

# Board *notes*

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## Lafayette Parish Special Board Meeting December 11, 2003

### **Board Releases Statement on ACLU Allegations**

The Lafayette Parish School Board called a Special Board Meeting to review information surrounding allegations made by the ACLU that a student at Ernest Gallet Elementary was disciplined for explaining to another student that his mother is gay. After meeting in Executive Session for several hours, the Board released the following statement:

“While the Lafayette Parish School Board has determined that no laws nor have any Board policies been broken in the handling of this disciplinary matter, we accept, in retrospect, that several things could have and should have been said or done differently on both sides. To the extent that the student or mother misunderstood or was left with the impression that disciplinary action was taken for use of the word “gay” or any reference to sexual orientation is regrettable. That was never the intent or purpose. For clarification a copy of this statement will be attached to the disciplinary forms that are part of the student’s files.

Our main concern has been and continues to be the well-being of the child. A short conference between the parent and school officials would have cleared up any misunderstandings. We hope that in the future the parent will work with the school district in meeting the needs of the child.”

The Board voted 5 - 3 to support the statement. Those voting for endorsing the statement were Guidry, LaCombe, Hefner, Wilson, and Gibson. Those voting against were Hardy, Sam and Thibodaux. Judy Cox was absent.

