

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013**

**5:00 P.M.**

The East Baton Rouge Parish School Board met at the School Board Office at 1050 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at 5:00 p.m. on this the twenty-first day of November 2013, in regular-session convened. The President called the meeting to order with the following members present: Mr. David Tatman, President; Mr. Tarvald A. Smith, Vice-President; Mr. G. Thomas "Jerry" Arbour; Mrs. Connie Bernard; Ms. Jill C. Dyason; Mr. Craig Freeman; Mrs. Barbara Freiberg; Mr. Randy Lamana; Ms. Vereta T. Lee; Dr. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith; and Ms. Evelyn Ware-Jackson.

Others present were: Dr. Bernard Taylor, Jr., Superintendent; Mr. Michael Haggen, Deputy Superintendent for Innovation and Reform; Ms. Diane Atkins, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Support and Pupil Services; Mr. Carlos Sam, Associate Superintendent; Dr. Herman Brister, Associate Superintendent for Student Support Services; Ms. Catherine Fletcher, Chief Business Operations Officer; Ms. Millie Williams, Interim Executive Director of Human Resources; Ms. Lizabeth Frischhertz, Chief Officer of Accountability, Assessment and Evaluation; and Mr. Domoine Rutledge, General Counsel.

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School Board Member, Randy Lamana, gave the invocation. Cadet Sergeant Major Ariel Battley, Glen Oaks High School, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Mahomes, Senior Army Instructor, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Approval of School Board Minutes of the October 17, 2013, (Regular), October 24, 2013 (Workshop), and November 7, 2013, Special School Board Meeting, and Committee of the Whole**

**By Mrs. Freiberg**

Resolved, that, the reading of the minutes of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board Meetings of October 17, 2013, (regular), October 24, 2013 (workshop), and November 7, 2013, Special School Board meeting and Committee of the Whole meeting, be dispensed with and that they be approved as published in the Official Journal.

**Seconded Mr. Lamana**

**Unanimously adopted by a vote of the members present. (Ms. Dyason and Vice-President Smith were absent.)**

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**Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

**By Mr. Lamana**

Resolved, that, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board does hereby approve the Consent Agenda items.

**Seconded by Mrs. Freiberg**

**Unanimously adopted by a vote of all the members.**

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***The following items were approved as part of the Consent Agenda:***

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**Items approved by the Committee of the Whole for recommendation to the Board:**

Approval of the East Baton Rouge Parish School System financial audit results for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013.

Authorization for staff to advertise, accept the low bid meeting specifications and make the award of a contract for the Classroom Renovations and Additions at Scotlandville High School; Classroom Improvements at Baton Rouge Prep; and Classroom Improvements at Glen Oaks High School, or reject any and all bids for just cause in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law; Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 38; Chapter 10.

Approval of the following budgets: a) Proposed 2013-2014 Adult Education Local Budget and b) Preliminary Actual Semi-Annual 2012-2013 Financial Tax Plan update and Proposed 2013-2014 Tax Plan Budgets for Propositions 1, 2, and 3.

Approval of the following contracts for professional services between the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board and: a) School Leadership Center of Greater New Orleans to implement a multi-phase one-year Discovery Walks Program designed to improve instruction by supporting the Diocese of Baton Rouge schools for an amount of \$35,000.00. Funding Source: Title II Diocese of Baton Rouge for 2013-2014, and b) City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge, Louisiana to provide adult education classes at the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison for an amount of \$114,000.00. Funding Source: City Parish Grant.

Authorization for the Superintendent and General Counsel to negotiate and execute a contract for Computer Assisted Policy Service (CAPS) with Forethought Consulting and related matters.

Approval of the following School Board policy updates: ABCDA, AE, BBBC, DFD, EBBC, EBC, EE, EGA, EGAA, GAMJ, GBN, IDDF, IDE, IDFA, IKDC, JCDAF, JGC, and II.

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***END OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS***

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**President Tatman requested that Item #16 be moved to the end of the agenda and there was consensus by the full Board.**

**Approval of School Board Policy**

**By Mr. Arbour**

Resolved, that, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board does hereby approve the updates to School Board Policy BCB.

**Seconded by Ms. Lee**

**Discussion followed.**

**The following "friendly amendment" was offered by Mrs. Bernard and accepted by the maker of the motion and seconder:**

Resolved, that, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board does hereby approve the updates to School Board Policy BCB with the following amendment: Strike the provision that would limit a Board member speaking on an item, located on Page 7 of 9, Item C.

**Discussion continued.**

General Counsel, Domoine Rutledge, requested the following be added to the motion: Those items not appearing on the Committee of the Whole be listed as "New Business".

**The maker of the motion and seconder agreed and the motion would read as follows:**

Resolved, that, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board does hereby approve the updates to School Board Policy BCB with the following amendment: Strike the provision that would limit a Board member speaking on an item, located on Page 7 of 9, Item C. Those items not appearing on the Committee of the Whole will be listed as "New Business".

**The vote on the amended motion was as follows:**

- Yeas: (9)                    Mr. Arbour, Mrs. Bernard, Ms. Dyason, Mrs. Freiberg, Mr. Lamana, Ms. Lee, Dr. Nelson-Smith, Vice-President Smith, and President Tatman**
- Nays: (1)                    Mr. Freeman**
- Abstained: (1)            Ms. Ware-Jackson**
- Absent: (0)                 None**

**The amended motion was declared adopted.**

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**Approval to Extend "Winter Break"**

**By Mr. Lamana**

Resolved, that, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board does hereby approve amending the 2013-2014 School Calendar to extend the "Winter Break" through January 3, 2014.

**Seconded by Dr. Nelson-Smith**

**Unanimously adopted by a vote of all the members.**

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**Approval to Amend the 2013-2014 Budget to Supplement the Medicare-eligible Employees and Retirees who Remain with Blue Cross/Blue Shield Group Health Plan for East Baton Rouge Parish School System**

**By Mr. Arbour**

Resolved, that, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board does hereby amend the 2013-2014 budget to supplement the premiums of the Medicare-eligible retirees who remain in the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Group Health Plan for East Baton Rouge Parish School System retirees with a \$100 supplement.

**Seconded by Mr. Lamana**

**Discussion followed.**

**The following substitute motion was made.**

**By Mrs. Freiberg**

Resolved, that, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board does hereby approve no changes to the current insurance policy that is in place. The East Baton Rouge Parish School Board will revisit the insurance policy at the June 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting.

**Seconded by Mr. Freeman**

**Discussion continued.**

**The following "friendly amendment" was offered by Ms. Dyason and accepted by the maker of the motion and seconder:**

Resolved, that, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board does hereby approve no changes to the current insurance policy that is in place. The East Baton Rouge Parish School Board will revisit the insurance policy at the June 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting. The East Baton Rouge Parish School Board will be provided with a survey that will include member satisfaction with Humana and financial information.

**Discussion continued.**

**The following “friendly amendment” was offered by Vice-President Smith and accepted by the maker of the motion and seconder:**

Resolved, that, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board does hereby approve no changes to the current insurance policy that is in place. The East Baton Rouge Parish School Board will revisit the insurance policy in alignment with the budget process. The East Baton Rouge Parish School Board will be provided with a survey that will include member satisfaction with Humana and financial information.

**The vote on the amended motion was as follows:**

**Yeas: (8) Ms. Dyason, Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Freiberg, Ms. Lee, Dr. Nelson-Smith, Vice-President Smith, President Tatman, and Ms. Ware-Jackson**

**Nays: (3) Mr. Arbour, Mrs. Bernard, and Mr. Lamana**

**Abstained: (0) None**

**Absent: (0) None**

**The amended motion was declared adopted.**

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**Approval to Amend the Board’s Travel Allowance**

**This item was requested to be added to the agenda and was requested to be removed from the agenda by School Board Member Vereta Lee.**

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**Executive Session:**

**By Mr. Arbour**

**Resolved, That, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board does hereby go into Executive Session under the provisions of L.R.S. 42:17(A)(2) to discuss a settlement.**

**Seconded by Mr. Lamana**

**The vote on the motion was as follows:**

**Yeas: (7) Mr. Arbour, Ms. Dyason, Mrs. Freiberg, Mr. Lamana, Ms. Lee, Vice-President Smith, and Ms. Ware-Jackson**

**Nays: (3) Mr. Freeman, Dr. Nelson-Smith, and President Tatman**

**Abstained: (0) None**

**Absent: (1) Mrs. Bernard**

**The motion failed.**

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**Approval of Settlement of a Law Suit**

**By Vice-President Smith**

Resolved, That, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board does hereby accept the recommendation of Mr. Domoine Rutledge, General Counsel, East Baton Rouge Parish School Board, in the matter of: Phong Tran and Kim Tran Individually and on behalf of their minor daughter, Vanessa Tran v. Linda Bell Thompson, EBRPSB (for EBRPSS), ABC Insurance Company and DEF Insurance Company; Suit No.: 570,003, Section 27, 19th JDC, Parish of East Baton Rouge.

**Seconded by Dr. Nelson-Smith**

**The vote on the motion was as follows:**

**Yeas: (7)                      Ms. Dyason, Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Freiberg, Dr. Nelson-Smith, Vice-President Smith, President Tatman, and Ms. Ware-Jackson**

**Nays: (3)                      Mr. Arbour, Mr. Lamana, and Ms. Lee**

**Abstained: (0)              None**

**Absent: (1)                    Mrs. Bernard**

**The motion was declared adopted.**

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**There being no further business, the Board adjourned by acclamation.**

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**Dr. Bernard Taylor, Jr.,  
Secretary/Treasurer to the Board**