

Board *notes*

Lafayette Parish Regular Board Meeting April 21, 2004

Board Votes to Convert Vermilion to LA4 School

In a special meeting, the Lafayette Parish School Board voted to reconstitute Vermilion Elementary into an LA4 Pre-Kindergarten school for 4-year olds. Vermilion will have a Montessori theme, similar to the Truman Montessori School.

Board Hears Presentation by LEF

The Lafayette Parish School Board heard a presentation by the Lafayette Education Foundation (LEF) regarding the upcoming Book Bug Drive.

The Lafayette Education Foundation is kicking off an exciting new program to benefit Lafayette Parish schools. On April 23-May 2, LEF in conjunction with Kiwanis of Acadiana, will conduct its Book Bug Drive, a community book drive to collect gently-used children's (grades K-5) books to be distributed to public elementary schools for use in classroom libraries and to be donated to children who might not have books at home.

Book collection bins will be located at all public elementary schools, all Albertson's stores, and all public library branches. The public is invited to join in this exciting partnership to support our schools' mission of teaching every child to read. LEF plans to make the Book Bug Drive an annual event.

Board Recognizes Yes I Can! Winner

The Board recognized Patrick Kennedy, a 21-year old student at SEAS (Special Education Alternative Program for Students), who has been selected as one of 27 International Yes I Can! winners for outstanding achievement in Community Service. He and other winners were honored on April 16 at a reception held at the Riverside Hilton in New Orleans. Patrick is the first international winner to be selected from Lafayette Parish. He was nominated for this award by his teacher Carleen Doucet.

Each year, the Yes I Can! Foundation for Exceptional Children receives hundreds of nominations from all over the United States and Canada. Only three applicants from each category (academics, arts, athletics, community service, employment, extracurricular activity, independent living skills, technology, and self-advocacy) are chosen for

this honor. Each international winner received a statute entitled "Youth Victorious" created by world-renowned artist Michael Naranjo. The International Yes I Can! award is a once in a lifetime achievement that has been awarded to only a select few.

Board Hears Proposal from Northside High

The Board heard a presentation from Mel Didier, Jr., of Northside High, about the possibility of renaming the NHS baseball field Chester Broussard Park. The Board directed Didier to develop a proposal along with James Simmons, Jr., supervisor of athletics, for the Board to consider for official action.

Board Approves Resolution for Employment of Special Counsel

The Board approved a resolution ratifying the employment of Special Counsel. The law firms listed in the resolution, along with their areas of representation, were Preis, Kraft & Roy - miscellaneous litigation in desegregation, tort defense, and workers' compensation; Andrus, Boudreaux, Lemoine, Tonore - miscellaneous real estate matters; and Foley & Judell - bonds and millage renewals. Dates of service for all of the above: January 1, 1996 to present.

Board Approves School Food Service Employee Appreciation Week

The Board approved a resolution recognizing the week of May 3-7 as the 27th School Food Service Employee Appreciation Week to acknowledge the contributions to the children of Lafayette Parish by some 200 employees of the School Food Service profession.

In other action, the Board:

- approved corrections of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of 4/7/04;
- approved the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of 4/21/04;
- approved the Ratification of Bills for February, 2004;
- approved recommended personnel changes and addendum;
- approved revisions to job description for Special Education Personnel;

- approved revisions to job description for Director of Sales Tax;
- approved the job description for Assistant Director of Special Education;
- approved recommendations of the Job Reclassification Committee for Special Education personnel;
- approved submission of the Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Plan;
- approved revisions to Policy File: JBA - Compulsory Attendance Ages;
- approved the low base bid of \$246,391 from J.B. Mouton and Sons, Inc. for N.P. Moss Annex Ceiling Replacement Project;
- delayed approval of the contract agreement with EduShift, Inc. for the U.S. Department of Education Grant Application under the Magnet Schools Assistance Program;
- approved the advertisement to fill the position of Secretary I (Central Office) to support the Grants office with the following: 21st Century After-School Program Grant; Smaller Learning Communities Program Grant; Teaching American History Program Grant; and will support future grants, upon award, to the district.

