

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
VERMILION PARISH SCHOOL BOARD**

September 20, 2017

The School Board met this day in regular session at 216 South Jefferson Street, Abbeville, Louisiana, at 6:00 p.m., with the following members present: Mrs. Sara Duplechain, Mr. Anthony Fontana, Mr. Chris Gautreaux, Mr. Chris Hebert, Mr. Luddy Herpin, Mr. Stacy Landry, Mrs. Laura LeBeouf, and Mr. Kibbie Pillette.

Absent: None.

On motion of Mr. Gautreaux, seconded by Mr. Hebert and carried, the following items were added to the agenda by unanimous consent:

Human Resources Department:

C. 9. c. Move to enter into executive session to discuss the following:

Personnel matters

C. 9. d. Move to consider authorizing charges against school bus driver and set hearing date.

C. 9. e. Move to consider granting Leave Without Pay to Lindsey Faulk Meaux from September 28 through November 1, 2017.

On motion of Mrs. LeBeouf, seconded by Mrs. Duplechain and carried, the Board adopted agenda items as follows:

Adopted the minutes as transcribed for filing purposes as the official minutes of the Vermilion Parish School Board for the meetings held on August 16 and 17, 2017.

Approved offering the same products at the same rates as the prior year with First Financial Group for the Section 125 Cafeteria plan and Section 403b Tax Shelter Annuity program effective January 1, 2018.

Approved appointing Mr. Wayne Corne of the Corne-Lemaire Group, as architect to design plans and specifications and to advertise for bids for a multi-purpose building at Dozier Elementary School.

Approved awarding the bid for seven (7) 71/72 Passenger Diesel Powered School Buses for Regular Education to Kent-Mitchell Bus Sales and Service, LLC in the amount of \$75,906.00 per bus, it being the lowest bidder meeting specifications as per bid tabulation sheet on file, to be purchased with funds generated from the 1996 millage.

Approved awarding the bid for one (1) 48 Passenger Diesel Powered School Buses for Special Education to Kent-Mitchell Bus Sales and Service, LLC in the amount of \$88,372.00 per bus, it being the lowest bidder meeting specifications as per bid tabulation sheet on file, to be purchased with funds generated from the 1996 millage.

Approved revisions to policy DJD – Expense Reimbursement.

Accepted a donation of \$1,513 from the Community Foundation of Acadiana to be used by Cecil Picard Elementary School to purchase instructional materials for the school's classrooms and directed the Superintendent to send formal appreciation for the donation.

Accepted a donation of \$1,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Sellers in honor of Pressley 'Pep' Viator to be used by Meaux Elementary School to enhance the school's PE (Physical Education) program and directed the Superintendent to send formal appreciation for the donation.

Approved declaring miscellaneous equipment as surplus and authorized the Superintendent to negotiate for the disposition of this equipment.

The Board Legal Counsel advised the board that there is no longer a need for executive session and the following two (2) items were removed from the agenda:

Move to enter into executive session to discuss the following:

Personnel matters

Move to consider authorizing charges against school bus driver and set hearing date.

On motion of Mr. Hebert, seconded unanimously, the Board adopted the following resolution renaming the baseball field at Erath High School after Ross Granger:

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Mr. Ross Stephen Granger was a resident of District G and a student of the Vermilion Parish School System from August 2001 until graduating as Valedictorian from Erath High School in May 2015; and

WHEREAS, he excelled in the academic and athletic arenas; and

WHEREAS, he provided leadership and stability to his fellow classmates as a student and was recognized as the Vermilion Parish Student of the Year in 2006 (5th grade), 2010 (8th grade) and Erath High School Student of the Year 2015 (12th grade), the members of the Vermilion Parish School Board would like to publicly recognize Mr. Ross Stephen Granger; his academic accomplishments brought pride to the Vermilion Parish School Board district and Erath High School; and

WHEREAS, he achieved All-District honors in both baseball and football during his athletic career at Erath High School; and

WHEREAS, The Vermilion Parish School Board be recorded as publicly expressing appreciation for Mr. Ross Stephen Granger’s excellent academic leadership and untiring efforts on behalf of the Vermilion Parish School System and the children this system serves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the board convened in regular session the 20th day of September 2017, and the members of the Vermilion Parish School Board hereby dedicate and name the Erath High Baseball Field in his honor and shall henceforth refer to this field as the “Ross Granger Field”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Vermilion Parish School Board that this resolution be made a permanent part of the School Board records, and that a copy be presented to the family of Mr. Ross Stephen Granger.

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On motion of Mrs. LeBeouf, seconded unanimously, the Board accepted a donation of \$8,613 from The Lions Clubs International Foundation to be used by Kaplan Elementary School to purchase teacher support materials for the school and presented a plaque to representatives of The Lions Clubs International Foundation for the donation.

On motion of Mr. Fontana, seconded unanimously, the Board approved adopting the following resolution of appreciation to Mr. Ed Villien for his years of service in providing outstanding insurance coverage to the Vermilion Parish School Board:

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the Vermilion Parish School Board currently owns and operates, on behalf of the public, properties and buildings insured for more than \$185 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Vermilion Parish School Board owns and operates, on behalf of the public, a fleet of school buses, passenger vehicles, utility work vehicles, vans and trailers, totaling 176 of those items. It is essential to the operation of the Vermilion Parish School System that these properties, buildings and vehicles are adequately insured against loss or damage; and

WHEREAS, the annual premiums to acquire adequate property, casualty and flood insurance for these items generally exceeds \$1 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to retain the services of a competent insurance professional to assist in the planning and acquisition of said coverage; and

WHEREAS, from 1993 to 2016, Mr. Edward C. Villien, a licensed insurance broker, has assisted the Vermilion Parish School Board in the performance of these obligations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Villien has demonstrated exceptional competence, expertise and dedication in assisting the Vermilion Parish School Board in acquiring these coverages with the highest rated international companies at the most competitive international prices; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Villien has assisted the professional staff at the Vermilion Parish School Board by providing competent and dedicated service in the handling of all property, casualty and flood insurance related matters, including hurricanes and other natural disasters; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Vermilion Parish School Board, on its behalf and on behalf of the tax payers of Vermilion Parish does hereby recognize the continuing outstanding professional effort put forth by Mr. Villien on its behalf and commends him for his professionalism and dedication.

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The Board received a presentation from Marc Turner, President of Vermilion Principal's Association.

On motion of Mr. Fontana, seconded by Mr. Pillette and carried, the Board approved entering the following letter from the Vermilion Principal's Association into the minutes:

Board Members,

The Vermilion Principal's Association is comprised of all public school principals in our parish. Every month, we conduct meetings as an association. At our August 25th meeting, we voted as a group to compose this letter to you as the members of the Board. We are extremely concerned with the negativity and low morale that has publicly surfaced regarding our school system. We are a high-performing District in the state, we have excellent support at Central Office, and we are excelling academically. As instructional leaders, we know that we continuously have to work towards higher standards. However, these accomplishments and hard work have been overshadowed by the negative news and social media coverage from recent events at our board meetings. As administrators at our school, we are responsible for establishing a culture of achievement by maintaining an environment that is conducive to learning. We feel that the climate at our board meetings is causing unrest at all levels and in all stakeholders. We are proposing that the board

revert from its current condition to its overall purpose based on the Louisiana School Board Association's document on characteristics of an effective board. We believe that the eight characteristics as stated in the attachment will help reduce the increased anxiety in our district. After all, We are Vermilion. As an Association, we respect leadership at all levels. We are asking the board to put their differences aside and begin to work together, and focus on the advancement of our students' education. Thank you for taking this into consideration.

Mr. Gautreaux made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fontana to approve transferring \$150,000 out of the \$500,000 sequestered in the Insurance Fund to the General Fund, which will be utilized to match raffle expenditures up to \$7,500 per school and a maximum of \$150,000 total, if monies are spent on classroom technology. On motion of Mr. Fontana, seconded by Mr. Pillette and carried, the Board tabled the following motion until the October 19, 2017 Board meeting: (Nay vote to table: Chris Gautreaux)

Move to approve transferring \$150,000 out of the \$500,000 sequestered in the Insurance Fund to the General Fund, which will be utilized to match raffle expenditures up to \$7,500 per school and a maximum of \$150,000 total, if monies are spent on classroom technology.

On motion of Mr. Pillette, seconded by Mr. Fontana and carried, the Board approved middle school coaching stipends.

On motion of Mr. Fontana, seconded by Mr. Pillette and carried, the Board moved that the Superintendent shall present to the Board the projected student enrollment, staffing reassignments, and the total number of employees, including the projected cost, prior to adopting the budget.

Mr. Fontana made a motion seconded by Mr. Gautreaux to approve adopting a generic contract for all employees. A motion was then made by Mr. Pillette, seconded by Mrs. LeBeouf and carried, to table this item for further discussion at the October 2017 Education Committee meeting.

On motion of Mr. Fontana, seconded by Mr. Pillette and carried, the Board approved hiring Mike Hefner with Geographic Planning and Demographic Services, LLC, at an approximate cost of \$9,500 for redistricting board member lines from either eight (8) members to nine (9) members or eight (8) members to seven (7) members.

Mr. Herpin made a motion seconded by Mr. Hebert to approve creating a Chief Financial Officer Elect position, effective January 22, 2018 through March 19, 2018.

Mr. Fontana offered a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Pillette and carried, the Board approved creating a Chief Financial Officer Elect position for a period of two (2) – four (4) months ending on March 19, 2018. Substitute motion passed.

On motion of Mr. Pillette, seconded by Mrs. Duplechain and carried, the Board approved granting Leave Without Pay to Renee Harrington from September 21, 2017 through October 5, 2017.

On motion of Mrs. Duplechain, seconded by Mr. Pillette and carried, the Board approved granting Leave Without Pay to Lindsey Faulk Meaux from September 28, 2017 through November 1, 2017.

The Board received Information and Advisory Reports as follows:

Business Department:

Oil & Gas Revenue Report

Sales Tax Report

Quarterly Financial Report – School Lunch/Breakfast Fund (Child Nutrition Program)

1996 Ad Valorem Tax Fund (10 Mills) Quarterly Report

1998 Ad Valorem Tax Fund (25 Mills) Annual Report

2009 Sales Tax Fund (½ cent) Annual Report

Human Resources Department:

Personnel list:

APPOINTMENTS

Broussard, Aidan - Herod Elementary - Elementary Teacher – effective August 28, 2017 through May 26, 2018 only – replaces Shaina Lafleur who resigned

Clark, Amanda - Central Office - Educational Diagnostician – effective September 20, 2017 – replaces Mark Berry who resigned

Fontenot, Jacob - JH Williams Middle - School Safety Officer – effective September 1, 2017 - New position created by Board on August 17, 2017

Fruge, Elizabeth - Meaux Elementary - PreK Teacher – effective August 11, 2017 through December 22, 2017 only – replaces Susan Dardar who was granted a sabbatical

Roman, Madeline - Abbeville High - Cafeteria Technician – effective September 18, 2017 – replaces Teena Meadows who transferred

Meaux, Lori Beth - Rene Rost Middle - MS Math Teacher – effective September 1, 2017, through May 26, 2018 only – replaces Jenny Dubose who resigned

Trahan, Ashlyn - Eaton Park Elementary - Special Education Teacher – effective September 20, 2017 through May 26, 2018 only – replaces Amanda Clark who was appointed to another position

Trahan-Gallet, Rhonda - Herod Elementary - School Safety Officer – effective September 1, 2017 - New position created by Board on August 17, 2017

Wall, Rita - Eaton Park Elementary – Paraprofessional – effective September 15, 2017 – replaces Lori Royer who resigned

Wipperling, Jesse - North Vermilion Middle - MS Band Director/HS Asst. Band Director – effective September 7, 2017 through May 26, 2018 only – replaces Kevin Guidry who resigned

MATERNITY LEAVE

Bonvillion, Lacey - Gueydan High – Paraprofessional – effective July 10, 2017 through September 5, 2017

RESIGNATIONS

Arcement, Penny – North Vermilion Middle - MS Teacher – effective September 27, 2017

DuBose, Jenny - Rene Rost Middle - MS Math Teacher – effective August 19, 2017

Guidry, Kevin - North Vermilion Middle - Band Director – effective August 22, 2017

MacLeod, Stacia - Herod Elementary - Elementary Teacher – effective September 14, 2017

Royer, Lori – Eaton Park Elementary – Paraprofessional – effective August 22, 2017

Trahan, Amaya – Eaton Park Elementary - Elementary Teacher – effective September 16, 2017

RETIREMENTS

Menard, Linda – Eaton Park Elementary – Paraprofessional – effective September 15, 2017

Romero, Sandra - FIEB Elementary - Bus Driver – effective September 12, 2017

Simon, Barry - Rene Rost Middle - MS Teacher – effective September 21, 2017

TERMINATION (Deceased)

Venable, Charlotte - Jesse Owens Elementary - Elementary Teacher – effective September 12, 2017

SABBATICAL LEAVE (Medical)

Myers, Kirby - North Vermilion Middle – Teacher – effective August 7, 2017 through December 22, 2017

APPOINTMENT (Effective Date Correction)

Alexander, Dana - Central Office - Elementary Teacher - Alternative Program – effective August 7, 2017 through May 26, 2018 only - changed from August 7, 2017 - Changed due to certification status

On motion of Mr. Fontana, seconded by Mr. Pillette and carried, the Board adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

**/s/ Stacy Landry
Mr. Stacy Landry
Vice-President**

**/s/ Jerome Puyau
Mr. Jerome Puyau
Secretary-Treasurer**