

President
Jackie Self

Superintendent
James Williams

Vice-President
John Blankenbaker

Vernon Parish School Board

201 Belview Road
LEESVILLE, LOUISIANA 71446
(337) 239-3401
Fax (337) 238-5777

BOARD MEMBERS:

January 12, 2021

District One
Doug Brandon
Robert Pynes, Jr.
Jim Seaman
Jackie Self
Steve Woods

District Two
Angie Davis

District Three
David Detz

District Four
Randy Martin

District Five
Shad Stewart

District Six
Vernon L. Travis Jr.

District Seven
John Blankenbaker

District Eight
Lisa Thompson

Dear Stakeholders:

The challenge involved in providing an excellent educational experience for the many, varied students in our district is a challenge that requires dedication and creativity in the best of times. The year 2020, however, was not the best of times.

The past year required an unusual combination of skills and talents from district leaders. Unexpected circumstances resulted in changes in laws and regulations, and those statewide changes required adaptability, quick problem solving, teamwork, and leadership at the district level.

Navigating through unfamiliar waters became a daily task, complicated by the differing opinions and desires of various constituents. These uncertain and sometimes treacherous circumstances created challenges for even the most seasoned among us. A steady hand on the rudder was absolutely required and that's exactly what our district's board has provided.

Our board members came through when we needed them most this year, charting a course that protected our most vulnerable, while ensuring that academic progress could continue for all students. It was a daunting situation, but they navigated to success with unerring determination.

Board service is a volunteer effort accepted by only a few in the community. It can be a tough job, especially in these unprecedented times. It is a critically important job that requires an election and then mandated training. It is a responsibility that takes time, a mature outlook, and careful decision making.

Board members come from all walks of life. They are farmers, doctors, business owners, retirees, and young professionals. They are people you see in the store, at the game and in your neighborhood. They are often overlooked, but their contributions cannot be overstated. They are shaping tomorrow.

Take a moment to recognize your local board members. Take a moment to honor the work they are doing to help your students sail into the future. Take a moment to say thank you for the work school board members are doing on behalf of your students and community.

Join me in celebrating School Board Recognition Month throughout the month of January.

Sincerely,

**James Williams
Superintendent**

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"