

LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 11, 2003 - 5:30 P.M., Board Room

Dr. David G. Thibodaux, President, Presiding

The School Board of the Parish of Lafayette, State of Louisiana, met in special session at its regular meeting place, the Lafayette Parish School Board Administrative Building, Board Room, Lafayette, Louisiana, on Thursday, December 11, 2003 at 5:30 P.M., pursuant to notice given in writing to every member.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Thibodaux, President; John Earl Guidry, Vice-President; Kay S. Gibson, Rickey Hardy, Michael Hefner, Carl LaCombe, Edward J. Sam and Beverly Wilson Board Members; James H. Easton, Secretary-Treasurer/Superintendent

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judy H. Cox (Business)

The President called the meeting to order.

I. DISCIPLINARY ACTION REGARDING STUDENT AT GALLET ELEMENTARY

Motion (Hefner, Wilson) that the Board go into executive session to examine the file on disciplinary action regarding student at Gallet Elementary because of confidentiality laws pertaining to students. Motion carried. Hardy requested that he be recorded as voting NO.

The President invited Mr. Ken Choe, ACLU attorney, to go into executive session with the Board.

Motion (Guidry, Wilson) that the Board go back into regular session. Motion carried.

Motion (Hefner, Guidry) that the following statement be from the Board:

"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 Chair called for a roll call vote. Voting for were Gibson, Guidry, Hefner, LaCombe and Wilson. Voting against were Hardy, Sam and Thibodaux. Motion carried. Cox was absent.

There being no further business, it was moved by Hardy, seconded by Sam and carried that the meeting adjourn.

SIGNED:

/s/David Thibodaux, Ph.D., President /s/James H. Easton, Ed. D., Secretary-Treasurer

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