

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

July 19, 2016

The Terrebonne Parish School Board met today at **6:00 P.M. in special session** at its regular meeting place, the Terrebonne Parish School Board Office, 201 Stadium Drive, Houma, Louisiana, with Mr. Roger Dale DeHart, President, presiding, and the following members present: Mr. L. P. Bordelon, III, Vice-President; Mr. Roosevelt Thomas, Mr. Gregory Harding, Mr. Richard Jackson, Mrs. Debi Benoit, Dr. Brenda Leroux Babin, Mr. Donald Duplantis, and Ms. Vicki Bonvillain.

ABSENT: None

President DeHart led the Board and audience in the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President DeHart stated that this special meeting was called for the sole purpose of evaluating the Superintendent in accordance with Policy FILE: C-3.6, Superintendent Evaluation.

At this time, Superintendent Philip Martin presented his opening remarks.

Motion of Mr. Bordelon, seconded by Mr. Duplantis, unanimously carried, the Board voted to move into executive session (6:25 P.M.) to address the matter bearing upon Policy FILE: C-3.6, Superintendent Evaluation.

Motion of Mr. Bordelon, seconded by Ms. Bonvillain, unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in open session (7:00 P.M.) with all members present.

President DeHart announced that the Board rated the overall performance of Superintendent Philip Martin for the 2015-2016 fiscal year as "Satisfactory," the highest rating possible.

Mr. Duplantis moved, seconded by Mr. Bordelon, that the Board accept the overall rating performance of Superintendent Philip Martin for the 2015-2016 fiscal year as "Satisfactory" (highest rating possible) and order Superintendent Martin's opening remarks spread across the minutes.

A roll call vote having been called for on the foregoing motion, the vote thereon was as follows:

**YEAS:** Mr. Thomas, Mr. Harding, Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Benoit, Dr. Babin, Mr. Bordelon, Mr. DeHart, Mr. Duplantis, and Ms. Bonvillain

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

President DeHart declared the foregoing motion carried.

## **Superintendent Martin's Opening Remarks:**

This past school year was one of many accomplishments in many areas, from instructional, financial and capital projects. Terrebonne Parish School District continues to exceed the state average in most measures of student achievement and is a leader in many.

Our financial standing reflects one of stability and also long-term budgetary practices that are proving to be especially valuable in these financially-troubled times.

Terrebonne Parish School District continues with substantial capital projects; from baseball fields; tracks & tennis courts; to roofs; to a brand new school.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL**

The following are highlighted instructional areas of significance:

- Terrebonne remains a “B” school district, with a District Performance Score (DPS) of 90.5 - which is higher than state average and in the top 25 leading districts **(Attachment #1)**;
- Terrebonne earned the maximum of ten (10) progress points **(Attachment #2)**;
- Terrebonne's Assessment Index on End-of-Course exams (EOC) is 81.1, the state average is 72.8 – which represents an increase of 7.4 points from the previous year **(Attachment #3)**;
- Terrebonne has four (4) A-rated schools, seven (7) schools increased one letter grade and one (1) school was a TOP gain school;
- Terrebonne's ACT Assessment Index increased from 56.2 to 67.8, an increase of 11.6 points from the previous year **(Attachment #4)**;
- Recent ACT 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Best Score results ranks Terrebonne as 4<sup>th</sup> in the State of Louisiana in terms of growth on the ACT **(Attachment #5)**;
- The number of Terrebonne Parish high school students that scored an 18 or better, on the ACT, increased by 9% from 52% to 61%. This rate of increase is three (3) times higher than the state average **(Attachment #6)**;
- In grades 3 through 8, on PARCC exams for ELA & Math, Terrebonne Parish students were consistently above the state average **(Attachment #7)**;
- In grades 3 through 8, Terrebonne Parish students consistently out-performed the state average on LEAP tests for Science & Social Studies **(Attachment #8)**;
- All four (4) high schools significantly improved performance on End-of-Course (EOC) exams **(Attachment #9)**;
- From 2011 through 2015, Terrebonne Parish results of students scoring “Good” or “Excellent” on End-of-Course (EOC) exams increased by 18 points – which is 5 points higher than the state average **(Attachment #10)**;
- The number of students in Terrebonne Parish taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses increased from 338 students to 661 students **(Attachment #11)**;
- On **all** End-of-Course (EOC) exams, Terrebonne Parish students out-performed the state **(Attachment #12)**;

- Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in 5 out of 6 schools, 100% not only passed the Algebra I EOC, but overwhelmingly scored “Advanced” or “Proficient” **(Attachment #13)**;
- Terrebonne High School was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State of Louisiana on End-of-Course (EOC) Index Growth **(Attachment #14)**;
- In grades 3 through 8 on iLEAP exams (Science & Social Studies), Terrebonne Parish students consistently exceeded the state average in percent proficient **(Attachment #15)**;
- Dual-enrollment (students enrolled in college level courses): Terrebonne continues to increase the number of students enrolling in college courses through the dual-enrollment program. This affords students college level academic experience, while earning college credits, while in high school;
- Fourteen (14) of our students won 1<sup>st</sup> place (Gold) in the State SkillsUSA Competition. These students were advanced to the National SkillsUSA Competition in Louisville, Kentucky;
- 2016 LA Science & Engineering Fair: Our students continue to participate and excel in local, state, and national Science and Engineering Fairs.

This data clearly reflects movement in a positive direction. It most clearly reflects the commitment of teachers, administrators, and students working together for improvement and moving towards the next level.

Moving forward, the most significant area for the district is alignment of standards with day-to-day instruction and assessment in each individual classroom. This is challenging where state standards, curriculum and assessments are an ever moving target.

For our district to become an A district, which is and will remain our goal, complete saturation of alignment issues must be resolved and implemented.

This alignment matter is simple in concept, but very complex in implementation.

This next school year will be one of intense focus on individual classroom-level alignment of standards, instruction and assessment.

Alignment must occur at the district level, school level, classroom level, each grade level, as well as each content area. This will be our highest instructional priority.

Teacher of the Year, Principal of the Year, and Louisiana Superintendent's Academy: Terrebonne continues to have teachers and students recognized at the state level. We, again, have a finalist for Louisiana's Teacher of the Year. In addition, I am proud to be on the Board of the Louisiana Superintendent Academy (LAS) as one of the original founders of this organization **(Attachment #16)**.

## **FINANCIAL**

Terrebonne Parish School District's financial status could best be described as stable.

Obviously, our region and state are experiencing difficult financial times. Fortunately, due to our Board's financial insight and foresight, our district is not facing immediate financial problems. Our reserves and conservative spending patterns are paying huge dividends in the current economic downturn.

Sales tax revenue is by far the largest local revenue source for our school system. As such, when declines in sales tax occur there is reasonable cause for concern. Currently, we are experiencing significant decreasing sales tax revenues **(Attachment #17)**.

Although the immediate impact of this will not require drastic measures by the district to counter-act this loss of revenue, we must be diligent in all financial decisions. Although no one can predict what the economic future of our state and region will be, we must be aware that persistent long-term loss of revenue may eventually result in more significant action. Moving forward, we must proceed with caution.

Our district continues to receive very favorable financial reviews:

- Audits (local, state, and federal) achieves the highest rating possible, with no findings.
- Our district was recently rated by Standard & Poors with AA-bond rating **(Attachment #18)**.
- Our district's Fiscal Risk Assessment, as established by the state, rates all areas the highest possible rating **(Attachment #19)**.
- Our district has received the Meritorious Budget Award for the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) year for excellence in budget preparation **(Attachment #20)**.
- Our district expenditures on instruction exceeds the state requirement **(Attachment #21)**.

Currently, our Building Fund contains approximately \$14 million dollars.

Given the current economic climate and circumstances, the fact that the Board is able to remain financially viable is remarkable and a credit to the Board. The Southdown School project is moving forward. The logistics of demolition, planning, design, relocation and construction are enormously complex and involved. This project is well under way. I am very proud to be a part of this exciting time.

In summary, our teachers are being paid very competitively for our region; there has been no reduction of benefits or lay-offs; we have completed and started several capital projects and maintained financial stability, all within a period of uncertain economic times. By any measure, this reflects very positively to our community.

Motion of Mr. Duplantis, seconded by Mr. Thomas, unanimously carried, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting at **7:05 P.M.**

/s/ Philip Martin, Secretary

/s/ Roger Dale DeHart, President

RLB