

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

November 1, 2022

The Terrebonne Parish School Board met today at 6:00 P.M. in regular session at its regular meeting place, the Terrebonne Parish School Board Office, 201 Stadium Drive, Houma, Louisiana, with Mr. Gregory Harding, President, presiding, and the following members present: Dr. MayBelle N. Trahan, Vice President; Mr. Michael T. LaGarde, Mr. Matthew J. Ford, Mrs. Debi Benoit, Mrs. Stacy V. Solet, Mr. Clyde F. Hamner, and Mr. Dane Voisin.

ABSENT: Mr. Roger Dale DeHart

Mr. Ford led the Board and audience in the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of the following individuals who recently passed away: Laura Punch, retired school bus operator; Richard F. Mills, retired school teacher; Rhonda D. Luke, retired school teacher, and Rosa Charles, retired school teacher.

Several announcements were made by President Harding relative to upcoming meetings.

Ms. Cherie Roger, 4-H Development/Parish Chair, addressed the Board and gave a 4-H update.

The following report of the Executive Committee meeting was presented to the Board with Dr. Trahan, Vice President, presiding:

Dear Members of the Board

The **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** met at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, in the Board Room of the School Board Office with the following members present: Mr. Gregory Harding, President, and Dr. MayBelle Trahan, Vice President. Mr. Michael LaGarde was absent. Also in attendance were Mr. Clyde Hamner, Mrs. Debi Benoit, Mr. Matthew Ford, Mr. Roger Dale DeHart, Mrs. Stacy Solet, Mr. Dane Voisin, Superintendent Bubba Orgeron, and members of the staff.

Vice President Trahan called the meeting to order.

**The Executive Committee** examined and authorized payment of invoices for the current month (including supplemental payroll and travel expenses).

There were no Committee member concerns.

There being no further business to come before the **Executive Committee**, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Gregory Harding, President

---

MayBelle Trahan, Ed.D., Vice President

RB/bp

Motion of Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. LaGarde, unanimously carried, the Board accepted, as presented, the foregoing Executive Committee report in its entirety.

The Executive Committee report was concluded, and President Harding reassumed the Chair.

The following report of the Buildings, Food Service, and Transportation Committee meeting was presented to the Board with Mr. Voisin, Chairman, presiding:

Dear Members of the Board:

The **BUILDINGS, FOOD SERVICE, AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** met immediately following the 5:00 P.M. Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, in the Board Room of the School Board Office with the following members present: Mr. Dane Voisin, Chairman, Mr. Roger Dale DeHart, Vice Chairman, and Mr. Gregory Harding. Also in attendance were Mr. Matthew Ford, Mrs. Stacy Solet, Dr. MayBelle Trahan, Mr. Clyde Hamner, Mrs. Debi Benoit, Superintendent Bubba Orgeron, and members of the staff.

Chairman Voisin called the meeting to order.

Superintendent Orgeron addressed the Committee relative to presenting potential hurricane recovery options for Grand Caillou Elementary School at the November 15, 2022, Buildings, Food Service, and Transportation Committee meeting.

Agenda Item #3 - Matter bearing upon a potential plan for Oaklawn Middle School was deferred to be discussed at the Buildings, Food Service, and Transportation Committee meeting on November 15, 2022.

Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Voisin, with objection by Mr. DeHart, offered the following motion:

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1**

**The Committee recommends** that the Board accept and approve the opinion of the Board attorney to deny the request for a possible Right-of-Way at Mulberry Elementary School by BK Enterprises of the South, LLC.

Mr. Michael LaGarde entered the meeting at this time.

Mrs. Alli Dugas, Purchasing Agent, addressed the Committee on consideration of approval for acceptance of Request for Qualifications for Mechanical Engineering Services for the District-Wide HVAC Replacement/Upgrade Project.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 2**

**The Committee recommends** that the Board accept and approve the proposal, meeting all specifications, for Mechanical Engineering Services, establishing a pool of Engineers to include the Engineering firms listed below, for the District-Wide HVAC Replacement/Upgrade Project to be funded through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act-CRRSA (ESSER III), and further, authorize the Board President to sign all necessary documents pertaining thereto:

**Thompson Luke & Associates, LLC  
10705 Rieger Road, Suite 101  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809**

**Castagnos Goodwin Utley Engineers, LLC  
1211 Lafayette Street  
Houma, LA 70360**

**Salos O'Brien  
1582 Magazine Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130**

**Ritter Consulting Engineers  
2014 W. Pinhook Road, Suite 200**

**Lafayette, LA 70508**

**YKH Consulting  
417 Armitage Drive  
Thibodaux, LA 70301**

**Infinity Engineering Consultants, LLC  
4001 Division Street  
Metairie, LA 70002**

**Pivotal Engineering  
1515 Poydras Street, Suite 1875  
New Orleans, LA 70112**

Mrs. Dugas addressed the Committee on consideration of approval for acceptance of Request for Proposals for Environmental Consulting Services.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 3**

**The Committee recommends** that the Board accept and approve the proposal meeting all specifications, for Environmental Consulting Services, from Ritter Consulting Engineers, 2014 W. Pinhook Road, Suite 200, Lafayette, LA 70508, for a period of three years, from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2025, with the option to renew the contract in one-year increments under the same terms and conditions, and further, authorize the Board President to sign all necessary documents pertaining thereto.

Mr. DeHart left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Curtis Lee, Project Manager, Hammerman & Gainer, addressed the Committee on consideration of approval for building repairs at the School for Exceptional Children.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 4**

**The Committee recommends** that the Board approve and issue a "NOTICE TO PROCEED" (as per contractual agreement) to Cheramie + Bruce Architects, APC, for plans and specifications for building repairs at the School for Exceptional Children, funds to be derived from FEMA reimbursement funds, authorize the advertising of bids, direct that any major project changes be reported to the Buildings, Food Service, and Transportation Committee prior to advertising for bids, and further, authorize the Board President to sign all necessary documents pertaining thereto.

Mr. Marco Gonzalez, representing Volkert, Inc., addressed the Committee regarding update of Hurricane Ida response.

Mr. Lee addressed the Committee regarding update of Hurricane Ida response.

Mr. Sammy Poiencot, Supervisor of Plant Operations, addressed the Committee regarding maintenance updates (attached).

There being no further business to come before the **Buildings, Food Service, and Transportation Committee**, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dane Voisin, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger Dale DeHart, Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory Harding

SP/sn

Motion of Mr. Hamner, seconded by Mr. Ford, unanimously carried, the Board accepted and approved the opinion of the Board attorney to deny the request for a possible Right-of-Way at Mulberry Elementary School by BK Enterprises of the South, LLC.

Motion of Mr. Hamner, seconded by Mrs. Solet, unanimously carried, the Board accepted and approved the proposal, meeting all specifications, for Mechanical Engineering Services, establishing a pool of Engineers to include the Engineering firms listed below, for the District-Wide HVAC Replacement/Upgrade Project to be funded through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act-CRRSA (ESSER III), and further, authorized the Board President to sign all necessary documents pertaining thereto:

**Thompson Luke & Associates, LLC**  
**10705 Rieger Road, Suite 101**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70809**

**Castagnos Goodwin Utley Engineers, LLC**  
**1211 Lafayette Street**  
**Houma, LA 70360**

**Salos O'Brien**  
**1582 Magazine Street**  
**New Orleans, LA 70130**

**Ritter Consulting Engineers**  
**2014 W. Pinhook Road, Suite 200**  
**Lafayette, LA 70508**

**YKH Consulting**  
**417 Armitage Drive**  
**Thibodaux, LA 70301**

**Infinity Engineering Consultants, LLC**  
**4001 Division Street**  
**Metairie, LA 70002**

**Pivotal Engineering**  
**1515 Poydras Street, Suite 1875**  
**New Orleans, LA 70112**

Motion of Mr. Hamner, seconded by Mr. Harding, unanimously carried, the Board accepted and approved the proposal meeting all specifications, for Environmental Consulting Services, from Ritter Consulting Engineers, 2014 W. Pinhook Road, Suite 200, Lafayette, LA 70508, for a period of three years, from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2025, with the option to renew the contract in one-year increments under the same terms and conditions, and further, authorized the Board President to sign all necessary documents pertaining thereto.

Motion of Dr. Trahan, seconded by Mrs. Benoit, unanimously carried, the Board approved and issued a "NOTICE TO PROCEED" (as per contractual agreement) to Cheramie + Bruce Architects, APC, for plans and specifications for building repairs at the School for Exceptional Children, funds to be derived from FEMA reimbursement funds, authorized the advertising of bids, directed that any major project changes be reported to the Buildings, Food Service, and Transportation Committee prior to advertising for bids, and further, authorized the Board President to sign all necessary documents pertaining thereto.

The report of the Buildings, Food Service, and Transportation Committee meeting was concluded, and President Harding reassumed the Chair and presided for the remainder of the proceedings.

Superintendent Bubba Orgeron presented the following information as it relates to "American Education Week:"

American Education Week will be observed on November 14-18, 2022, in Terrebonne Parish Schools. This special week focuses attention on the importance of education and all that it stands for. Annually, the week preceding the week of Thanksgiving is proclaimed American Education Week.

Educational Support Personnel Day will be observed in Terrebonne Parish schools on November 16, 2022. Annually, the Wednesday in American Education Week is designated as a special day to honor the many contributions of school support employees.

Motion of Mr. Voisin, seconded by Mr. Hamner, unanimously carried, the Board approved and accepted the lowest bid received, meeting all specifications, for roof repairs and replacement, in response to Hurricane Ida, at Houma Jr. High School from Morcore Roofing, LLC, 8325 Highway 90, Roanoke, LA 70581, in the amount of \$635,000.00, and further, authorized the Board president to sign all necessary documents pertaining thereto.

Motion of Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Hamner, unanimously carried, the Board approved and accepted the lowest bid received, meeting all specifications, for permanent repairs, in response to Hurricane Ida, at Grand Caillou Middle and Southdown Elementary Schools from TASCH, LLC, 4321 River Road, Bridge City, LA 70094, in the amount of \$722,400.00, and further, authorized the Board president to sign all necessary documents pertaining thereto.

Motion of Mr. Hamner, seconded by Mr. Ford, unanimously carried, the Board approved the following resolution expressing support for the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents (LASS) proposal to reimagine the Louisiana public school accountability system and urge LA Department of Education State Superintendent Dr. Cade Brumley, and the Board of Secondary and Elementary Education (BESE) to adopt their proposal instead of the current proposal presented by the BESE Accountability Working Group in August 2022, and otherwise to provide with respect thereto:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 1944**

**WHEREAS** last year the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education began conducting an Accountability Working Group to propose changes to the public education accountability system;

**WHEREAS** those meetings sought and accepted very little input from public education stakeholders such as teachers, superintendents and school boards, but rather focused primarily on the input from the LA Department of Education (LDOE) and a few self-proclaimed education reform organizations, some led by former LDOE staff from the Superintendent John White administration;

**WHEREAS** the publicly stated goal of the Accountability Working Group was to lower the number of high schools earning letter grades of A or B under the current system that has, in its core principles, been in place since the John White administration;

**WHEREAS** the LDOE and the self-proclaimed "reformers" used the mantra that Louisiana high schools and school boards were "gaming the system" to inflate high school letter grades;

**WHEREAS** the evidence they cited was: 1. The proportion of A & B high schools was higher than the proportion of A & B elementary schools, and those proportions should be the same; and 2. TOPS bound high school students were also taking career and technical classes and the WorkKeys exam and those students should not be given that choice.

**WHEREAS** the result was a proposal that reverse engineered the high school accountability formula to deny points for high school students merely being proficient in high school content and graduating on time;

**WHEREAS** the reverse engineered formula was then overly weighted on high school students doing post-secondary (high school) work as the only way for a high school to earn an A;

**WHEREAS** the reversed engineered formula would result in only a hand-full of select academic admissions high schools earning an A;

**WHEREAS** when BESE undertook the new formula at its August meeting it faced significant push back that the proposal was bad for students, parents, teachers, and communities;

**WHEREAS** in response to the opposition, and despite the chiding of the self-proclaimed "reformers" BESE urged the LDOE to go back and seek more input from educators;

**WHEREAS** the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents (LASS), with the assistance of the Louisiana School Boards Association (LSBA), created a proposal to reimagine and completely rework the defective accountability system, not just for High School but also for Elementary and Middle School;

**WHEREAS** the LASS Accountability proposal focuses on student proficiency of grade level content;

**WHEREAS** the LASS Accountability proposal uses a pre- and post-test model similar to that being successfully used in Florida, where in students are tested in the beginning of the year and then at the end of the year to evidence how far that individual student grew toward proficiency of that grade level content;

**WHEREAS** the LASS Accountability proposal aligns TOPS, WorkKeys and, for the first time ever, ASVAB, the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, so that whether High School graduates move on to college or a skilled trade or the military, they will all be considered successful.

**WHEREAS** the LASS Accountability proposal uses a simple 100 point grading scale, familiar to students, parents, and the general public instead of the arbitrary 200, 150 and newly proposed 125 point scales that have been the hallmark of the past and current accountability system;

**WHEREAS** the LASS Accountability proposal also limits testing to that mandated by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), noting that Louisiana over-tests our students;

**WHEREAS** the LASS Accountability proposal also recognizes successes that are ignored in the current and BESE proposed system: Special Education students learning the basic life and commercial skills that will allow them to enter the workplace, students who continue to strive and earn their high school diploma beyond the expected 4-year window;

**WHEREAS** the LASS Accountability proposal has resisted running simulations to see what the letter grade distribution would be, as the system was designed to focus on student achievement and not to reverse engineer a result.

**THEREFORE**, the Terrebonne Parish School Board does hereby endorse and express its support for the LASS Accountability proposal;

**FURTHER**, the Terrebonne Parish School Board urges the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to set the discussion and consideration of the LASS Accountability proposal on the October agenda of the BESE Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee and the full BESE meeting set for October 10, and 11, 2022, respectively.

**FURTHER**, the Terrebonne Parish School Board urges the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and specifically BESE Member Ms. Sandy Holloway, to support the adoption of the LASS Accountability proposal and take such actions as are necessary to move toward implementation of the proposal.

**FINALLY**, the Terrebonne Parish School Board directs the Superintendent of the Terrebonne Parish School System to deliver a certified copy of this Resolution to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, each elected and appointed member thereof, Superintendent Cade Brumley, Governor John Bel Edwards, Senator Cleo Fields, Representative Lance Harris, and each member of the Legislative delegation of Terrebonne Parish.

Motion of Mr. Voisin, seconded by Mr. Hamner, unanimously carried, the Board approved a family and medical leave in accordance with Policy (FILE: F-11.4a) for Clarice J. Marts, Special Education Paraprofessional at Oakshire

Elementary School, beginning October 21, 2022, through February 6, 2023 (medical).

Motion of Dr. Trahan, seconded by Mr. Voisin, unanimously carried, the Board approved a family and medical leave in accordance with Policy (FILE: F-11.4a) for Jean E. Caillouet, Custodian II at South Terrebonne High School, beginning November 8, 2022, through February 15, 2023 (medical).

Motion of Mrs. Benoit, seconded by Mr. Hamner, unanimously carried, the Board approved a family and medical leave in accordance with Policy (FILE: F-11.4a) for Charlotte Parr, Special Education Paraprofessional at Houma Jr. High School, beginning November 29, 2022, through March 14, 2023 (medical).

Motion of Dr. Trahan, seconded by Mrs. Benoit, unanimously carried, the Board approved a leave of absence without pay in accordance with Policy (FILE: F-11.10) for Jharo S. Matthews, School Bus Operator in the Transportation Department, beginning September 20, 2022, through August 7, 2023 (personal).

At this time, Superintendent Orgeron presented the following personnel actions for the period of September 23, 2022, through October 21, 2022 [list of professional instructional and non-instructional/support personnel (appointments, resignations, and retirements – Information Only)]:

#### **New Employees - Professional Instructional Personnel**

BERGERON, ADRIA, ELEM COUNSELOR, Certified, GIBSON ELEMENTARY - 09/29/22

HOLMES, TIA, ELEM 1-8 TEACHER, Certified, MULBERRY ELEMENTARY - 09/28/22

MCCORKEL, MELANIE, ASST PRIN HIGH SCH, Certified, H L BOURGEOIS HIGH - 10/13/22

PROSPERIE, ZACHARY, SECONDARY TEACHER, Degreed/Non-Certified, SOUTH TERREBONNE HIGH - 10/10/22

SMITH, CRAIG, M/M RESOURCE/SC TCHR, Certified, BROADMOOR ELEMENTARY - 10/12/22

#### **New Employees - Non-Instructional Personnel**

AUSTIN, CONNIE, SPECIAL ED PARA, SCHOOL FOR EXCEPT CHILDREN - 10/03/22

BERGERON, JOYCELYN, SECRETARY II - MAIN RECEPTIONIST, CENTRAL OFFICE - 09/26/22

DEFELICE, KORI, SPECIAL ED PARA, HONDURAS ELEMENTARY - 10/03/22

POINDEXTER, BEVERLY, CUSTODIAN III-A 12M, BROADMOOR ELEMENTARY - 09/27/22

PRESTENBACH, EVA, SPECIAL ED PARA, COTEAU-BAYOU BLUE ELEMENTARY - 10/04/22

SAULSBERRY, NICOLE, BUS DRIVER REG ED, TRANSPORTATION - 10/03/22

#### **Resignations - Professional Instructional Personnel**

BILLIOT, KIMBERLY, SECONDARY TEACHER, Degreed/Non-Certified, ELLENDER MEMORIAL – HIGH, Resigned, 10/13/22

BUQUET, LEKAJA, SPEECH THERAPIST, Certified, SCHOOL FOR EXCEPT CHILDREN – Resigned, 10/13/22

CAPLIS, JENNIE, ELEM 1-8 TEACHER, Degreed/Non-Certified, OAKSHIRE ELEMENTARY – Resigned, 09/28/22

EDMONDS, MELANIE, PRIN ELEM 351-600 (INTERIM 210 DAYS), Certified, HONDURAS ELEMENTARY – Resigned, 10/03/22

RIVAULT, KATIE, M/M INCLUSION TCHR, Certified, SCHRIEVER ELEMENTARY – Resigned, 10/13/22

**Resignations - Non-Instructional Personnel**

CHAUVIN, TRICIA, SCH SECRETARY I 195D, SCHOOL FOR EXCEPT CHILDREN – Resigned, 9/26/22

HEBERT, LISA, HEALTH NURSE GEN SCH, HONDURAS ELEMENTARY – Resigned, 10/12/22

JACKSON, YVONNE, DISPATCHER-FLEET OP, TRANSPORTATION – Resigned, 10/24/22

ROBERTSON, MISTER, GEN MAINT TECH II, MAINTENANCE – Terminated, 09/27/22

**Retirements - Professional Instructional Personnel**

NAVY, JOHN, SECONDARY COUNSELOR, 13.26 YEARS, ELLENDER MEMORIAL HIGH - Service Retirement, 09/30/22

PICOU, CYNTHIA, M/M RESOURCE/SC TCHR, 18.41 YEARS, LACACHE MIDDLE - Service Retirement, 09/30/22

**Retirements - Non-Instructional Personnel**

FORET, DRUCILLA, COMP PROG/ANALYST, 32.53 YEARS, CHILD NUTRITION - Service Retirement, 10/17/22

Motion of Mr. Ford, seconded by Mrs. Benoit, unanimously carried, the Board rescheduled the January 3, 2023, School Board Meeting to January 10, 2023 (due to Christmas Holidays) with the agenda deadline for the School Board Meeting of January 10, 2023, to be noon Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

Motion of Mr. Hamner, seconded by Mrs. Benoit, unanimously carried, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting **(6:40 P.M.)**.

/s/ Bubba Orgeron, Secretary

/s/ Gregory Harding, President

RLB