

A regular meeting of the West Baton Rouge Parish School Board was held this date with the following membership:

Present: Cynthia M. Crochet, Vice President, Cecile G. Gauthreaux, Dr. Atley D. Walker, Sr., Ronald P. LeBlanc, Charles Morgan, Paul C. Pattan, Sr., G. Alden Chustz, Jr., Michael A. Maranto, C. A. Altazan, Jr.
Absent: Jason P. Manola, President

Mrs. Cynthia M. Crochet, Vice President, conducted the meeting in the absence of Jason P. Manola, President.

The meeting was opened with the invocation by Reverend Charles Morgan. Nicholas Henderson, Brusly Elementary School student, and Natalie St. Cyr, Lukeville Upper Elementary School student, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The next item was approval of the minutes of the regular board meeting held on October 19, 2005.

Whereupon, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Altazan and seconded by Mr. Pattan:

Be It Resolved, That the minutes of the regular board meeting held on October 19, 2005, be approved as presented.

The above resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Aye: Mrs. Gauthreaux, Dr. Walker, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pattan, Mr. Chustz, Mr. Maranto, Mr. Altazan, Mrs. Crochet
Nay: None
Absent And
Not Voting: Mr. Manola

The next item was educational presentations. Whereupon, the first presentation was introduction of the members of the West Baton Rouge All-Parish Choir and their Director, Ms. Claudette Purnell. Ms. Purnell introduced Mr. Jim Barnett, keyboard accompanist. The choir gave a musical presentation.

Whereupon, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Pattan and seconded by Mr. Chustz:

Be It Resolved, That the board does hereby commend and congratulate Ms. Purnell, the members of the West Baton Rouge All-Parish Choir, and Mr. Jim Barnett, keyboard accompanist, for the excellent musical presentation and for their accomplishments in the short time that the choir has been organized.

The above resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Aye: Mrs. Gauthreaux, Dr. Walker, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pattan, Mr. Chustz, Mr. Maranto, Mr. Altazan, Mrs. Crochet
Nay: None
Absent And
Not Voting: Mr. Manola

The next educational presentation was introduction of Ms. Rebecca Bentley, DOW Community Relations Manager and Shelia Goins, Hands-On-Science Program Coordinator. Whereupon, Ms. Bentley presented a check in the amount of \$15,000 from Dow Chemical Company/Louisiana Operations, to be used for the Hands-On-Science Program.

The Chairman declared the floor open for public comment.

Whereupon, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Maranto and seconded by Mr. Pattan:

Be It Resolved, That the West Baton Rouge Parish School Board does hereby express its appreciation to Dow Chemical Company/Louisiana Operations, for the \$15,000 contribution presented this date to fund the Hands-On-Science Program, and

Be It Further Resolved, That the board does hereby express its appreciation to Dow Chemical Company/Louisiana Operations, for their monetary contributions and interest in the education of the students of West Baton Rouge Parish.

The above resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**Aye: Mrs. Gauthreaux, Dr. Walker, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pattan,
Mr. Chustz, Mr. Maranto, Mr. Altazan, Mrs. Crochet**

Nay: None

Absent And

Not Voting: Mr. Manola

The next educational presentation was recognition of Curtis Woods, Port Allen High School football player, for his help daily at the WBR Community Center shelter following Hurricane Katrina, and the Port Allen High School football team and coaching staff for their help at the shelter following Hurricane Katrina.

Whereupon, Superintendent Corona recognized Mrs. Judy Thousand, Parish Shelter Manager. Mrs. Thousand commended the Port Allen High School Football team, the coaching staff, and Curtis Woods for their help and support at the shelter following Hurricane Katrina. She praised Curtis Woods for his daily help at the shelter during the entire time that the evacuees were housed at the Community Center in Port Allen. The board presented a large banner to Curtis Woods which is to be displayed at Port Allen High School.

The Chairman declared the floor open for public comment.

Whereupon, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Pattan:

Be It Resolved, That the board does hereby express its appreciation to the coaching staff of the Port Allen High School Football team, the members of the Port Allen High School Football team, and Curtis Woods for giving their time and talents to assist the Hurricane Katrina evacuees housed at the WBR Community Center.

The above resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**Aye: Mrs. Gauthreaux, Dr. Walker, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pattan,
Mr. Chustz, Mr. Maranto, Mr. Altazan, Mrs. Crochet**

Nay: None

Absent And

Not Voting: Mr. Manola

The next item was the Superintendent's report.

1. Reported that Dr. Phillip Padgett and his staff had provided their services to conduct the physicals free of charge to the student athletes of West Baton Parish schools.
2. Request for resolution for the family of Mrs. Alice Alexander and the family of Mr. Leroy J. Cavaliere, Sr.
3. Reported on the dedication of the historical marker ceremony at Lukeville Upper Elementary School that he and Dr. Walker attended. Congratulated Ms. Cynthia Thomas, her staff, and the children of LUES who participated in the dedication.
4. Presented a report on Accountability results for WBR Parish and congratulated teachers, administrators, pupil appraisal staff, students, parents, support workers, and central office staff for their efforts in improving the school scores.
5. Requested permission for the board to "consent to consider" adopting a resolution to revise the 2005-06 school calendar to reflect changes as a result of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

The next item was adoption of a resolution of appreciation for Dr. Phillip Padgett.

Whereupon, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Maranto and seconded by Mr. Pattan:

Whereas, Dr. Phillip Padgett provided physicals free of charge to the student athletes of West Baton Rouge Parish, now therefore

Be It Resolved, That the West Baton Rouge Parish School Board would like to take this opportunity to express their sincere appreciation to Dr. Phillip Padgett and his staff for taking the time from their busy schedule to provide physicals free of charge to these student athletes.

The above resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Aye: Mrs. Gauthreaux, Dr. Walker, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pattan,
Mr. Chustz, Mr. Maranto, Mr. Altazan, Mrs. Crochet

Nay: None

Absent And

Not Voting: Mr. Manola

Whereupon, the following resolutions were offered by Dr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Chustz:

Be It Resolved, That the West Baton Rouge Parish School Board does hereby extend to the family of Mrs. Alice Alexander its feeling of sincere appreciation for the many years of devoted service rendered by Mrs. Alexander in the West Baton Rouge Parish School System, and

Be It Further Resolved, That the board does hereby offer its sincere sympathy and condolences to the family of Mrs. Alexander.

Be It Resolved, That the West Baton Rouge Parish School Board does hereby extend to the family of Mr. Leroy J. Cavaliere, Sr., its feeling of sincere appreciation for the many years of devoted service rendered by Mr. Cavaliere in the West Baton Rouge Parish School System, and

Be It Further Resolved, That the board does hereby offer its sincere sympathy and condolences to the family of Mr. Cavaliere.

Whereupon, the above resolutions were approved by the following vote:

Aye: Mrs. Gauthreaux, Dr. Walker, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pattan,
Mr. Chustz, Mr. Maranto, Mr. Altazan, Mrs. Crochet
Nay: None
Absent And
Not Voting: Mr. Manola

Whereupon, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Pattan and seconded by Mr. Maranto:

Be It Resolved, That the board does hereby commend and congratulate the Associate Superintendents and Supervisors for their assistance in the improvement of the school scores.

The above resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Aye: Mrs. Gauthreaux, Dr. Walker, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pattan,
Mr. Chustz, Mr. Maranto, Mr. Altazan, Mrs. Crochet
Nay: None
Absent And
Not Voting: Mr. Manola

The Chairman declared the floor open for public comment.

Whereupon, Mrs. Cynthia M. Crochet, Vice President, asked the board to approve Mr. Corona's request to consider the adoption of a resolution to revise the 2005-06 School Calendar to reflect changes as a result of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

The board approved Mr. Corona's request to consider the adoption of a resolution to revise the 2005-06 School Calendar as a result of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

Whereupon, Superintendent Corona reported that on October 5, 2005, he had requested a waiver from the State Superintendent (via the Legislature) regarding instructional time missed as a result of the hurricanes and as of this date, the waiver has not been acted upon. Proposed calendar changes:

- 1) Officially change November 16, 2005 and March 29, 2006 from half days for teacher In-service to full instructional days of school. (Note: Today, November 16th was Administratively changed several weeks ago awaiting the waiver request.)
- 2) Change December 20, 2005, and May 23, 2006 and May 24, 2006 from half days for semester exams to full instructional days with exams to be scheduled toward the end of each day.
- 3) Return to school on Tuesday, January 3, 2006, instead of Wednesday, January 4, 2006.
- 4) If the waiver is not granted, each school will add 3 instructional minutes to each school day beginning December 1, 2005 and continue through the end of the 2005-06 school year. Schools may add the minutes to the end of the day and dismiss 3 minutes later, or, if appropriate, shorten the lunch period, or some combination of the two.

The Chairman declared the floor open for public comment.

Whereupon, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Morgan and seconded Dr. Walker:

Be It Resolved, That the board does hereby approve and adopt the changes to the 2005-06 school calendar proposed by the staff.

The above resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Aye: Mrs. Gauthreaux, Dr. Walker, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pattan,
Mr. Chustz, Mr. Maranto, Mr. Altazan, Mrs. Crochet
Nay: None
Absent And
Not Voting: Mr. Manola

Dr. Walker left at 5:55 P.M. before the Consent Agenda.

The next agenda item was presentation of the following items on the Consent Agenda:

8. Consideration of personnel matters.
9. Consideration of request for approval to adopt an adjustment to the Pupil Progression Plan relative to high stakes testing for 4th and 8th grade students for 2005-06 only, with the final draft to be presented at the board meeting on November 16, 2005 (Academics Committee Report 11/08/05)
10. Consideration of request for approval of the monthly expenditures and financial reports (Personnel & Finance Committee Report 11/08/05)
11. Consideration of request for approval to adopt the following distribution of incentive pay to employees whose schools met their Target score, etc. to be funded with EFID/General Funds: (Personnel & Finance Committee 11/08/05)
 - (a) Provide school-based administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, librarians, and other instructional personnel, (excluding the superintendent) with incentive pay based on meeting and/or surpassing school performance growth target scores and meeting subgroup performance goals: \$250 each/\$300 each additional star schools.
 - (b) Payment of incentive pay to eligible retired personnel from the schools that met their performance scores.
12. Consideration of request for approval to adopt the following: (Personnel & Finance Committee Report 11/08/05)
 - (a) That the board approve a supplemental check in the amount of \$400 to be paid in December to all employees, excluding the superintendent.
 - (b) Supplements will be pro-rated according to the percentage of the year actually employed. To receive the Parish Supplement, personnel must be employed on December 1, 2005.
 - (c) Approximate cost for incentive pay and supplemental checks: \$223,000 EFID \$16,000 General Fund.
13. Consideration of request by the WBRP Council for approval to construct a pavillion with restrooms and the development of a limestone parking lot on the WBR Soccer Field Complex adjacent to Port Allen High School (Personnel and Finance Committee Report 11/08/05)
14. Consideration of request for approval to advertise for the lease of Section 16 Farmland in Erwinville/John Musso (Personnel & Finance Committee Report 11/08/05)

The Chairman declared the floor open for public comment.

Whereupon, Superintendent Corona requested that Consent Agenda item #9 be pulled in order for him to present the final draft of the adjustments to the Pupil Progression Plan relative to high stakes testing for 4th and 8th grade students for 2005-06 only as recommended in the Academics Committee Report of November 8, 2005.

Whereupon, the following resolution was offered by Mrs. Gauthreaux and seconded by Mr. Maranto:

Be It Resolved, That the board consider and vote on Consent Agenda #9 as a separate item.

The above resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**Aye: Mrs. Gauthreaux, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pattan, Mr. Chustz,
Mr. Maranto, Mr. Altazan, Mrs. Crochet**

Nay: None

Absent And

Not Voting: Dr. Walker, Mr. Manola

Whereupon, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Altazan and seconded by Mr. Morgan:

Be It Resolved, That the board does hereby approve and adopt Consent Agenda items #8, #10, #11,#12,#13,and #14 as presented.

The above resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**Aye: Mrs. Gauthreaux, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pattan, Mr. Chustz,
Mr. Maranto, Mr. Altazan, Mrs. Crochet**

Nay: None

Absent And

Not Voting: Dr. Walker, Mr. Manola

The next item was consideration of Consent Agenda item #9.

Whereupon, Superintendent Corona reported that as a result of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education relaxed the high stakes portion of Louisiana's Accountability Program for 4th and 8th graders for this school year only. Therefore, for the 2005-06 school year, BESE will not mandate local systems to require their 4th and 8th graders to pass the LEAP test at Basic and Approaching Basic in order to be promoted to the 5th and 9th grades, respectively. In order to be fair to all concerned, to continue to motivate our students, and to continue with the practice of "high expectations for all," I would like for the board to adopt the following policy for the 2005-06 school year only:

- 1) Fourth and eighth graders who do not pass their respective LEAP test in the spring to the heretofore normal standard of Basic, Approaching Basic, shall take the test again at the end of the summer remediation session. Attendance at the summer remediation session will be a consideration in determining promotion if students are not successful with the retest given at the end of the summer session.
- 2) Those fourth and eighth graders who do not pass the LEAP test to the normal standard in the spring testing, but do pass it in the summer retest, and meet all other promotional standards, shall be promoted.
- 3) Those fourth and eighth graders who once again do not meet the standard minimal score of Basic, Approaching Basic, shall have their individual case reviewed to determine if promotion to the next respective grade is appropriate. To receive this consideration, the student must meet all other promotional requirements. The review committee for each student will consist of his/her regular school year teacher, his/her summer school teacher, his/her principal, the Supervisor for that level of education, the Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance, and the Associate Superintendent of Instruction. Each case will be considered on its own merit. The committee will make a recommendation to the Superintendent regarding each child's promotion, and the Superintendent will make the final decision.
- 4) This policy is for the 2005-06 school year only.

The Chairman declared the floor open for public comment.

Whereupon, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Altazan and seconded by Mrs. Gauthreaux:

Be It Resolved, That the board does hereby approve and adopt consent agenda item #9 as presented by Superintendent Corona.

The above resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**Aye: Mrs. Gauthreaux, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pattan, Mr. Chustz,
Mr. Maranto, Mr. Altazan, Mrs. Crochet**

Nay: None

Absent And

Not Voting: Dr. Walker, Mr. Manola

The next item was announcement of the December 13, 2005, committee meeting date.

There being no further business to come before the board, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Altazan and seconded by Mr. Morgan:

Be It Resolved, That the meeting be adjourned.

The above resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**Aye: Mrs. Gauthreaux, Dr. Walker, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pattan,
Mr. Chustz, Mr. Maranto, Mr. Altazan**

Nay: None

Absent And

Not Voting: Dr. Walker, Mr. Manola

David Corona
Secretary-Treasurer

Cynthia M. Crochet
Vice-President