

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRANT PARISH SCHOOL
BOARD OF THE PARISH OF GRANT, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN
AT A SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

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 Special Session, Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 5:00 o'clock P.M.

There were present Mrs. Mary Bullock, Mr. Lloyd Whitman, Mr. Randy Browning, Mr. Mike Slaughter, Mrs. Deborah "Debbie" McFarland and Mr. William "Bill" Riggs. Mrs. Karen Layton was absent. Mrs. Lisa Roberts was absent, but listened to meeting via phone conference.

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

The Parish School Board of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, was duly convened by Mr. William "Bill" Riggs, 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.

No guests signed in to be recognized.

Motion by Mr. Browning, seconded by Mrs. Bullock and unanimously approved to Declare State of Emergency School Closure due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), per Governor John Bel Edwards.

GRANT PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY

COVID-19

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2019, officials in China alerted the World Health Organization (“WHO”) to several cases of an unknown respiratory illness primarily concentrated in the City of Wuhan, Hubei Province; and

WHEREAS, after further investigating the illness and ruling out the recurrence of other previously known viruses, officials, on January 7, 2020, announced the discovery of a new virus belonging to the coronavirus family of viruses (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, over the following weeks, the Chinese government began to report additional cases of the virus, evidencing a propensity of the virus to spread throughout China and beyond; and

WHEREAS, by January 30, 2020, approximately eighteen countries, outside of China, were reporting cases of the virus, causing the WHO to declare the virus a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern;” and

WHEREAS, over the following weeks, the virus continued to spread to nations around the globe, infecting thousands of individuals; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the WHO declared the coronavirus outbreak a “Global Pandemic;” and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Louisiana declared a “Public Health Emergency” over the coronavirus outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States of America declared a national emergency due to the coronavirus outbreak; and

WHEREAS, in an attempt to combat the spread of the virus, the Governor, on March 13, 2020, ordered the closure of all public elementary and secondary schools in Louisiana, beginning on March 16, 2020 and ending on April 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, many children depend on the services of the Grant Parish School Board ("School Board") for essential services such as the provision of healthy meals; and

WHEREAS, while the cancellation of school will hopefully serve to combat the spread of the virus, such cancellation may put children at risk of not receiving enough healthy meals during the prolonged closure; and

WHEREAS, the spread of the virus and its impact on the everyday lives of the School Board's students, faculty, staff, and their family members requires the School Board to take unprecedented steps to combat the spread of the virus and to serve the children of Grant Parish; and

WHEREAS, the sudden closure of all schools until April 13, 2020 or later has also caused confusion and concern to employees of the school district about their ability to continue to be able to support their families through receipt of compensation from the School Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, the above recitals considered, the School Board desires to utilize its assets in the fight against the coronavirus, as more fully set forth below.

AND NOW, CONSIDERING THE FOREGOING, THE SCHOOL BOARD HEREBY DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

BE IT DECLARED, that the Grant Parish School Board hereby declares a public emergency due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that, notwithstanding any policy or rule to the contrary, the School Board hereby confers emergency powers upon its Superintendent of Schools, for purposes of leading the School Board's response to the outbreak. Such emergency powers include, at the sole discretion of the Superintendent:

- (1) The authority to enter into any agreement or contract, without any further Board approval, for the purchase of materials, equipment, supplies, or services for sanitation, cleaning, technology, and other Covid-19 related services and supplies on behalf of the School Board.
- (2) The authority to supply and arrange for the delivery of meals to all children of the parish, eighteen (18) years of age or younger, at no costs to the child or his/her family.
- (3) The authority to continue to pay school employees their regular compensation during the period schools are closed.
- (4) The authority to adjust curriculum, work schedules, compensation, and staff assignments

without any further Board approval.

- (5) The authority to adjust the school calendar.
- (6) The authority to apply to BESE, LDOE, and/or USDOE, or any other governmental body for waivers of regulations or requirements, the compliance of which is impacted by COVID-19.
- (7) The authority to apply for waivers, grants, reimbursements, aid, and other Covid-19 related matters on behalf of the School Board.
- (8) The authority to provide non-mandatory, supplemental educational resources to students.
- (9) The authority to take any other action reasonably necessary to implement the above directives.


BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that the Superintendent is required to report, in writing and at reasonable intervals, to the School Board as to the amount of expenditures made pursuant to this Declaration, as well as, the actions taken by the Superintendent pursuant to this Declaration.

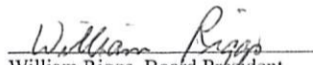
BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that, in accordance with the Governor's declaration, any bidding requirements of the Louisiana Public Bid Law (La. R.S. 38:2212 et seq.) applicable to any purchases related to the School Board's response to the coronavirus outbreak are hereby suspended.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that this Declaration shall remain in effect until withdrawn by the School Board.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that notice of the provisions contained herein shall be published in the official journal of the Grant Parish School Board within ten (10) days hereof.

THIS DECLARATION is adopted by the Grant Parish School Board, at a Special Meeting held on the 17th day of March, 2020 in Colfax, Louisiana.


Paxton Teddlie, Board Secretary
Grant Parish School Board


William Riggs, Board President
Grant Parish School Board

Motion by Mr. Browning, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously approved delegating the authority to the Superintendent to make decisions that will be needed to move forward in compliance with Executive Order JBE 2020-27.

Motion by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously approved the local decision to continue to provide meals for students.

Motion by Mrs. Bullock, seconded by Mr. Whitman and unanimously approved the local decision as to whether you will attempt to provide distance learning to students during the period of closure.

Motion by Mrs. Bullock, seconded by Mr. Browning and unanimously approved how you will deal with teacher and other salaried staff in terms of compensation should be addressed.

The item to consider Resolution declaring and recognizing a State of Emergency; delegating special emergency authority to the superintendent; and to provide for related matters failed due to lack of a motion.

The item to consider extending more authority to the Superintendent to execute contracts without explicit School Board approval failed due to lack of a motion.

The items to consider entering into Executive Session to review and consider safety protocol for contagious disease failed due to lack of a motion.

The item to consider returning to regular session failed due lack of a motion.

The item to discuss and consider issues with school closures, (COVID-19) failed due to lack of a motion.

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

s/William "Bill" Riggs
William "Bill" Riggs
President
Grant Parish School Board

ATTEST: _____
Paxton Teddlie
Secretary-Treasurer
Grant Parish School Board