

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

January 17, 2012

The Terrebonne Parish School Board met today at 7:00 P.M. in regular session at its regular meeting place, the Terrebonne Parish School Board Office, 201 Stadium Drive, Houma, Louisiana, with Mr. L. P. Bordelon, III, President, presiding, and the following members present: Mr. Roger Dale DeHart, Vice-President; Mr. Gregory Harding, Mr. Richard Jackson, Ms. Debi Benoit, Ms. Brenda Leroux Babin, Mr. Donald Duplantis, and Mr. Hayes J. Badeaux.

ABSENT: Mr. Roosevelt Thomas

Mr. Duplantis led the Board and audience in the opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Rheta Ledet, retired school teacher, and Mable Williams, retired paraprofessional, who recently passed away.

At this time, the Board recognized Ms. Beryl Amedee, Terrebonne Parish Councilwoman – District 4, who was in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Gene Toups (A+PEL Chapter President) addressed the Board and announced the additional officers of the Terrebonne Professional Educators of Louisiana: Monica Hays, Vice-President; Cherise Henry, Secretary, and Christina Verdin, Treasurer. Mr. Toups also informed the Board that Ms. Andrea Messina had been selected A+PEL's Terrebonne Parish School Volunteer of the Year, representing Schriever Elementary School.

Motion of Mr. DeHart, seconded by Ms. Benoit, unanimously carried, the Board approved 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.

Motion of Mr. Badeaux, seconded by Mr. DeHart, unanimously carried, the Board approved 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.

Motion of Mr. Harding, unanimously seconded, unanimously carried, the Board approved 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.

Motion of Mr. Duplantis, seconded by Mr. Badeaux, unanimously carried, the Board ratified, as presented, the following 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:

**Contract Renewal – Professional Administrative Personnel**

Tess Daigle, Principal, Coteau-Bayou Blue Elementary - January 4, 2012 - January 3, 2014

Kim Vauclin, Principal, Montegut Middle - January 5, 2012 - January 4, 2014

Anita Dufrene, Principal, Honduras Elementary - January 6, 2012 - January 5, 2014

**New Employees – Professional Instructional Personnel**

Kristen Belknap, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Certified, Science/Social Studies, Broadmoor Elementary - Nicole Parr, Transferred, 12/21/11

Ruth Olin, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Certified, PreK-3, Broadmoor Elementary - Martha Hebert, Retired, 12/21/11

Chanelle Claiborne, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Certified, Caldwell Middle - Merry Hopkins, Resigned, 12/21/11

Eberial McCoy, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Certified, Elysian Fields Middle - Catherine Ohda, Retired, 12/21/11

Gina Chabert, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher, Certified, Grand Caillou Elementary - Debbie McGee, On Leave, 12/21/11

Gerald Colwart, Math Teacher, Certified, Health & PE, Houma Junior High - Stacey Verdun, Resigned, 12/21/11

Marshall Johnson, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Certified, Social Studies, Lacache Middle - Cynthia Boudreaux, On Leave, 12/19/11

Angelica Boudwin, Mild Moderate-Inclusion, Certified, Birth-5/PreK-3, Mulberry Elementary - Jodie Huddleston, Retired, 12/21/11

Deena King, Mild Moderate-Inclusion, Certified, Oakshire Elementary - Sonya Ohlmeyer, On Leave, 01/03/12

Crystal Lirette, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, Certified, Oakshire Elementary - Terri Adams, Retired, 12/21/11

Alexandra Young, English Teacher, Certified, Terrebonne High - Donna Erceg, On Leave, 01/03/12

**Resignations or Terminations – Professional Instructional Personnel**

Kristi Bergeron, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, East Houma Elementary – Resigned, 12/15/11

Cynthia Cortez, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, East Houma Elementary – Resigned, 01/05/12

Merry Hopkins, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Caldwell Middle – Resigned, 12/20/11

Eberial McCoy, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Elysian Fields Middle – Resigned, 01/10/12

Stacey Verdun, Math Teacher, Houma Junior High – Resigned, 12/20/11

At this time, the Board recognized the following employees who recently retired:

**Professional Instructional Personnel**

Terri Adams, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, Oakshire Elementary - Service Retirement, 33.84 Years, 12/22/11

Patty Boquet, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Houma Junior High - Service Retirement, 36.00 Years, 12/22/11

Gale Clark, Kindergarten Teacher, Southdown Elementary - Service Retirement, 27.30 Years, 12/22/11

Sindy Clough, Mild Moderate-Resource, Oakshire Elementary - Service Retirement, 31.40 Years, 01/01/12

Martha Hebert, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Broadmoor Elementary - Service Retirement, 22.07 Years, 12/22/11

Jodie Huddleston, Mild Moderate-Inclusion, Mulberry Elementary - Service Retirement, 20.00 Years, 12/22/11

Joann LeBoeuf, Health Nurse/General School, Terrebonne High - Service Retirement, 8.50 Years, 12/22/11

Kenneth Price, Master Teacher, Evergreen Junior High - Service Retirement, 28.00 Years, 12/24/11

**Non-Instructional/Support Personnel**

Patricia Mouton, Bus Driver, Transportation Department - Service Retirement, 16.00 Years, 12/22/11

Mr. Duplantis moved, seconded by Mr. DeHart, 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; and further, authorize the Board President to sign the engagement agreement with Chuhak & Tecson relative to Case No. 11cv4294, subject to Board Attorney review:

**RESOLUTION OF TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD - #1839  
REGARDING EMPLOYMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL**

**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:** Mr. Gregory Harding, Mr. Richard "Dicky" Jackson, Ms. Debi Benoit, Ms. Brenda Leroux Babin, Mr. L. P. Bordelon, III, Mr. Roger Dale DeHart, Mr. Donald Duplantis, and Mr. Hayes J. Badeaux

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Mr. Roosevelt Thomas

President Bordelon declared the motion to adopt the foregoing resolution carried.

Mr. Clayton "Sonny" Lovell, Board Attorney, addressed the Board regarding the foregoing motion.

Motion of Mr. Duplantis, seconded by Ms. Benoit, unanimously carried, the Board approved the following appointments to the 2012 Executive Committee, as presented by President Bordelon: Mr. L. P. Bordelon, III, President; Mr. Roger Dale DeHart, Vice-President, and Mr. Roosevelt Thomas.

President Bordelon presented the following Standing Committee Appointments for 2012:

### **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2012**

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

L. P. Bordelon, III, President  
 Roger Dale DeHart, Vice-President  
 Roosevelt Thomas

#### **FINANCE, INSURANCE, and SECTION 16 LANDS COMMITTEE**

Donald Duplantis, Chairman  
 Roosevelt Thomas, Vice-Chairman  
 Debi Benoit

#### **BUILDINGS, FOOD SERVICE, and TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Hayes J. Badeaux, Chairman  
 Roger Dale DeHart, Vice-Chairman  
 Gregory Harding

#### **EDUCATION and POLICY COMMITTEE**

Richard Jackson, Chairman  
 Brenda Leroux Babin, Vice-Chairman  
 Donald Duplantis

**\*LEGISLATIVE LIAISON** – Debi Benoit

#### **ADVISORY MEMBERS FOR HEALTH & HOSPITALIZATION**

Risk Manager  
 President-Principals Association or Designee  
 President-T.A.E. or Designee  
 President-Terrebonne Professional Educators or Designee  
 President-Bus Drivers Association or Designee  
 President-School Food Services Association or Designee  
 Clerical/Maintenance/Custodian Representative  
 Designated Representatives (2) – Retired Teachers Associations  
 Executive Director of Finance  
 At-large Member

Motion of Mr. DeHart, seconded by Mr. Duplantis, unanimously carried, the Board rescheduled the School Board Meeting of February 21, 2012, to February 14, 2012 (Due to Mardi Gras Holidays), and rescheduled the agenda deadline from noon Wednesday, February 15, 2012, to noon Wednesday, February 8, 2012.

Motion of Mr. Duplantis, seconded by Mr. Badeaux, unanimously carried, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting **(7:35 P.M.)**.

/s/ Philip Martin, Secretary

/s/ L. P. Bordelon, III, President

RLB