

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRANT PARISH SCHOOL
BOARD OF THE PARISH OF GRANT, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN
AT A SPECIAL MEETING (PUBLIC HEARING) HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021

The Parish School Board of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, met in its special meeting place, the Colfax Elementary School, Gymnasium, Colfax, Louisiana, in Special Session (Public Hearing), Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 5:00 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 and Mr. William "Bill" Riggs. Mrs. Deborah "Debbie" McFarland was absent.

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. Randy Browning, District 4 Board Member 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. After the meeting was called to order Mr. Mike Slaughter, Vice President, presided over the remainder of the meeting due to late arrival.

Mr. Whitman gave the Invocation and Mrs. Lisa Roberts lead the pledge.

Superintendent Teddlie presented a presentation.

Current Proposal from presentation:

Rezone Colfax Elementary School students to Verda Elementary School, South Grant Elementary School and Pollock Elementary School to begin in the 2021-2022 school year.

Transportation provided to schools based on residency.

6th Grade students transition to the junior high school setting.

Reasoning: Utilize building capacities, fiscal responsibility, expanded opportunities, experienced staff, and academic growth.

Convert Colfax Elementary School to a virtual, alternate education site or similar.

Superintendent Teddlie introduced Attorney Robert Hammonds with Hammonds, Sills, Adkins, Guice, Noah & Perkins, LLP as moderator for discussion on possible closure of Colfax Elementary School.

The following guests signed in to be recognized: Ms. Carolyn Baines, Mr. Chuck Johnson, Mrs. Edwina Ricks, Mayor Gerald Hamilton, Mr. Cephas Bowie, Ms. Malva Jones,

Ms. Teresa Tademy, Senator Jay Luneau, Mr. Ronald Caranahan and Mrs. Zelda Baines.

Ms. Stephanie Bowen was recognized but did not sign in to address the board.

Their concerns or comments include: would like to have a new school in Colfax for local students; if you build a new school, children, teachers and money will come; smaller classes mean better education; other schools will be overcrowded; different environment is not good for students; if Colfax Elementary is closed, the town will die; new schools have been built in other parts of the parish; long bus routes; long bus ride will contribute to discipline issues; some parents do not have transportation to pick up students if they become ill – they can walk to Colfax Elementary; transportation for parents to pick up students: some students come from broken homes and are being raised by grandparents; other schools are being repaired from damage caused by tornados and ice storm; the money is there to fix Colfax Elementary; and training for teachers for special needs students.

Mr. Chuck Johnson, attorney for the town of Colfax, wants to present the School Board with a proposal. He also stated that the town of Colfax passed a resolution against closing Colfax Elementary. Mr. Teddlie told Mr. Johnson to put the proposal in writing and give it to the School Board Office ten days prior to the April 15, 2021 Board Meeting. He also stated that he received the resolution.

Senator Jay Luneau stated that it is an easy solution to close Colfax Elementary and difficult to find funding. He suggested that the School Board apply for a FEMA grant to help with building a new school. Take a chance on Colfax Elementary School.

Mr. Teddlie said this is not an easy decision one way or the other.

Mr. Hammonds complimented all speakers for their professionalism.

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

s/Mike Slaughter
Mike Slaughter
Vice President
Grant Parish School Board

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