

LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, May 24, 2000 - 12:00 NOON, Board Room

Beverly Wilson, 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, May 24, 2000 at 12:00 NOON pursuant to notice given in writing to every member.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

The President, called the meeting to order.

I. DISCUSSION OF ALFREDA TRAHAN VS SCHOOL BOARD OF LAFAYETTE PARISH, CIVIL ACTION #10-903

Motion (Gibson, Hefner) that the Board go in executive session to meet with U. S. District Judge Richard Haik to discuss the issues regarding the Alfreda Trahan vs School Board of Lafayette Parish, Civil Action #10-903 and that if he chooses to address the audience, he may do at his discretion.

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

Motion (Sam, Cox) that the Board go back to regular session. Motion carried.

Hefner reconvened the meeting and turned the gavel over to Wilson.

It was moved by Thibodaux that the Board instruct staff to seek out and secure legal counsel with experience and success in litigating desegregation and unitary status issues in Federal Court to assist us and that the Board instruct staff to put together a team of experts to present counter arguments based on scholarly studies, empirical data and demographic analyses to challenge the case put forth by the Department of Justice and the testimony of their expert. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion (Thibodaux, Guidry) that the Board request a rehearing to enter information that was not presented in the original motion. After some discussion, Guidry withdrew his second. Motion died for lack of a second.

It was moved by Hardy that the Board not appeal the decision and direct staff to make comprehensive zone changes as ruled by Judge Haik.

The Chair called the motion out of order.

Motion (Hardy, Sam) that the Board direct staff to go ahead with the assignment so that the necessary changes can be made to comply with Judge Haik's orders.

A substitute motion was made by Hefner, seconded by Gibson that the Board President, Superintendent and staff begin working with representatives of Judge Haik's office, the Department of Justice and the NAACP to begin the development of short and long term improvement plans that address the concerns presented by Judge Haik and that all Board members take an active part in the development of those plans.

After some discussion, Hardy withdrew his motion. The substitute motion becomes the original motion.

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

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

SIGNED:

/s/Beverly Wilson, President

/s/Michael Zolkoski, Secretary-Treasurer

LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

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