

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE JOINT LAFAYETTE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL/  
LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF THE CITY-PARISH OF  
LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A JOINT MEETING OF  
DECEMBER 9, 2008.**

**ATTENDANCE**

**COUNCIL:** Don Bertrand – Chair (District 7), Purvis Morrison – Vice Chair (District 1), Jay Castille (District 2), Brandon Shelvin (District 3), Kenneth Boudreaux (District 4), Jared Bellard (District 5), Michele Ezell (District 6), Keith Patin (District 8), William Theriot (District 9)

**ABSENT:** None

**COUNCIL STAFF:** Norma Dugas (Clerk of the Council), Veronica Williams (Assistant Clerk) and Anne Patin (Senior Administrative Assistant)

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:** L. J. Durel, Jr. (City-Parish President), Pat Ottinger (Legal Counsel), Jim Craft (Police Chief), Robert Benoit (Fire Chief), Terry Huval (LUS Director), Eleanor Bouy (Planning, Zoning & Codes Director), Tony Tramel (Traffic & Transportation Director), Keith Thibodeaux (IS & T Director)

**SCHOOL BOARD:** Carl LaCombe – President (District 2), Mark Babineaux (District 1), Lionel Lewis, Jr. (District 3), Edward Sam (District 4), Michael Hefner (District 5), Mark Cockerham (District 7), Hunter Beasley (District 8), Rae Trahan (District 9)

**ABSENT:** Gregory Awbrey (District 6)

**SCHOOL BOARD STAFF:** Dorothy Nezey

**SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:** Burnell Lemoine (Superintendent)

**COMMENCEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1:** Call to order.

Chair Bertrand called the Joint Lafayette City-Parish Council/Lafayette Parish School Board Meeting of December 9, 2008 to order.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2:** Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Bertrand then delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3:** Announcements

a. Introductions

Each member of the Lafayette City-Parish Council and the Lafayette Parish School Board introduced themselves and gave the district they represent. Introductions included Lafayette City-Parish President L. J. Durel, Jr., Burnell Lemoine, LPSB Superintendent, President Joe Savoie, ULL and Pat Ottinger, City-Parish Attorney

b. Opening Remarks by Chairs of the Council and School Board

Chair Bertrand began by thanking SB President Carl LaCombe for his cooperation in calling this meeting and also thanked John Barras, former Planning Commission member, for his efforts in researching this issue.

President LaCombe thanked everyone present for their interest in the issue.

c. Opening Remarks:

President Durel congratulated both boards for their cooperation in this effort.

Dr. Savoie commended the Council and School Board for this historic event.

Superintendent Lemoine stated he was pleased with the open dialogue these meeting will bring.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Adoption of concurrent resolutions by Lafayette City-Parish Council and Lafayette Parish School Board.

R-064-2008 A resolution of the Lafayette City-Parish Council establishing a policy of joint meetings between the Lafayette City-Parish Council and the Lafayette Parish School Board, motion to adopt by Morrison, seconded by Ezell.

Councilmember Boudreaux offered the following amendments:

- add a new Section 9 to read “If the host Chair becomes incapacitated or otherwise unable to attend a Joint Meeting, the Vice Chair will automatically step in. If the Vice Chair is unavailable, the host Chair may appoint a member of his organization as a “Stand-In Chair-person”;
- add in Section 16 “with consideration from Councilmembers and School Board Members”;
- add in Section 17 “and the Lafayette Parish School Board Superintendent”.

The motion and Second accepted the amendments.

The Chair then called for a vote on the resolution, as amended, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Morrison, Castille, Shelvin, Boudreaux, Bellard, Ezell, Bertrand, Patin, Theriot

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was unanimously approved.*

RESOLUTION – 12-08-1633 A resolution of the Lafayette Parish School Board establishing a policy of joint meetings between the Lafayette City-Parish Council and the Lafayette Parish School Board, motion to approve as amended, by Hefner, seconded by Trahan, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Babineaux, LaCombe, Lewis, Sam, Hefner, Cockerham, Beasley, Trahan

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Awbrey

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was unanimously approved.*

Comments from the public on the above resolutions. *No comments were made.*

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Discussion Items

- a. **The Lafayette Parish Comprehensive Master Plan** – Staff will present a draft outline on the coordination, preparation, adoption and implementation of the Comprehensive Master Plan: Lafayette IN a Century (LINC)

Mike Hollier, Development and Planning Manager, began by listing the 12 LINC Comprehensive Master Plan Elements: Public Service, Urban Design, Economic Development, Recreation & Open Space, Conservation & Environment, Special Areas (priority), Transportation (priority), Arts & Culture, Drainage (priority), Land Use (priority), Utilities and Housing and Neighborhoods (priority). Also included in his presentation was financial planning, the Master Plan implementation process, membership of the LINC Citizen Advisory Board and the LINC Implementation Board and the LINC On-going Plan actions and deliverables..

- b. **Lafayette Parish Demographics** – Staff will present an overview of the demographic shifts that have occurred in Lafayette Parish and the projected population changes.

Mike LeBlanc, Development and Planning Manager, presented a Multi-Parish Area Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ) map, which consists of 599 Traffic Analysis Zones. Each zone is bound by roads and streams, is contiguous residential, commercial or agricultural land use, and shows the current number of households, current age and gender distribution (assuming U. S. rate of births and deaths and Louisiana in/out migration). Also shown was a map of concentric rings of population in which each ring represents a one-mile radius from the center of Lafayette Parish. The map showed that the Parish center was an older population which was dense and compact and the infrastructure was paid for. The outer rings showed a younger population which was sparse and large and the infrastructure was unpaid.

- c. **Unveiling The Comprehensive Education Complex** – Staff will present a recommendation for Council and School Board consideration.

Neil LeBouef, Planner II, explained that the I-49 Connector Project has been an ongoing issue. It consists of a 5.5 mile elevated freeway beginning just south of I-10 and terminating just south of Kaliste Saloom Road.

He further explained that after much consideration, it was agreed to look into placing a school within an urban context including design with commercial components, allowing community use of the school through joint-use agreements and envisioning the school as a community center rather than just an educational facility. He showed slides of a mixed use development school, an urban infill school, and school structures within interstates.

Johnny Orgeron, Planner II, then showed a proposed three-dimensional plan of an educational facility on property bordered by Taft St., the SW Evangeline Thruway and Garfield St. The site included a parking facility, retail facilities, cafeteria, boys and girl's gym, classrooms, football field with stadium seating, and a baseball and soccer field. The facility would be constructed under the I-49 Connector and crosswalks would be provided.

The retail portion of this project would provide revenue, as well, for the school.

Burnell Lemoine, School Board Superintendent, stated how excited he was when Mike Hollier presented this concept to him, especially since a comprehensive high school was being discussed. He felt it was important to include the university, the community college and the technical college. He then introduced Burnell Lejeune, of the School Board, to discuss the main concepts of the comprehensive high school.

Lejeune discussed the drop-out rate and several reasons why students tend to drop-out. He gave several possibilities to keep these students in school, such as industry-based certificates, articulated credit, dual enrollment credit, internship experience and several more. Staff and expertise could be shared and an integrated curriculum with academic and technical courses could be offered.

Dr. Joe Savoie, ULL, stated that this was a very progressive and exciting concept and felt that some of the programmatic pieces needed to be started now. This concept will keep Lafayette at the forefront of educational and economic progress.

#### AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Public Comments Regarding Discussion Items

Charles Larroque, World Studies Institute of Louisiana ([www.wsi-l.org](http://www.wsi-l.org)), congratulated both boards on this historic event and then stated that the intent of WSIL was to link local cultures to the global economy. He felt that with the immersion programs in Lafayette Parish schools would be better served in a facility, such as the one just discussed, to open the doors to the

global economy. He then introduced Ethan Jordan, who spoke of his recent trip to Vaasa, Finland and the educational programs he was exposed to there.

The Chair suggested that Larroque and Jordan be placed on a subsequent agenda as a discussion item in order to go into more depth.

Thetis Cusimano, Community Coalition for Lafayette School Facilities, requested the boards' continued support for long-term planning for all of the existing schools, including the infrastructure to support each school and methods to prevent future overcrowding.

Paul Bihm, Coordinator of an apprentice curriculum for Begnaud Manufacturing, stated that Begnaud Manufacturing was recently approved by the Louisiana Workforce Commission as a registered apprenticeship (both statewide and nationally). He expressed the need for a curriculum that addresses registered apprenticeships in Lafayette Parish.

Margaret Trahan, United Way of Acadiana, stated that the Implementation Committee should involve different sectors, particularly Health and Human Services. The committee was heavily populated with government entities and public body entities. She offered that in order to find what the ultimate outcome is it's going to be more difficult to narrow down the scope of the work. She felt that if the Committee worked more closely with non-profits, non-profits could work alongside with the Committee to get grant dollars if it is shown that there is a joint working relationship between government, business and the non-profit sector.

Erin Fitzgerald also thanked both boards for this historic event and then concurred with Ms. Trahan.

#### AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Comments from the Council and School Board Members

Morrison stated he looked forward to moving this issue forward for the community.

Cobb stated that, as a proponent of technical training, he was very excited about the possibility of creating a center for technical training.

Boudreaux answered Ms. Trahan by stating that the Council and the School Board welcome the participation of non-profits. He looked forward to this endeavor.

Sam expressed that this group was taking a step in the right direction and hoped that they could continue to be a strong force in education in Louisiana.

Hefner stated that without a strong infrastructure and economic development, you can't keep people here. Not only does a strong infrastructure and economic development keep people here, it brings other people in. If there is not a strong, healthy education, the community will not grow.

Ezell requested a move forward on a comprehensive plan on eradicating the dropout rate and low score rate.

Theriot expressed his appreciation for this meeting and stated that ultimately the taxpayers will have to decide on the issues.

Trahan thanked the chairman for calling this meeting and expressed her appreciation for being a part of this historic evening. She hoped for good planning and that results do come to fruition.

President Durel stated that he would be going to Washington, D. C. shortly to discuss financing of the I-49 Connector Project. The issue at hand tonight may be another piece to the puzzle in obtaining that funding.

Superintendent Lemoine thanked the 2 boards for the opportunity for the educational entities to develop a plan that could become the envy in many areas of the United States and the opportunities being created for the students.

Bryan Glatter, representing SLCC, stated that SLCC is very excited to be a part of such an innovative, cutting edge training and education model for our state and knows that it is such a tremendous opportunity for the community.

LaCombe thanked everyone for agreeing to this meeting and wanting to come together.

Chair Bertrand thanked the Council Staff for the meeting preparations. He also thanked the Lafayette City-Parish Council, the Lafayette Parish School Board, President Durel, Superintendent Lemoine and President Savoie and other invitees for their participation. He announced that the next meeting will be planned and notification will be sent out. He requested that Mrs. Cusimano and Mrs. Sarah Walker make a presentation at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Lafayette City-Parish Council and the Lafayette Parish School Board, Chair Bertrand declared the meeting adjourned.

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NORMA A. DUGAS, CLERK  
LAFAYETTE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL