

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRANT PARISH SCHOOL
BOARD OF THE PARISH OF GRANT, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN
AT A SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 2, 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, Thursday, May 2, 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, Mrs. Deborah "Debbie" McFarland and Mr. William "Bill" Riggs. Mr. Mike Slaughter was absent.

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.

The following signed in to be recognized: Teri Tradewell, Cephas Bowie, Jr., Cari Lloyd, Cinda Thomas, Kim Bryan, Amy Merrell and Avery Hamilton.

Motion by Mrs. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Whitman and unanimously approved to adopt a Resolution to elect to join the State of Louisiana and Louisiana Department of Education in litigation against the United States Department of Education and other federal defendants to challenge the Final Rule which dramatically changes Title IX Regulations. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Briggs – Yay, Mrs. Roberts – Yay, Mrs. Layton – Yay, Mr. Whitman – Yay, Mrs. McFarland – Yay, Mr. Riggs – Yay, Mrs. Brouillette – Yay, Mr. Slaughter was absent.



Grant Parish School Board

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Dr. Erin Stokes, Superintendent

Grant Parish School Board
Resolution

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

BE IT FOREVER KNOWN that, by official action taken at its meeting of May 2, 2024, the Grant Parish School Board (sometimes referred to as the “Board”) adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education has issued a final rule, titled “Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance” (“Final Rule”),¹ which it will publish in the Federal Register;

WHEREAS, the Final Rule dramatically changes Title IX regulations and will increase complaint investigations;

WHEREAS, the Final Rule will disadvantage the Board by increasing its obligations, compliance costs, and liability risks;

WHEREAS, the Board believes the Final Rule is contrary to federal law and will be detrimental to students, parents, and employees;

WHEREAS, the Board believes the Final Rule is directly contrary to existing state law, as well as bills currently being considered by the Louisiana Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), and school districts within the State intend to challenge the legality of the Final Rule, and the Board’s participation in such lawsuit will result in no direct legal fees or costs to the Board since the Louisiana Attorney General is already representing the State and LDOE;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, by the vote reflected hereinbelow, the Grant Parish School Board does hereby elect to join the State of Louisiana and

¹ <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/t9-unofficial-final-rule-2024.pdf>

LDOE in litigation against the United States Department of Education and other federal defendants to challenge the Final Rule.

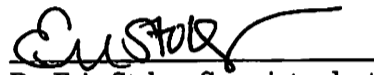
ON THE MOTION OF Lisa Roberts and seconded by Lloyd Whitman the following votes were cast:

YEAS: Mason Briggs, Lisa Roberts, Karen Layton, Lloyd Whitman, Deborah McFarland, William Riggs, April Granillette

NEAS: 0

absent: Michael Slaughter

THUS DONE and passed this 2nd day of May, 2024, Colfax, Grant Parish, Louisiana.



Dr. Erin Stokes, Superintendent
Grant Parish School Board



Mason Briggs, Board President
Grant Parish School Board

Dr. Erin Stokes and the Board members received a letter on May 2, 2024 from the Louisiana Department of Education for the 2024-2025 School Year. The Louisiana Department of Education required that the Grant Parish School System shall close Colfax Elementary School, assuring the 140+ impacted students receive reassignment to a school with a higher letter grade. The schools include Pollock Elementary, South Grant Elementary and Verda Elementary. Dr. Stokes discussed the facts concerning this matter with the Board Members and Guests.

The Colfax Coalition Members and Mayor Garland Brossette discussed with the Board their concerns, opposition and sadness for the closing Colfax Elementary School. Mrs. Amy

Merrell, Principal at Georgetown High school wanted the community to know that the Colfax Elementary Students would be welcome at the other elementary schools.

The Board Members stated they are facing a difficult decision and will vote on this May 7, 2024, Regular Board Meeting.

Motion by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mrs. McFarland 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