish Schools:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The month of February is traditionally observed as African American History Month; and

WHEREAS, The observance of a special period to recognize achievements and contributions by African Americans dates back to February 1926; and

WHEREAS, The observance period is ultimately the recognition of America's struggle to become a more perfect union; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Terrebonne Parish School Board recognizes February 2012 as African American History Month in the Terrebonne Parish Public Schools and encourages administrators, teachers, and students to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs that raise awareness and appreciation of African American History; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to all Terrebonne Parish Public Schools and office buildings.

(4) PERSONNEL SECTION

(a) Personnel Actions for Period of December 15, 2011, through January 11, 2012

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board ratify, as presented, the list of

professional instructional and non-instructional/support personnel actions (contract renewals, appointments, retirements, and resignations) for the period of December 15, 2011, through January 11, 2012.

(5) MATTER PERTAINING TO ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION REGARDING EMPLOYMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTE 42:263, AS IT RELATES TO THE CASE OF “GWENDOLYN D. WILLIAMS V. TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOLS,” CASE NO. 11CV4294 OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board adopt the following resolution relative to engaging Mr. Ryan A. Haas with the law firm of Chuhak & Tecson of Chicago, Illinois to represent the Terrebonne Parish School Board in the case of “Gwendolyn D. Williams v. Terrebonne Parish Schools” Case No. 11cv4294 of the United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois; authorize the Superintendent to request permission from the Louisiana Attorney General to engage the respective law firm in Chicago, Illinois to represent the Terrebonne Parish School Board in this litigation; further authorize the Board President to sign the engagement agreement with Chuhak & Tecson relative to Case No. 11cv4294, subject to Board Attorney review:

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 42:263 authorizes the retention of special counsel by any school board upon a statement of reasons why such counsel is necessary and upon approval by the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Terrebonne Parish School Board has been sued as a defendant in that matter entitled “GWENDOLYN D. WILLIAMS v. TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOLS,” Case No. 11cv4294 of the United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, in a complaint for employment discrimination; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this litigation, the Terrebonne Parish School

Board finds there exists a real necessity to retain the services of special counsel to represent the Terrebonne Parish School Board in the defense of this litigation; and

WHEREAS, since this litigation involves employment law it is necessary to engage the services of an attorney with expertise in employment law; and

WHEREAS, the Terrebonne Parish School Board has contacted Ryan A. Haas of the law firm of Chuhak & Tecson of Chicago, Illinois who has expertise in employment law and has agreed to represent the Terrebonne Parish School Board in this litigation; and

WHEREAS, the Terrebonne Parish School Board will compensate said law firm for professional services at the rate of \$240.00 per hour and will reimburse said law firm for court costs and reasonable expenses incurred in the defense of this litigation upon presentation of itemized statements showing in detail the amount of legal services performed and expenses incurred;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Terrebonne Parish School Board engage the services of the law firm of Chuhak and Tecson of Chicago, Illinois to represent it in the defense of that lawsuit entitled "GWENDOLYN D. WILLIAMS v. TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOLS," Case No. 11cv4294 of the United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, upon the fee arrangement outlined herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be subject to the approval of James D. "Buddy" Caldwell, Attorney General of the State of Louisiana, that the Superintendent is hereby directed to forward this resolution to the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana for his approval, and upon his approval this resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of the Terrebonne Parish School Board and published in the official journal of the Terrebonne Parish School Board.

The vote, in open meeting, on the resolution was as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

RLB