

# May 31, 2017

## DATE, TIME, PLACE OF MEETING

The Calcasieu Parish School Board Special Called meeting was held in the Board Room of the Calcasieu Parish School Board, located at 3310 Broad Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana, 70615, on May 31, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Ron Hayes, President. The prayer and pledge were led by Alvin Smith.

## ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Superintendent Bruchhaus and the following members were present: Aaron Natali, Glenda Gay, Annette Ballard, Ron Hayes, Damon Hardesty, Alvin Smith, Russell Castille, Chad Guidry, Dean Roberts, Billy Breaux, Eric Tarver, Fred Hardy, John Duhon, and Wayne Williams.

Absent: Mack Dellafosse

## TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION

Mr. Hayes read the following item:

### A. Consideration and Appropriate Action on Pre-K Enrollment Options

**To:** Board Members  
**From:** Karl Bruchhaus, Superintendent  
**Date:** May 31, 2017  
**Subject:** Pre-K Enrollment Options

Pre-K programs in Calcasieu Parish originated to provide opportunities for at-risk children and those children continue to be the foundation of the program. Louisiana Pre-K is not mandated and accordingly not funded through the M.F.P. program like K-12 students are funded. The Pre-K program has always included an application process including the reporting and verification of income.

It should be noted that both the flier circulated for the enrollment process (Exhibit 6) and the letter in each registration packet distributed (Exhibit 7)

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both mention that enrollment is based on income and not guaranteed. The Pre-K program has never been zoned and no student has ever been guaranteed a placement prior to the application process.

With the origination of the School Lunch C.E.P. process where all students at some schools eat free without completing free/reduced lunch applications, the income verification process was not as initially efficient as it needed to be. Since those forms were also used for Pre-K eligibility, some students were placed in the program over the last several years that did not meet grant eligibility guidelines.

The school system has had to contribute more towards funding the Pre-K program as grant eligible positions were not maximized and grant funds not used to capacity. Expenses transferred to General Fund included \$429,000 in 2013-2014, \$1.1 million in 2014-2015, \$1.8 million in 2015-2016, and an estimated \$2.0 million for 2016-2017. The school system needs to return to ensuring that all grant positions are filled with eligible students.

The effort to prioritize funding has seemed abrupt to some involved in the process leaving a number of Board Members asking for options to create a “bridge” year where we would continue to fund some ineligible students.

Staff is recommending the following option for 2017-2018.

- Fill all 1380 grant funded positions with eligible students through an ongoing enrollment process.
  - Certified teachers will be coordinated to teach in grant positions as required by the grant. Some of these certified teachers may be required to change locations to be guaranteed a position in the program.
  
- Offer up to 390 positions to students not eligible for grant positions as registered in the March registration cycle.
  - Students will be ranked in income order based on completed and verified applications and will be offered spots closest to their zoned school from lowest income to highest.
  - Cost to CPSB will be approximately \$810,000 for 2017-2018.
- 2017-2018 will be a bridge year with the program returning to 100% grant funding for 2018-2019.

While this option will offer 1770 positions compared to 1715 this year,

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there will still be the potential for students not to be offered a position in the program based on income ranking described above. A list of available 4 year old slots at childcare programs is also included (**Exhibit 5**) showing that there are options.

Staff has also presented a secondary option that would require non-eligible students to pay tuition at \$4,500 per year, although the tuition process has been historically difficult to manage. (Exhibits available for viewing at 3310 Broad Street).

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Mrs. Ballard, with a second by Mr. Breaux, offered a motion to approve Option #1 for the 2017-2018 school year, which is to fill 1380 grant funded positions with eligible students and offering up to 390 positions to students that are not eligible at a cost of approximately \$810,000.

The school year 2017-2018 would be considered a bridge year and 2018-2019 would return to 100% grant funding, though that would be subject to change.

Mr. Tarver offered an amendment, seconded by Mr. Guidry, that in addition to the 390 slots for ineligible students and the 1380 grant slots for eligible students, the Board would provide funding to cover any additional eligible students if necessary. The objective would be to provide for all eligible students, even above the allocated 1380 slots, without taking slots away from the 390 allocated to ineligible students.

Mr. Hardesty, with a second by Mr. Tarver, asked to amend Mr. Tarver's amendment and set a deadline of June 3 for all registrations. This amendment request was pulled prior to Mr. Tarver and Mr. Guidry withdrawing their amendment.

There was much discussion by the Board.

## **Submitting blue cards to address the Board:**

Julie Greathouse  
Monica Welch  
Kristin Bellon  
Kathy Muller

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Jackie Brawner  
Tammy Cormier  
Melisa Crumpler (passed)  
Kathleen Bellow  
Stephanie Smith  
Chasity Grove  
Holly Reves (passed)  
Falicia Coleman  
Jennifer Vest  
Tamra Williams  
Karrah Rogers  
Lora DeVille  
Katelyn Cooley  
Ellaweena Woods  
Caitlyn Oliver  
Capricia Botley  
Linda Bordelon (passed)  
Christine Fontenot (left)  
Darol King, Sr.  
Randy Burleigh (passed)  
Brittany Johnson (passed)  
LaShawnda Bartie (left)  
Lt. Cody Oliver

Mr. Natali offered an amendment that in schools that have a capacity for additional students that have applied above Board allocations, that parents could pay tuition, since daycares in some areas are not available. This failed for lack of a second.

Mr. Hardy called the question to cease discussion; Mr. Breaux seconded. There was one nay vote.

On a vote to approve the original motion to accept Option 1, the motion carried unanimously.

## **ADJOURN MEETING**

On a motion to adjourn by Mr. Guidry and a second by Mr. Roberts, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

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Ron Hayes, President

Karl Bruchhaus, Secretary