

Board *notes*

Lafayette Parish Regular Board Meeting December 5, 2001

Board Recognizes Gifted Program

The Lafayette Parish School Board recognized the Lafayette Parish Gifted Program which has been selected as one of the 50 top programs in the United States in the area of curriculum and instruction. The National Association for Gifted Children evaluated the Lafayette Parish program according to its list of criteria for exemplary learning opportunities related to differentiation of curriculum, pacing and content designed to meet the unique learning needs of gifted children. In November, the Lafayette Parish program was featured in a national publication on exemplary gifted education programs in the United States.

Board Recognizes Woman's Foundation

The Board recognized Woman's Foundation, Inc. for sponsoring the "Baby Think It Over" program with 14 infant simulators for the past four years and for recently presenting the "babies" to the Lafayette Parish Family and Consumer Science teachers at an "Adoption Party." The Woman's Foundation, Inc. donated the original 14 older "babies" and offered two additional new "babies" to each Lafayette Parish middle and high school for their Family and Consumer Sciences program. In total, 42 "babies" were donated at an estimated value of \$13,000.

The "babies," used in child development and adolescent life skills classes in Lafayette Parish schools, are 21 inches long and weigh approximately 7 lbs. The "baby" provides positive feedback by cooing when it receives proper care. Computerized monitoring displays total parenting simulation time, rough handling, neglect, and total minutes of crying time. The comprehensive, hands-on activities included in the "Baby Think It Over" program provide teachers with the necessary tools to help students learn about and understand the issues related to parenting, child care, family life and safety/first aid.

Board Recognizes Teachers of the Year

The Board recognized the 2002 Lafayette Parish Teachers of the Year. Teachers from every school were honored, as well as semi-finalists and finalists in the categories of Elementary, Middle and High school Teachers of the Year. The finalists for the parish are: Kaffy Belvin, Live Oak Elementary, Deborah Moncla, E.A. Martin Middle; and Vickie Hebert, Northside High. The semi-finalists are:

Melanie Wiley, Broadmoor Elementary; Sue Abshire, S.J. Montgomery Elementary; Helen Mallery, Vermilion Elementary; Cheryl Stoute, Acadian Middle; Joey Mouton, Carencro Middle; and William Chiquelin, Charter High. The Teachers of the Year from each school are: Nadine Carlson, Acadiana High; Joan Green, L.J. Alleman Middle; Melissa Wattigny, Alice Boucher Elementary; Tonya Comeaux, Paul Breaux Middle; Pam Sanders, Broussard Middle; Cayce Booher, Charles Burke Elementary; Phillip Broussard, W.D. Smith Career Center; Kathalyn Syrie, Carencro Heights Elementary; Jacqueline Martin, Carencro High; Therese Verret, Comeaux High; Rhonda Dupre', Katharine Drexel Elementary; Melodie Gallet, Duson Elementary; Janet Decoux, Evangeline Elementary; Lisa Broussard, J.W. Faulk Elementary; Yvette Brown, Ernest Gallet Elementary; Carmen Bourque, Judice Middle; Marie Mouton, L.Leo Judice Elementary; Cathy Welch, Lafayette High; Christine Dean, Lafayette Middle; LaShona Dickerson, CAPS; Sheryl Lawrence, LAPS; Christi Emfinger, G.T. Lindon Elementary; Rosemary Benoit, Milton Middle; Barbara Baudoin, N.P. Moss Annex; Diane Adams, N.P. Moss Middle; Dana Lang, Myrtle Place Elementary; Marlene Dupre', Ossun Elementary; Sarah Irby, Plantation Elementary; Sheila Gagnard, Prairie Elementary; Peggy Gisclair, Ridge Elementary; Cindy Richardson, Scott Middle; Michele Green, Truman Elementary; Charlotte Sicard, Westside Elementary; Claire Bernard, Woodvale Elementary; and Tara Venetis, Youngsville Middle.

Board Delays Approval of New Teacher Salary Schedules

The Board postponed its vote on the new teacher salary schedules for January 2002 and August 2002 to allow more time to meet with teacher representatives.

Board Cancels Second December Meeting

Due to the Christmas holidays and the second School Board meeting falling during the holidays, the Board voted to cancel that meeting. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is January 2, 2002.

In other action, the Board:

- approved corrections of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of 11/7/01;
- approved the ratification of bills for September, 2001;

- received a Sales Tax Collection Report of October, 2001;
- received a Curriculum Update Report about Libraries and the Media Center;
- received a Curriculum Update Report about the Acadiana Writing Project, which will conduct a community-wide reading program, from Feb. 18- March 30, of Ernest J. Gaines' book "A Lesson Before Dying;"
- received a report about the Reapportionment Plan;
- heard an opinion from Attorney Lane Roy about the process of replacing an employee who has taken sick leave;
- received an update from Attorney Lane Roy regarding progress toward achieving Unitary Status;
- approved recommended personnel changes;
- granted permission to advertise and fill the position of Clerical Assistant at Truman Elementary School;
- granted permission to advertise and fill the position of Head Custodian III at Comeaux High School;
- granted permission to create the position of Secretary I in the Special Education Department;
- granted permission to advertise and fill the position of Secretary I in the Special Education Department;
- granted permission to create the position of Clerical Assistant in the Special Education Department;
- granted permission to advertise and fill the position of Clerical Assistant in the Special Education Department;
- granted permission to advertise and fill the position of Plumber II in the Maintenance Department;
- granted permission to advertise and fill the position of 18 full-time Bus Drivers to be used as Substitute Drivers;
- approved revisions to the School Bus Attendant Job Description;
- approved revisions to Policy File: GBRIG regarding Extended Sick Leave Policy for Teachers;
- approved a resolution petitioning the Louisiana School Boards Association to sponsor legislation that will change the textbook adoption cycle to coincide with major states and allocate sufficient funds to cover actual costs of books;
- approved a resolution endorsing the Teacher Tuition Exemption Program as a valuable resource for teachers and administrators to upgrade their skills in the critical shortage areas as determined by the parish;
- approved a resolution petitioning the Louisiana School Boards Association to sponsor legislation that will provide early childhood education funding in areas of staffing, equipment and evaluation, for state mandated programs;
- approved a resolution requesting consideration for the enforcement of laws that would restrict students expelled from school from driving by suspending their driver's license for a specified time;
- approved a resolution providing for membership in the Louisiana Community Development Authority (LCDA), which would enable the school system to borrow from the Qualified Zone Academy Program;
- approved a resolution to participate in the Louisiana Qualified Zone Academy Bond Program. Staff plans to issue \$3,001,060 in QZAB bonds with a repayment term of 13-15 years. Bond proceeds will be used to replace roofs at seven schools;
- approved a resolution to provide for canvassing the returns and declaring the result of the special election of November 17, 2001 authorizing the levy of a 1/2-cent sales and use tax;
- approved the ordinance which provides for authority to levy an additional tax of 1/2-cent sales tax pursuant to the election on November 17, 2001;
- approved revisions to Policy File: DFA-E regarding millage rates;
- approved the lease of Section 16 property in the Duson area;
- approved bids for the purchase of educational software;
- approved the bid of \$207,500 from E.P. Breaux Electric, Inc. for the replacement of the fire alarm/intercom system at Truman Elementary;
- granted permission to create the position of Truancy Intervention Specialist;
- approved the job description for Truancy Intervention Specialist;
- granted permission to advertise and fill the position of Truancy Intervention Specialist
- granted permission to create the position of Truancy Assessment and Service Center (TASC) Teacher/Coordinator;
- approved the job description of Truancy Assessment and Service Center (TASC) Teacher/Coordinator;
- granted permission to advertise and fill the position of Truancy Assessment Specialist;
- approved the addendum to personnel changes;
- granted permission to create the position of Secretary I for the Truancy Assessment and Service Center (TASC);
- granted permission to advertise and fill the position of Secretary I for the Truancy Assessment and Service Center (TASC);
- approved the purchase of furniture and equipment for the Early Childhood Development Program;
- granted approval to advertise, accept bids for, prepare, and issue an Exclusive Geophysical Agreement III for about 235 acres in various locations.