

**LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, July 21, 2004 - 3:00 P.M., Board Room

Michael C. Hefner, 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 Wednesday, July 21, 2004 at 3:00 P. M., pursuant to notice given in writing to every member.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

The President called the meeting to order.

I. LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

Steve Theriot, Legislative Auditor, informed the Board that his office is offering whatever resources possible to the Lafayette Parish School System, if needed, for the Board to balance its budget. Theriot recommended that the Board look at the budget as a whole, work with the Finance Department and look at how the budget will be affected for at least five (5) years.

II. APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUND BALANCING WORKSHEET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005

Motion (Thibodaux, Sam) that the Board remove and delay action on line item #23 - Equity Adjustments/Minimum Salary of the General Fund Budget Balancing Worksheet.

A substitute motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Gibson that line item #23 - Equity Adjustments/Minimum Salary be lowered from \$400,000 to \$284,000 to take care of employees at the bottom of the pay scale.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the substitute motion. Voting for were: Cox, Gibson, Guidry, Hardy, Hefner, LaCombe and Wilson. Voting against were Sam and Thibodaux. Substitute motion carried.

Motion (Gibson, Hardy) that the Board approve the remaining General Fund Balancing Worksheet for Fiscal Year 2004-2005; that staff apply the present staffing formula to all schools including the schools in corrective action; that the staffing formula be raised by a maximum of one and that in order to balance the budget, that staff make \$1.5 million dollar cuts in other areas.

After some discussion, Hardy withdrew his second and Wilson seconded Gibson's motion.

After some discussion, the original motion was amended to read as follows: Motion (Gibson, Wilson) that the Board approve the remaining General Fund Budget Balancing Worksheet for Fiscal Year 2004-2005; that staff apply the present staffing formula to all schools including the schools in corrective action; that after this is done, that the staffing formula be raised by a maximum of one; that such staffing changes be checked against the requirements of the joint modification proposal; that any corrections be made by staff recommendations or by the courts; and that in order to balance the budget, that staff make \$1.5 million dollar cuts in other areas.

A substitute motion was made by Thibodaux and seconded by Guidry that the Board remove and delay action on line item #25 New Instructional Programs-Reading Initiative-6 schools in the amount of \$396,000 until after school begins.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the substitute motion. Voting for were Guidry, Hardy, LaCombe, Sam and Thibodaux. Voting against were Cox, Gibson, Hefner and Wilson. Substitute motion carried.

The Chair called for a ten minute recess.

The Chair resumed the meeting.

Motion (Hardy, Guidry) that the Board reconsider action on line item #25 New Instructional Programs-Reading Initiative-6 Schools in the amount of \$396,000.

The Chair called for a roll call vote to reconsider action on line item #25. Voting for were Cox, Gibson, Guidry, Hardy, Hefner, LaCombe, Sam, and Wilson. Voting against was Thibodaux. Motion to reconsider carried.

Motion (Guidry, Sam) that the Board reinstate \$47,000 to line item #25 New Instructional Programs-Reading Initiative-6 Schools for dyslexia and that this amount be applied before school starts.

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

Motion (Thibodaux, Hardy) that the Board defer action on the funding of line item #28 School of Choice-Operational, in the amount of \$294,500, until after school begins.

After some discussion, Guidry called for the question on the motion.

The Chair called for a roll call vote. Voting for were Hardy and Thibodaux. Voting against were Cox, Gibson, Guidry, Hefner, LaCombe, Sam and Wilson. Motion failed.

Motion (Thibodaux, LaCombe) that the Board amend the action of the July 14, 2004 Meeting to increase sales tax projections from 2% to 3%.

The Chair called for a roll call vote. Voting for were Hardy, LaCombe and Thibodaux. Voting against were Cox, Gibson, Guidry, Hefner, Sam and Wilson. Motion failed.

Motion (Thibodaux, Guidry) that the Board mandate a 10% cut, not to include salaries, in line item #40 - Cost Center Reduction - Estimate.

A substitute motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Cox that the Board approve staff's recommendation on line item #40 - Cost Center Reduction - Estimate as presented.

After some discussion, Guidry withdrew his second from the original motion and Hardy seconded Thibodaux's motion.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the substitute motion. Voting for were Cox, Gibson, Hefner and Wilson. Voting against were Guidry, Hardy, LaCombe, Sam and Thibodaux. Substitute motion failed.

A substitute motion was made by Guidry and seconded by Sam that line item #40 - Cost Center Reductions - Estimate, reflect a \$628,000 reduction in the General Fund Balancing Worksheet for Fiscal Year 2004-2005.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the substitute motion. Voting for were Guidry, LaCombe, Sam and Wilson. Voting against were Cox, Gibson, Hardy, Hefner and Thibodaux. Substitute motion failed.

A substitute motion was made by Gibson, seconded by Cox that the Board adopt the General Fund Balancing Worksheet For Fiscal Year 2004-2005 as amended.

After some discussion, Thibodaux withdrew his original motion therefore making the substitute motion the original motion.

A substitute motion was made by Thibodaux and seconded by Wilson that the Board approve line items #43 and #44 - Raise Class Size at "Corrective Action" Schools from 18 to 20; and that the funding source be changed from Title I Funds to Federal Funds.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the substitute motion. Voting for were Cox, Gibson, Guidry, Hardy, Hefner, LaCombe, Sam, Thibodaux and Wilson. Motion carried.

Motion (Gibson, Sam) that the Board adopt the General Fund Balancing Worksheet for Fiscal Year 2004-2005 as amended.

After some discussion, Sam withdrew his second and Hardy seconded Gibson's motion.

A substitute motion was made by Thibodaux and seconded by Sam that the Board amend line item #40 - Cost Center Reductions - Estimate, from \$320,000 to \$620,000.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the substitute motion. Voting for were Guidry, LaCombe, Sam and Thibodaux. Voting against were Cox, Gibson, Hardy, Hefner and Wilson. Substitute motion failed.

A motion was made by Gibson that the Board adopt the General Fund Balancing Worksheet For Fiscal Year 2004-2005 as amended with the exception of line item #35 - Raise Class Size by 1.75; that it be designated as 1.25.

After some discussion, Gibson amended her motion that class size be designated as 1. Cox seconded the motion.

Thibodaux requested that the motion be amended to include that staff find some funds to close the gap. Gibson did not accept the amendment.

A substitute motion was made by Hardy and seconded by Sam that the Board increase line item #40 - Cost Center Reductions - Estimate to \$625,000.

After some discussion, Wilson called for the question.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the substitute motion. Voting for were Guidry, Hardy, LaCombe, Sam and Thibodaux. Voting against were Cox, Gibson, Hefner and Wilson. Motion carried.

Motion (Gibson, Cox) that the Board adopt the General Fund budget as amended with the exception of line item #35 - Raise Class Size to 1.75 be changed to Raise Class Size by 1.

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

III. ADOPTION OF BUDGET CALENDAR

Motion (LaCombe, Guidry) that the Board adopt the budget calendar for August, 2004 as presented. Motion carried.

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

SIGNED:

/s/ Michael C. Hefner

Michael C. Hefner, President
LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

SIGNED:

/s/ James H. Easton

James H. Easton, Secretary-Treasurer
LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

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