

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRANT PARISH SCHOOL  
BOARD OF THE PARISH OF GRANT, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN  
AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY APRIL 15, 2021

The Parish School Board of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, met in its regular meeting place, the Grant Parish School Board Office, Colfax, Louisiana, in Regular Session, Thursday, April 15 2021 at 6:00 o'clock P.M.

There were present Mrs. Mary Bullock, Mr. Lloyd Whitman, Mr. Randy Browning, Mrs. Lisa Roberts, Mrs. Karen Layton, Mr. Mike Slaughter, Mrs. Deborah "Debbie" McFarland and Mr. William "Bill" Riggs.

Mr. Paxton Teddlie, Secretary-Treasurer was also present.

The Parish School Board of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, was duly convened by Mrs. Deborah "Debbie" McFarland, President of the Grant Parish School Board, who then stated that the Grant Parish School Board was ready to transact any business which may come before the Board.

Motion by Mrs. Mrs. Bullock, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously approved the March 2, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes, March 23, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes (Work Session) and March 30, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes (Public Hearing).

Recognize:

The following guests were recognized:

Lakendra Williams addressed the Board regarding Hardship. Ms. Williams will bring requested information to Mr. Teddlie to review.

Lauren Young, Risk Services Insurance, presented a proposal for Worker's Compensation Insurance to be voted on at May 2021 Board Meeting.

Robert Cowan, Brown and Brown Insurance, presented a proposal for Worker's Compensation Insurance to be voted on at May 2021 Board Meeting.

Retirement: Susan Waites – Bus Driver at Pollock Elementary School, 21 years of service, effective February 8, 2021. Ms. Waites was not present.

Committee items:

The Finance Committee discussed:

1. Proposed Budget Revisions: District:

- a. Grant High: Additional revenue: \$20,000, repairs \$16,000, supplies \$4,000 (painting and floors)
- b. Pollock: Additional revenue \$25,000, summer workers \$2,200, repairs \$12,800, supplies \$10,000
- c. Georgetown: Additional Revenue: \$10,500, repairs \$3,500, supplies \$7,000,
- d. South Grant: Additional revenue: \$12,900, tractor \$8,100, repairs \$2,800, supplies \$2,000
- e. Grant Jr. High: Additional revenue: \$5,800, summer workers \$3,295, supplies \$2,505
- f. Colfax: Additional revenue: \$11,000, repairs \$5,000 supplies \$6,000
- g. Montgomery: Additional revenue: \$2,500, tractor \$5,850
- h. Verda: Additional revenue: \$900, repairs \$900

Motion by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mrs. Bullock and unanimously approved Proposed

Budget Revisions: District as listed Items VI. A. 1. a through h.

2. Proposed Budget Revisions: Parishwide:

- a. Grant High: Additional revenue: \$8,200, repairs \$700, tractor \$7,500
- b. Pollock: Additional revenue: \$7,800, repairs \$1,000, phone \$1,000, supplies \$5,800
- c. Georgetown: Additional revenue: \$2,500, supplies \$2,500
- d. South Grant: Additional revenue: \$5,900, supplies \$5,900
- e. Grant Jr. High: Additional revenue: \$5,600, tractor \$7,500
- f. Colfax Elementary: Additional revenue: \$2,900, supplies \$2,900
- g. Central Office: Additional revenue: \$,300, repairs \$,300
- h. Montgomery: Additional revenue: \$3,150, tractor \$3,150
- i. Verda: Additional revenue: \$2,600, supplies \$2,600

Motion by Mrs. Bullock, seconded by Mr. Whitman and unanimously approved Proposed

Budget Revisions: Parishwide and reflect Item VI. A. 2. g. under Finance Committee to \$4,300 on Central Office: Additional Revenue and repairs instead of \$300.

Discussion on the item below: Mr. Slaughter and other Board Members discussed with Superintendent their concerns about this contract. They discussed the expense and wanted to know if it was necessary. The Superintendent told them he felt it was necessary and a help to the School Board. Decision was made to continue as is. No action needed.

Discuss and Consider current and future role of Contract with Champions Insurance Service. No action needed.

Discussion on the item below: The Board Members are concerned about the charges on invoices. Mr. Slaughter gave Board Members and Superintendent information to look over. The Superintendent will set up a Special Meeting for all parties to be present to discuss and review invoices. No Action needed.

Discuss and Consider the board reviewing every invoice and school it pertains to Insurance Claims. No action needed.

The Transportation and Maintenance Committee had no business to transact.

Motion by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mrs. Bullock and unanimously approved Proposed Budget Revisions: District: Grant High: Additional revenue: \$20,000, repairs \$16,000, supplies \$4,000 (painting and floors); Pollock: Additional revenue \$25,000, summer workers \$2,200, repairs \$12,800, supplies \$10,000; Georgetown: Additional Revenue: \$10,500, repairs \$3,500, supplies \$7,000; South Grant: Additional revenue: \$12,900, tractor \$8,100, repairs \$2,800, supplies \$2,000; Grant Jr. High: Additional revenue: \$5,800, summer workers \$3,295, supplies \$2,505; Colfax: Additional revenue: \$11,000, repairs \$5,000 supplies \$6,000; Montgomery: Additional revenue: \$2,500, tractor \$5,850; and Verda: Additional revenue: \$900, repairs \$900.

Motion by Mrs. Bullock, seconded by Mr. Whitman and unanimously approved Proposed Budget Revisions: Parishwide: Grant High: Additional revenue: \$8,200, repairs \$700, tractor \$7,500; Pollock: Additional revenue: \$7,800, repairs \$1,000, phone \$1,000, supplies \$5,800; Georgetown: Additional revenue: \$2,500, supplies \$2,500; South Grant: Additional revenue: \$5,900, supplies \$5,900; Grant Jr. High: Additional revenue: \$5,600, tractor \$7,500; Colfax Elementary: Additional revenue: \$2,900, supplies \$2,900; Central Office: Additional revenue: \$4,300, repairs \$4,300; Montgomery: Additional revenue: \$3,150, tractor \$3,150; and Verda: Additional revenue: \$2,600, supplies \$2,600.

Discuss and Consider current and future role of Contract with Champions Insurance Service. The Board Members and Superintendent discussed this item during the Finance Committee Meeting. The Superintendent told them he felt it was necessary and a help to the School Board. Decision was made to continue as is. No action needed.

Discuss and Consider the board reviewing every invoice and school it pertains to Insurance Claims. The Board Members and Superintendent discussed this item during the Finance Committee Meeting. The Superintendent will set up a Special Meeting for all parties to be present to discuss and review invoices. No action needed.

Motion by Mr. Browning, seconded by Mrs. Roberts and unanimously approved to receive and consider Policy Revision, Policy: File: GBQ – Retirement.

Motion by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mrs. Roberts and unanimously approved to schedule a Budget Meeting Work Session on May 10, 2021 at 5:00PM.

Received for approval at the May Board Meeting the 2021-2022 Grant Parish School Board Athletic Handbook.

Motion by Mr. Browning, seconded by Mrs. Roberts and unanimously approved to discuss and consider moving Six Grade to Middle School.

Discussion and/or Action Concerning Status of Colfax Elementary School for the 2021-2022 School Year.

There were a group of parents, grandparents and concerned citizens waiting outside the Grant Parish School Board concerned about the future of Colfax Elementary School.

The following guests signed in to be recognized: Cephus Bowie, Jr., Nina Herndon Baines, Destenee McKinney-Clark, Johnnie Allen, Kimetrie Tucker, Kyra Larry, Mamie Clark and Martha R. Clark-Brew.

The following guests were recognized: Mayor Gerald Hamilton, Betty Allen, Edwina Ricks, Elasia Wilson, Lakendra Williams and Denise Jordan.

All of the guests were concerned about the closure of Colfax Elementary School. Some of the concerns were: keeping school open as a Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade school; rebuild Colfax Elementary School like other schools in the parish; if school closes it won't open back up; closing school is not an option; build a new school; new school would draw students and certified teachers; long bus ride; small children don't need to be bused around the parish; parental involvement is active at Colfax Elementary School; Colfax Elementary School has been negatively put forth to the community – need to work on changing this; Colfax Elementary School is located in the Parish Seat and economic impact on the town.

Cephus Bowie, Police Juror, presented the Superintendent with signed petitions in protest of closing Colfax Elementary School.

Elasia Wilson read a letter to the Board Members from parents of students at Colfax Elementary School.

Mamie Clark, Mental Health Specialist, works with students in the parish schools with behavioral issues. She feels that the teachers at Colfax Elementary School don't know how to work with students with behavioral issues. Get certified teachers to work with students with behavioral issues. Mr. Teddlie ask Ms. Clark what does Colfax Elementary School not have that other schools have? Ms. Clark said Colfax Elementary School does not have the teachers that have the ability to work with urban children.

Mamie Clark also ask the Superintendent if he spoke to Senator about help with building a new school. Mr. Teddlie said he did speak to Senator Luneau. He ask Ms. Clark and the people in the audience speak to him as well.

Denise Jordan, teacher at Verda Elementary School, addressed to audience. She told them that if Colfax Elementary School closed the students would be welcome and loved by the other schools in the parish.

There was discussion and/or action concerning status of Colfax Elementary School for the 2021-2022 School Year. (Temporarily close for 2021-2022 school year.) Item failed due to lack of motion.

The Board Members discussed:

Mr. Whitman: What I am saying is that we want to work together and if we get a committee to going with the town people and with the school people. Lets go forward. So right now you can go out and say yes the school is open in August.

Mrs. Layton: Mr. Whitman and I represent the district and all the schools. I am extremely concerned and elated we decided not to close. I still have concerns money how to draw teachers and get scores up. All I'm asking for is the community to put some effort. They made bonus offers but nobody came forth there's a problem somewhere. It's not just the behavior of the children- all I'm asking as a school board and as superintendent because the board has no power when it comes to hiring principals, assistant principals but our superintendent does. He is looking but as a four year failing school four. Normally if a principal was there and a school was failing that long the principal would not be there because of evaluations. It falls primarily on the teachers and principal, am I not right teachers sitting here? They re-evaluate you and they make it your problem. Ms. Ricks, am I wrong? Ok so I think we need to be looking at that as well because nobody is gonna tell me that \$6,000 wouldn't help somebody up front. But they didn't want to come, now we need to look at why. We can't just say it was behavioral. The buildings were terrible of course with upkeep but they were still there until the storms came and knocked them down. I worked at Colfax Elementary as a para educator. I was a paraprofessional teacher's aid they called us back in the day and I love Colfax Elementary and still love Colfax Elementary. My kids grew up there and went to school there. One went two years in a row because I said he was going to learn. Mr. Whitman taught me I'm just saying the same things you've said already but Mr. Teddlie as a plea from a school board member who is no longer

allowed to deal with personnel matters that don't concern tenure meetings or executive sessions. I am asking you who is our representative and our personnel person to go back and investigate to find out why these people don't want to come to Colfax Elementary and please do not try to hide that there's not more than behavior of the kids. Behavior has always been a problem. Since I've been there we've had to chase kids and bring them back. We called them runners because of the environment or because of social situations we've had to understand that learn that. We learned how to teach them that's all I'm asking. I'm pleading as a board member who does not have the power to hire or fire a principal or assistant principal or whomever is in place because for four years y'all said the school is failing that what I see it was a D school it went to an F. Their grades didn't come up at once, growth wise, they had growth for 20 years they gonna say that they failed but they made growth. They may not have made it past a D but they had growth in points so I still need y'all to understand Colfax is not a dumping ground. Why, what everyone just left. There was still people who were passionate there. That principal that's there now I'm sure she's passionate. I can't tell I haven't heard a word but, [board member interjected, I don't], [ Mr. Teddlie interjected, We are not going to discuss personnel in here.] I'm saying, all I'm saying is please evaluate why. Find out why those teachers have to have a reason for saying no. It wasn't because I know where our school is but there's a sheriff's department right there. So it wasn't like we had monsters there but it could because it's so open and I know I'm probably taking up more time but I think I deserve it after 16 years on this board. I believe that every board member here has the best interest for the community at heart as we as superintendent. So you've seen that as parents who support this - change is gonna come so I need y'all to fight for Colfax Elementary by the parents and the teachers and the children back as well they got to have a relationship and that's the way I saw it. There was no relationship there with the parents and the children that could relate to their social and economic conditions and a lot was fear. Fear of the parents and I'm telling the truth on the record fear of the parents those parents aren't going to do anything they just want to see their kids at school, taught and treated like children with respect those teachers want to be talked to like they are human beings [ audience, thank you] so I'm begging you to look deeper.

The Superintendent discussed with the board members Resolution by The Mayor and Town Council, Town of Colfax, Louisiana; Town of Colfax Letters to the Superintendent;

Personnel Report; Financial Report; Calendars; COVID numbers; Virtual Numbers; Student Count; Tier 3 Personal Financial Disclosure Statement, due May 15, 2021 and 2021 Legislative Session and LSBA Capital Conference, Tuesday May 4, 2021.

Motion by Mr. Riggs, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously approved adjourning the meeting.

s/Deborah "Debbie" McFarland  
Deborah "Debbie" McFarland  
President  
Grant Parish School Board

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paxton Teddlie  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Grant Parish School Board