

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 26, 2024

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 26, 2024 at 5:30 o'clock P.M.

There were present Mrs. April Brouillette, Mr. Lloyd Whitman, Mr. Mason Briggs, Mrs. Lisa Roberts, Mrs. Karen Layton, Mr. Mike Slaughter, Mrs. Deborah "Debbie" McFarland and Mr. William "Bill" Riggs.

Dr. Erin Stokes, Secretary-Treasurer was also present.

The Parish School Board of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, was duly convened by Mr. Mason Briggs, 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 Mrs. McFarland, seconded by Mr. Whitman and unanimously approved Invoice #22004012 for Montgomery High School Renovations payable to Barron Heinberg & Brocato Architects and Engineers in the amount of \$3,258.03.

Motion by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mr. Riggs and unanimously approved Pay App. #6 for Grant High School Roof Project payable to Terry's Roofing & Sheet Metal in the amount of \$30,420.00.

Motion by Mrs. Roberts, seconded by Mrs. Layton and unanimously approved to receive clear Lien Certificate for Grant High School Roof Project with Terry's Roofing & Sheet Metal.

Motion by Mr. Riggs, seconded by Mr. Whitman and unanimously approved a Resolution expressing opposition to state legislation establishing Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) including house Bill 745 which creates the LA GATOR Scholarship Program, that provide public dollars for private school tuition and education expenses.



# Grant Parish School Board

P.O. Box 208  
Colfax, Louisiana 71417-0208  
Phone: 318-627-3274 • Fax: 318-627-5931  
Dr. Erin Stokes, Superintendent

**Board Members:**  
Mason Briggs, President  
April Brouillette, Vice-President  
Mike Slaughter  
Lloyd Whitman  
Bill Riggs  
Debbie McFarland  
Karen Layton  
Lisa Roberts

## Resolution

A resolution expressing opposition to state legislation establishing Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), including House Bill 745 which creates the LA GATOR Scholarship Program, that provide public dollars for private school tuition and educational expenses and to urge the Grant Parish legislative delegation to vote **NO** on any bill proposing an Education Savings Account, and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, there is a renewed and concerted effort at the legislature to pass bills that will give public funds directly to parents to be used for private school tuition and other educational expenses with little to no oversight; and

WHEREAS, for the past 20 years, the state has failed to adequately fund K-12 public education; and

WHEREAS, during the same period the state has continuously placed new accountability demands on both our students and our schools: and

WHEREAS, the Grant School Board provides free public K-12 education to any student who resides in our school district within the guidelines set by both the state and federal government; and

WHEREAS, diverting public dollars to private schools and other programs through Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) without fully funding public schools disadvantages out students and schools; and

WHEREAS, providing public dollars to ESAs without requiring the same state accountability testing imposed on public school students is irresponsible public policy.

THEREFORE, the Grant School Board does hereby express its **OPPOSITION** to legislation creating and/or funding Education Savings Accounts.

FURTHER, the Grant School Board directs the superintendent of the Grant School System to send a copy of the Resolution to each member of the legislative delegation of Grant Parish.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: April Brouillette, Lloyd Whitman, Karen Layton, Mason Briggs, Lisa Roberts, Mike Slaughter, Debbie McFarland, Bill Riggs

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

  
Dr. Erin Stokes, Superintendent

  
Mr. Mason Briggs, President

The Grant Parish School Board Members, Superintendent, Scott Gaspard, Grant Parish Construction Manager, Charles Hardie, Grant Parish School Board Attorney with Hammonds, Sills, Adkins, Guice, Noah & Perkins, LLP, Jay Lynch, Architect, Managing Partner with Barron Heinberg & Broccato, LLC, James Melebeck, Senior Architect with Barron Heinberg & Broccato, LLC and John Lyons, JM Lyons Construction, LLC discussed Contractor Delay on “Renovations and new construction for Montgomery High School” and possible placing JM Lyons Construction, LLC in default of agreement. Mr. John Lyons gave a schedule of substantial completion to all concerned which would be completed by April 9, 2024. Attorney Charles

Hardie recommended that the Board revisit this at the April 9, 2024 Board Meeting to see the progress made by JM Lyons Construction LLC.

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

s/Mason Briggs  
Mason Briggs  
President  
Grant Parish School Board

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Erin Stokes  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Grant Parish School Board