

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
RESERVE, LA - Meeting of May 17, 2007**

The Chair called the meeting to order and read the following call:

HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
Parish of St. John the Baptist

Dear Board Member:

Upon call of the President, the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board will meet in regular session at Godchaux Grammar Cafeteria, 1600 Highway 44, Reserve, Louisiana, at 6:00 p.m., on Thursday, May 17, 2007.

An agenda for the meeting is attached.

Sincerely,

s/Michael K. Coburn
Superintendent/Secretary

The Chair called for a moment of silent meditation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

PRESENT: Messrs. Jack, Burl, Keller, Sanders, Jones, Johnson, Wise, Bacas, Ory, Triche

ABSENT: Mr. Gendron

There were 10 members present and 1 member absent.

Dr. Keller introduced and welcomed Ms. Donna Jacob, reporter with L'Observateur.

ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of April 19, 2007. A motion was made by Mr. Triche, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to accept the minutes of April 19, 2007, as printed and published. There were no objections and the motion carried. Mr. Gendron was absent.

ITEM 4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT. Mr. Michael Coburn, Superintendent.

a. Superintendent Coburn recognized Ms. Patricia Triche, principal of Lake Pontchartrain Elementary. Ms. Triche introduced Ms. Jean George, second grade teacher, whose class performed a poem titled "So What If I Can Read!" The class also performed the poem at the school's literacy rally and was awarded a trophy for their performance.

b. Superintendent Coburn recognized Ms. Cathy Homes, Family Development Agent/Parish Chair for the LSU AgCenter. Ms. Holmes introduced members of her staff; Kelly Camp-Ag/Youth Agent, Pamela Perrilloux-Nutrition Educator, and Melanie Burl, Youth Agent. A brief overview of programs offered in the parish by the Youth Agents was given.

c. Superintendent Coburn recognized regional and state social studies fair winners from East St. John High.

4th Place, Akeem Burl

3rd Place, Kayla Mora

3rd Place, Carl Burrhus

3rd Place, Matthew Harris

2nd Place, Tamara Stirgus

2nd Place, Charmer Pratt

1st Place Group, Rashaad Collins & Nylisha Hughes

The state qualifiers at regional competition were Charmer Pratt, Tamara Stirgus, Rashaad Collins, and Nylisha Hughes

Rashaad Collins and Nylisha Hughes also placed third in state competition.

d. Superintendent Coburn stated that Ms. Elois Joseph has requested to hold the summer feeding program again this year at Garyville/Mt. Airy Magnet, LaPlace Elementary, Lake Pontchartrain Elementary and West St. John Elementary from June 4th through July 20th (Monday-Thursday) from 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Burl, seconded by the entire Board to approve the summer feeding program. There were no objections and the motion carried. Mr. Gendron was absent.

e. Superintendent Coburn announced that the Renaissance Learning awards ceremony will be held on May 22nd from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at San Francisco Plantation. West St. John Elementary will be recognized for having 100% of their teachers certified as either model or master teachers. Also, the end of the year celebration for all employees will be held on May 24th from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at San Francisco Plantation. Superintendent Coburn invited all board members to attend these events.

f. Superintendent Coburn announced that East St. John High will hold their graduation ceremony on Friday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m. at Joe Keller Stadium. West St. John High will hold their graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 19th at 10:00 a.m. on the school campus. Superintendent Coburn thanked the high school principals for the work they have done preparing for graduation.

g. Superintendent Coburn reviewed LEAP scores that were recently received by the district. Superintendent Coburn stated that fourth grade scores went down while eighth grade scores went up. In fourth grade, 67% scored basic or approaching basic while in the eighth grade they scored 71% which is above the state passing rate of 66%. Superintendent Coburn reviewed the unsatisfactory scores for the years 2006 and 2007. Superintendent Coburn stated that even though the high schools showed gains, they are not satisfied with the scores and concentrated efforts will be made in eighth grade and at the high school level.

ITEM 5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS BY THE BOARD OR STAFF.

ITEM 6. PERSONNEL MATTERS. Ms. Ann LaBorde, Executive Manager of Personnel/Legal Services -a. Personnel Changes (Requires action by the Board)...Ms. LaBorde presented the following Personnel Changes for approval.

I. PROFESSIONAL

A. Extended Sick Leave

1. Zuly Bayer, Third Grade Teacher, East St. John Elementary, 4/16/07; 4/17/07
2. Shandra Clark, English Teacher, East St. John High, 5/7/07-5/24/07
3. Carla Hellmers Kindergarten Teacher, LaPlace Elementary, 4/30/07
4. Gillian King-Hughes, Special Education Teacher, East St. John High, 4/30/07
5. Suzanne Ladner, GED Skills Teacher, Leon Godchaux Accelerated Program, 4/19/07-5/24/07
6. Sherial Lewis, Sixth Grade Teacher, LaPlace Elementary, 4/18/07
7. Ashley Remondet, Second Grade Teacher, Lake Pontchartrain Elementary, 4/18/07-5/24/07
8. Sharon Steib, Pupil Appraisal Team, Milesville, 4/2/07-5/24/07

A motion was made by Mr. Ory, seconded by Mr. Bacas, to accept the Personnel Changes as presented by administration. There were no objections and the motion carried. Mr. Gendron was absent and Mr. Jones was not seated.

ITEM 7. BUSINESS AND FINANCE, Mr. Felix Boughton, Executive Director of Business and Finance. a. Authorize administration to accept proposals on liability insurance, workers compensation, and third party administration fees (Requires action by the Board). Mr. Boughton requested that the Board authorize administration to accept proposals on liability insurance, workers compensation, and third party administration fees for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

A motion was made by Mr. Triche, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to authorize administration to accept proposals on liability insurance, workers compensation, and third party administration fees for 2007-2008. There were no objections and the motion carried. Mr. Gendron was absent and Mr. Jones was not seated.

ITEM 7b. Request Board approval to assemble and install playground equipment at the St. John Child Development Center and West St. John Elementary (Requires action by the Board). Mr. Montz explained that the Head Start Director secured a grant for the installation of playground safety surface at the district's head start sites. The contractor installing the safety surface can assemble and install ten pieces of equipment (five at each location) before installing the safety surface.

A motion was made by Mr. Jack, seconded by Mr. Triche, to approve the assembly and installation of playground equipment at St. John Child Development Center and West St. John Elementary at a cost of \$2,680. There were no objections and the motion carried. Mr. Gendron was absent and Mr. Jones was not seated.

ITEM 8. OLD BUSINESS.

a. Superintendent Coburn stated that this past Monday a meeting was held on an additional plan for health insurance for west bank employees. Superintendent Coburn requested that the Board waive policy to discuss this item.

A motion to waive policy was made by Mr. Triche, seconded by Mr. Ory, to discuss the health insurance plan for the west bank employees. There were no objections and the motion to waive policy carried. Mr. Gendron was absent and Mr. Jones was not seated.

A motion was made by Mr. Jack, seconded by Mr. Ory, to accept the health insurance plan for west bank employees. There were no objections and the motion carried. Mr. Gendron was absent and Mr. Jones was not seated.

Ms. LaBorde stated that a meeting will be held for the west bank employees on Monday, May 21st at 10:00 a.m. in the board meeting room. A meeting will also be held that afternoon at 2:30 p.m. at West St. John High and 3:00 p.m. at West St. John Elementary. Mr. Jack stated that a meeting will also be held at the courthouse at 6:00 p.m.

ITEM 9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Mr. Bob Bourgeois, Technology Coordinator – Request approval of Technology Plan for 2007-2014 (Requires action by the Board). Mr. Bourgeois requested approval of the technology plan for 2007-2014 which is required to continue E-rate funding.

A motion was made by Mr. Triche, seconded by Mr. Bacas, to approve the technology plan for 2007-2014. There were no objections and the motion carried. Mr. Gendron was absent.

ITEM 9b. Mr. Lloyd LeBlanc, Board Attorney – Legal Update. No report.

ITEM 10. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS: None.

ITEM 11. BOARD RELATED ITEMS OF INTEREST: Mr. Ory requested a report on the amount of fees required for parents to pay at schools. Mr. Ory requested that this item also be placed on the agenda for possible action for the Board to decide what items should not be covered by the parents, but by the Board.

Mr. Ory also requested a list of school supplies for the next meeting for the Board to review. Superintendent Coburn stated that the school supply list for all K-8 schools has been condensed for next year.

Mr. Jack stated that the Wallace Indians on the west bank hold an annual luau as a fundraiser for their organization. Mr. Jack explained that this organization has been instrumental in helping both west bank schools and are always sponsoring functions for the schools. Mr. Jack requested to waive policy to discuss concerns of this organization.

A motion was made by Mr. Jack, seconded by Mr. Wise, to waive policy to address the concerns of the Wallace Indians. There were no objections and the motion carried. Mr. Gendron was absent.

Mr. Jack explained that this is a non-profit organization for the west bank. This year it was brought to their attention that it is against Board policy to use a school to raise funds for an organization. Mr. Jack stated that a lot of the money made at these fundraisers is going back to the schools.

Superintendent Coburn explained that the policy states that a school cannot be used for a fundraiser and other organizations have been turned down for this reason.

Mr. Sanders asked Mr. Lloyd LeBlanc to clarify the situation. Mr. LeBlanc stated that the organization needs to change the way they are handling the fundraiser and change the wording to "ticket donation".

Mr. Ory offered a motion to allow the Wallace Indians to use West St. John Elementary for their luau following the current procedures for St. John the Baptist Parish School Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burl. Mr. Wise offered an amendment to the motion to authorize the Wallace Indians access to the school property of West St. John Elementary for this year on a one-time basis and that the Superintendent review the policy and report back to the Board with a clear interpretation of the policy. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Jack. There were no objections to the motion as amended and the amended motion passed. Mr. Gendron was absent.

Superintendent Coburn reported that a Tiger Camp will be held for special education students throughout the parish next week in New Orleans. Ms. Cindy Owens explained that Tiger Camp is sponsored by the LSU Medical Center in New Orleans. The camp is for students with disabilities or medical needs. First year and incoming medical students are assigned as camp counselors. There are about 80 students attending; 19 from St. John Parish. Superintendent Coburn thanked Mr. Sanders for the work he did with this program.

Mr. Ory stated that school board members received a letter from a committee of concerned bus drivers listing suggested changes for the transportation department. Mr. Ory requested that administration find out who is on this committee and invite them to the next board meeting to present their recommendations to the Board officially.

Mr. Ory stated that he would like to recognize the Wallace Indians at the next meeting.

Mr. Burl thanked Sheriff Wayne Jones and the sheriff's department for sponsoring the special education Olympics track run that was held yesterday. The following schools participated: John L. Ory Magnet, East St. John Elementary, East St. John High, Redirection Center, Riverside Academy, and St. Peter's School.

Dr. Keller asked that the officers who direct traffic at the schools in the mornings and evenings be invited to the next meeting so that they can be recognized for the work that they do.

The agenda having been completed, and there being no further business, Mr. Ory offered a motion for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Burl. There were no objections. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M. Mr. Gendron was absent.

Gerald J. Keller, Ph.D., President

Michael K. Coburn, Secretary