

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

January 5, 2021

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 Mrs. Debi Benoit, president, presiding, and the following members present: Mrs. Stacy V. Solet, vice president; Mr. Michael T. LaGarde, Mr. Gregory Harding, Mr. Matthew J. Ford, Mr. Clyde F. Hamner, Dr. MayBelle N. Trahan, and Mr. Dane Voisin.

ABSENT: Mr. Roger Dale DeHart

Mrs. Solet 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:

Gertrude B. Rodriguez - retired school teacher
Murphy A. Trahan - retired school bus operator
Della U. Thibodeaux - retired school food service technician
Daniel J. Landry - retired Supervisor of Secondary Education and former principal at South Terrebonne High School
Sarah U. Chapman - retired school food service technician
Martina C. Miller - retired assistant principal
Jane S. Gray - retired school teacher

Motion of Mr. Hamner, seconded by Mrs. Solet, unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes of School Board Meeting of December 1, 2020, as recorded.

President Benoit announced that the first order of business was the election of the president and vice president of the Terrebonne Parish School Board for a one-year term beginning this date.

Prior to nominations, President Benoit gave the following remarks:

"I want to begin by saying it has been a pleasure to have served as President of the School Board over the last 2 years, and I am proud to have done so with such a dedicated team of members. I am especially honored to have been the first woman President to serve the Board. But now, I believe it is time to give the opportunity to other Board Members to serve in this leadership position.

Before we take nominations and vote, I want to communicate some of our accomplishments this past year during my tenure.

- In this challenging year of COVID, we successfully, and practically overnight, launched remote instructional delivery for our students (special kudos to Mr. Bubba Orgeron and the teaching staff that dedicated themselves to this effort). Instruction began in March, then continued as a Remote Summer Learning Program, and today continues for those who must elect this method of learning due to their health concerns or the health concerns of family members.
- We provided breakfast and lunch to our students from March and throughout the summer serving sometimes over 1,000 meals a day (a

special thanks to all our food service workers who volunteered even at the height of the pandemic to dedicate themselves to this important task).

- In the early stages of COVID, we learned of shortages of protective supplies needed by our local hospitals, and the School Board immediately responded by providing Terrebonne General with pallets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and cleaning supplies (not needed because learning was fully remote). We also provided hospital beds from the Louis Miller Terrebonne Career and Technical High School to Chabert Medical Hospital.
- This summer, in preparation for the fall school year and through the generous donations of community members, we were able to provide new school uniforms to thousands of our school children in need.
- The Board voted to put our \$754,889 settlement from the BP oil spill in our Building Fund for school construction and maintenance. Additionally, we were able to increase our Building Fund greater than any previous year.
- We renovated and restored, to original beauty, two high school auditoriums and gym floors.
- We voted to provide middle and junior high band students with new uniforms.
- We approved the contract to begin the renovation of Mulberry Elementary School, the last task on a facility planning study done several years ago.
- Our current Facility Task Force completed the observations and evaluations on all the School Board facilities in December. The final phase and compilation should be completed and provided to the Board in Spring 2021.
- The Board entered into a cooperative endeavor with TPR Rec 2/3 to construct a playground/park behind Lisa Park School.
- We successfully opened our schools after Labor Day to on-site learning and have continued to do so without having to return to fully remote deliveries. We feel that this is due to the extra safety precautions we have taken to limit contact or entry only to essential personnel.

Lastly, and perhaps one of our greatest milestones, was being able to successfully renew almost 10 mills with overwhelming support by the public, and thus, giving the district financial security of our operations and ultimately support for the children of Terrebonne Parish.

We have faced some challenges, but overall, I believe the Terrebonne Parish School District is heading into a very exciting and transformative period in its history and, as I pass the gavel tonight, I do so feeling that I have provided a strong springboard for the next President on which to build for continued success.

Thank You!"

Nominations for president were then opened.

Mr. Hamner placed in nomination for the presidency the name of Mr. Gregory Harding.

Motion of Mr. Hamner, seconded by Mr. Voisin, unanimously carried, the nominations for the office of president were closed.

Mr. Gregory Harding was unanimously declared elected president of the Terrebonne Parish School Board for a one-year term beginning this date.

President Harding assumed the Chair and thanked the Board for their support and commended outgoing President, Mrs. Debi Benoit, for a job well done.

President Harding announced that nominations were now open for the office of vice president of the Board for a one-year term beginning this date.

Mr. Voisin placed in nomination for the vice presidency the name of Dr. MayBelle Trahan.

Motion of Mr. Voisin, seconded by Mr. Hamner, unanimously carried, the nominations for the office of vice president were closed.

Dr. MayBelle Trahan was unanimously declared elected vice president of the Terrebonne Parish School Board for a one-year term beginning this date.

At this time, Mr. Earl "Stan" Gravois, Director, representing TGMC Community Sports Institute, addressed the Board and gave an update, in accordance with the Cooperative Agreement between Terrebonne General Medical Center and Terrebonne Parish School Board.

The Board commended Mr. Gravois on his presentation.

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

Terrebonne Parish Sheriff, Tim Soignet, addressed the Board as it relates to School Speed Zones. Sheriff Soignet stated that he is hoping to install traffic-enforcement cameras in school zones by the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. A collaboration between the Sheriff's Office, Parish, and Blue Line Solutions hopes to bring safety awareness in school zones.

Following Sheriff Soignet's presentation, motion of Mr. Hamner, unanimously seconded, unanimously carried, the Board gave its full support to Sheriff Soignet's initiative to curtail speeders and bring safety awareness in school zones.

Mrs. Annette Foret-Lagarde, President, Terrebonne Association of Educators, addressed the Board regarding the foregoing matter.

Motion of Mrs. Benoit, seconded by Dr. Trahan, unanimously carried, the Board adopted the following Banking and Investment Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 1923

Whereas in a regular session of the Terrebonne Parish School Board held on January 5, 2021, the Board, by viva voce vote, elected Mr. Gregory Harding to serve as President of the Terrebonne Parish

School Board for the one-year term beginning this date;

Whereas in a regular session of the Terrebonne Parish School Board held on January 20, 2009, the Board, by viva voce vote, appointed Mr. Philip Martin to serve as Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer of the Terrebonne Parish School Board beginning January 20, 2009;

Whereas Mr. Philip Martin, on January 20, 2009, upon furnishing bond as required by law, did assume the office and functions of Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer of the Terrebonne Parish School Board; and

Whereas on January 5, 2021, Mr. Gregory Harding, upon furnishing bond as required by law, did assume the office and functions of President of the Terrebonne Parish School Board; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that copies of this resolution, certified by the Secretary of the Terrebonne Parish School Board, be furnished to any and all interested parties, including fiscal depositories, directing and authorizing said institutions to grant full faith and credit to the acts and signatures of Mr. Philip Martin as Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer of the Terrebonne Parish School Board and Mr. Gregory Harding as President of the Terrebonne Parish School Board;

Resolved, that all fiscal depositories are directed and authorized to honor negotiable instruments drawn upon the accounts of the Terrebonne Parish School Board bearing the facsimile signature of Mr. Philip Martin and Mrs. Debi Benoit until such time as a signature plate bearing the facsimile signatures of both Mr. Gregory Harding and Mr. Philip Martin is procured and placed into service;

Resolved, that the Superintendent, Chief Financial Officer, or the duly authorized subordinate employee of each or any of the foregoing appointed officers be and is authorized to individually conduct and transact the business of purchasing, redeeming, or reinvesting certificates of deposit and other types of interest-bearing investments, as well as pledging matters and wire transfers relating thereto;

Resolved, that the Superintendent, Chief Financial Officer, or the duly authorized subordinate employee of each or any of the foregoing appointed officers be and is authorized and directed to accept physical custody of such interest-bearing investments and monetary returns on same in the name and on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish School Board; and be it further

Resolved, that said Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer be and are authorized to release any safekeeping receipt and/or security pledged to the Terrebonne Parish School Board provided that each release will bear the signatures of both of the above-authorized individuals.

Motion of Mrs. Benoit, seconded by Mr. Hamner, unanimously carried, the Board approved the following resolution recognizing January 2021 as "Local School Board Member Recognition Month" in the State of Louisiana:

RESOLUTION

**Louisiana School Board Recognition Month
January 2021**

Whereas the education of Louisiana's school-aged children is the foundation upon which the economic, social and intellectual capital of our state is built;

Whereas locally elected school boards play an important and vital role in a representative democracy, and decisions made by local boards of education directly influence instruction in Louisiana's public schools;

Whereas these decisions affect the present and future lives of children, and also set direction to prepare all students to be competitive in a local, state, national, and global 21st century economy;

Whereas local school board members work with parents, businesses, education professionals, all elected officials and other community members to create the educational visions we want for our students;

Whereas this year's theme – **SCHOOL BOARDS MATTER!** - reflects the relevance of local school board members as they advocate for public education with local, state, and federal leaders; and

Whereas School Board Recognition Month provides an opportunity to build stronger relationships between the thousands of people in Louisiana who champion the mission of public education and school board members; now, therefore be it

Resolved, the Terrebonne Parish School Board recognizes the contributions of the state's local school boards to the academic success of its public school students and expresses its sincerest recognition to the local school board members for their focus on the well-being and achievement of children throughout the state; further

Resolved, the Terrebonne Parish School Board declares January 2021 as School Board Member Recognition Month and encourages local school districts and community leaders to appropriately recognize our state's dedicated school board members; and be it finally

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all local media contacts and Terrebonne Parish public schools and office buildings.

Motion of Mr. Hamner, seconded by Mr. LaGarde, unanimously carried, the Board approved the following resolution recognizing February 2021 as African American History Month in Terrebonne Parish Schools:

RESOLUTION

Whereas the month of February is traditionally observed as African American History Month;

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 2021 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. Voisin, seconded by Mrs. Solet, unanimously carried, the Board approved the following proclamation recognizing February 1-5, 2021, as National School Counseling Week in Terrebonne Parish Schools:

PROCLAMATION

Whereas School Counselors are employed in public and private schools to help students reach their full potential;

Whereas School Counselors are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents as these traits relate to career awareness and development;

Whereas School Counselors help parents focus on ways to further the educational, personal, and social growth of their children;

Whereas School Counselors work with teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set realistic goals for themselves;

Whereas School Counselors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can enhance and complement comprehensive school counseling programs and help students become productive members of society; and

Whereas comprehensive developmental school counseling programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in schools; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Terrebonne Parish School Board recognizes February 1-5, 2021, as National School Counseling Week in Terrebonne Parish Public Schools; and be it further

Resolved, that copies of this proclamation be forwarded to all Terrebonne Parish Public Schools and office buildings.

Superintendent Martin presented the following personnel actions for the period of November 16, 2020, through December 11, 2020 [list of professional instructional and non-instructional/support personnel (appointments, resignations, and retirements – Information Only)]:

<u>New Employees - Professional Instructional Personnel</u>					
Name	Position	Certification	Location	Effective Date	
GARCIA-JOHNSON, GEORGINA	SPANISH INTERPRETER	Degreed/Non-Certified	WEST PARK ANNEX - FEDERAL	11/19/20	
JAMES, ROYNISHA	SECONDARY TEACHER	Certified	TERREBONNE HIGH	11/30/20	
NAVARRE, MICKAYLA	ELEM 1-8 TEACHER	Certified	MULBERRY ELEMENTARY	12/08/20	
PELTIER, AMBER	ELEM 1-8 TEACHER	Certified	HOUMA JUNIOR HIGH	12/07/20	
PERRIN, COBEY	SECONDARY TEACHER	Certified	ELLENDER MEMORIAL HIGH	12/07/20	
REECE, ADAM	ELEM 1-8 TEACHER	Certified	OAKSHIRE ELEMENTARY	11/30/20	
SEELY, ERICA	MM RESOURCE/SC TCHR	Degreed/Non-Certified	MONTEGUT ELEMENTARY	11/16/20	
WREN, MEGAN	ELEM 1-8 TEACHER	Certified	GRAND CAILLOU ELEMENTARY	11/30/20	
<u>New Employees - Non-Instructional Personnel</u>					
Name	Position		Location	Effective Date	
COX, RON	BUS DRIVER REG ED		TRANSPORTATION	11/16/20	
<u>Resignations - Professional Instructional Personnel</u>					
Name	Position	Certification	Location	Term Code	Term Date
AMBROSE, MARJORIE	SECONDARY TEACHER	Certified	ELLENDER MEMORIAL HIGH	Resigned	11/20/20
AUSTIN, OLISA	ELEM 1-8 TEACHER	Certified	HOUMA JUNIOR HIGH	Resigned	12/04/20
BROOKS, RAVEN	MIDDLE COUNSELOR	Certified	GRAND CAILLOU MIDDLE	Resigned	12/11/20
ROBICHAUX, AARON	ELEM 1-8 TEACHER	Certified	OAKLAWN MIDDLE	Resigned	11/20/20
<u>Resignations - Non-Instructional Personnel</u>					
Name	Position		Location	Term Code	Term Date
ADAMS, COTRICE	CUSTODIAN III-A 12M		TERREBONNE HIGH	Resigned	11/20/20
GRAY, CORION	SPECIAL ED PARA		SCHOOL FOR EXCEPT CHILDREN	Resigned	12/04/20
PELTIER, COLLEEN	ECSE PARA		ACADIAN ELEMENTARY	Resigned	12/08/20
<u>Retirements - Professional Instructional Personnel</u>					
Name	Position	Service Years	Location	Term Code	Term Date
BURGESS, POLLY	ELEM 1-8 TEACHER	29.85 YEARS	MULBERRY ELEMENTARY	Service Retirement	12/07/20

Motion of Mr. Ford, seconded by Mrs. Benoit, unanimously carried, the Board voted to go into executive session, at this time (7:10 P.M.), to discuss the parent appeal for readmission of Student #0009779.

Motion of Mr. Hamner, seconded by Mrs. Benoit, unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in regular session (7:25 P.M.) with all members present, with the exception of Mr. DeHart who was absent.

Motion of Mrs. Benoit, seconded by Dr. Trahan, with the exception of Mr. Voisin who objected, the Board allowed Student #0009779 to return to the base school on February 1, 2021, subject to signing a contract.

Motion of Mr. Voisin, seconded by Mrs. Benoit, unanimously carried, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting **(7:30 P.M.)**.

/s/ Philip Martin, Secretary

/s/ Gregory Harding, President

RLB