

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRANT PARISH SCHOOL
BOARD OF THE PARISH OF GRANT, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN
AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022

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, Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 6:00 o'clock P.M.

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

The Finance Committee did not meet due to lack of a quorum.

The Transportation and Maintenance Committee had no items to discuss.

Construction Committee:

Mr. Randy Browning called the Construction Committee Meeting to order. Mr. Gaspard, Construction Manager, gave an update on construction projects. Motion by Mr. Riggs, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously approved to accept a copy of Mr. Gaspard's report. Mr. Gaspard also gave a report during the Regular Board Meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Layton, seconded by Mrs. Roberts and unanimously approved the October 4, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

No guests signed in to be recognized.

Motion by Mr. Browning, seconded by Mr. Riggs and unanimously approved to amend agenda item number VI to raise certified teachers substitute pay from \$65.00 to \$85.00 per day instead \$65.00 to \$100.00 per day.

Motion by Mr. Browning, seconded by Mr. Riggs and unanimously approved to raise certified teachers substitute pay from \$65.00 to \$85.00 per day.

Motion by Mr. Browning, seconded by Mrs. Roberts and unanimously approved to budget money to Little River area improvements. Mr. Slaughter will get quotes and present quotes to the Board for approval.

Motion by Mrs. McFarland, seconded by Mr. Browning and unanimously approved awarding the Grant High School roof project to Terry's Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc. in the amount of \$608,400.

Motion by Mr. Riggs, seconded by Mrs. Layton and unanimously approved awarding the Verda Elementary School renovations project to Tudor, Inc. including Alternate 1, 2 and 3 in the amount of \$684,000.

Motion by Mr. Browning, seconded by Mrs. Roberts and unanimously approved 2023 Proposed Budget Revision: Parishwide Funds: Grant High School: \$54,094 for weapons detectors & training – prior year funds.

Motion by Mrs. McFarland, seconded by Mrs. Layton and unanimously approved 2023 Proposed Budget Revision: Parishwide Funds: Grant High School: \$17,450 for heater repair and thermostat replacements – prior year funds.

Motion by Mrs. Layton, seconded by Mrs. Roberts and unanimously approved 2023 Proposed Budget Revision: District Funds: Grant Jr. High School: \$8,500 Service Proposal to repair Boiler #1.

Motion by Mr. Browning, seconded by Mrs. Roberts and unanimously approved a Resolution in support of LASS Accountability Proposal.

RESOLUTION

SUPPORT OF LASS ACCOUNTABILITY PROPOSAL

A Resolution expressing support for the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents (LASS) proposal to reimagine the Louisiana public school accountability system and urge LA Department of Education State Superintendent Dr. Cade Brumley, and the Board of Secondary and Elementary Education (BESE) to adopt their proposal instead of the current proposal presented by the BESE Accountability Working Group in August 2022, and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, last year the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education began conducting an Accountability Working Group to propose changes to the public education accountability system;

WHEREAS, those meetings sought and accepted very little input from public education stakeholders such as teachers, superintendents and school boards, but rather focused primarily on the input from the LA Department of Education (LDOE) and a few self-proclaimed education reform organizations, some led by former LDOE staff from the Supt. John White administration;

WHEREAS, the publicly stated goal of the Accountability Working Group was to lower the number of high schools earning letter grades of A or B under the current system that has, in its core principles, been in place since the John White administration;

WHEREAS, the LDOE and the self-proclaimed "reformers" used the mantra that Louisiana high schools and school boards were "gaming the system" to inflate high school letter grades;

WHEREAS, the evidence they cited was: 1. the proportion of A & B high schools was higher than the proportion of A & B elementary schools, and those proportions should be the same; and 2. TOPS bound high school students were also taking career and technical classes and the WorkKeys exam and those students should not be given that choice.

WHEREAS, the result was a proposal that reverse engineered the high school accountability formula to deny points for high school students merely being proficient in high school content and graduating on time;

WHEREAS, the reverse engineered formula was then overly weighted on high school students doing post-secondary (high school) work as the only way for a high school to earn an A;

WHEREAS, the reversed engineered formula would result in only a hand-full of select academic admissions high schools earning an A;

WHEREAS, when BESE undertook the new formula at its August meeting it faced significant push back that the proposal was bad for students, parents, teachers, and communities;

WHEREAS, in response to the opposition, and despite the chiding of the self-proclaimed "reformers" BESE urged the LDOE to go back and seek more input from educators;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents (LASS), with the assistance of the Louisiana School Boards Association (LSBA), created a proposal to reimagine and completely rework the defective accountability system, not just for High School but also for Elementary and Middle School;

WHEREAS, the LASS Accountability proposal focuses on student proficiency of grade level content;

WHEREAS, the LASS Accountability proposal uses a pre- and post-test model similar to that being successfully used in Florida, where in students are tested in the beginning of the year and then at the end of the year to evidence how far that individual student grew toward proficiency of that grade level content;

WHEREAS, the LASS Accountability proposal aligns TOPS, WorkKeys and, for the first time ever, ASVAB, the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, so that whether High School graduates move on to college or a skilled trade or the military, they will all be considered successful.

WHEREAS, the LASS Accountability proposal uses a simple 100 point grading scale, familiar to students, parents, and the general public instead of the arbitrary 200, 150 and newly proposed 125 point scales that have been the hallmark of the past and current accountability system;

WHEREAS, the LASS Accountability proposal also limits testing to that mandated by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), noting that Louisiana over-tests our students;

WHEREAS, the LASS Accountability proposal also recognizes successes that are ignored in the current and BESE proposed system: Special Education students learning the basic life and commercial skills that will allow them to enter the workplace, students who continue to strive and earn their high school diploma beyond the expected 4-year window;

WHEREAS, the LASS Accountability proposal has resisted running simulations to see what the letter grade distribution would be, as the system was designed to focus on student achievement and not to reverse engineer a result.

THEREFORE, the Grant Parish School Board does hereby endorse and express its support for the LASS Accountability proposal;



FURTHER, the Grant Parish School Board urges the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to consider the Superintendents' Accountability Proposal (LASS) at the special BESE meeting set for November 1, 2022, respectively.

FURTHER, the Grant Parish School Board urges the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and specifically BESE Member Ashley Ellis, to support the adoption of the LASS Accountability proposal and take such actions as are necessary to move toward implementation of the proposal.

FINALLY, the Grant Parish School Board directs the Superintendent of the Grant Parish School System to deliver a certified copy of this Resolution to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, each elected and appointed member thereof, Superintendent Cade Brumley, Governor John Bel Edwards, Senator Cleo Fields, Representative Lance Harris, and each member of the Legislative delegation of Grant Parish.

Subscribed and sworn before me,

11/1/22
Date


Board President

Superintendent



The board received Dual Enrollment Guidelines and Procedures, no action required. Mr. Teddlie and Mrs. Kathy Smith discussed the guidelines and procedures with the board.

Motion by Mr. Browning, seconded by Mrs. Roberts and unanimously approved declaring 2 acres of property on Woodland Church Road in the Bagdad Community as Surplus Property.

The Superintendent discussed with the board members Personnel Report, Financial Report, Calendars, COVID numbers, Virtual Numbers, Student Count, Directive to look at various calendar options and Superintendent's Evaluation of Performance Objectives.

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

s/Michael Slaughter II
Michael Slaughter II
President
Grant Parish School Board

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