

LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, July 19, 2000 - 4:00 P. M., 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, July 19, 2000 at 4:00 P. M., 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

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT

Motion (Gibson, Sam) that the Board go in executive session to discuss the Superintendent's contract. Motion carried.

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

The Chair recessed the Special Board Meeting until after the Regular Board Meeting.

The Chair reconvened the meeting.

Motion (Hefner, LaCombe) that Lane Roy, Attorney, be authorized to negotiate the Superintendent's contract on behalf of the Lafayette Parish School Board and come back to the Board at 1:00 P. M. on Friday, July 21, 2000.

A substitute motion was made by Hardy that the Board release the Superintendent of his duties as of July 21, 2000 and that Burnell Lemoine be appointed Acting Superintendent. Motion died for lack of a second.

A substitute motion was made by Guidry that the Board go in executive session. Motion died for lack of a second.

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

The Chair recessed the meeting until 1:00 P. M. on Friday, July 21, 2000.

Friday, July 21, 2000 - 1:00 P. M.

Beverly Wilson, President, Presiding

The Chair reconvened the meeting to order. She informed the Board that Gibson would be not be in attendance because of a business engagement.

Motion (Thibodaux, Sam) that the Board go in executive session to discuss the Superintendent's contract. Motion carried.

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

Motion (Sam, Hefner) that the Lafayette Parish School Board agrees to release Superintendent Michael Zolkoski from his contract as Superintendent of Lafayette Parish effective at the end of the day October 15, 2000 on the condition that Superintendent Michael Zolkoski give up, without compensation, his total accrued leave of 100.5 days and retain six (6) days of annual leave to be used only for purposes of hospitalization or travel, and if used for travel, no more than three (3) days consecutively; that all rights and obligations under the contract between the Lafayette Parish School Board and Superintendent Michael Zolkoski as of October 15, 2000 be dissolved and any unused leave will not be compensated and further that no additional leave from this day forward will be earned by Superintendent Michael Zolkoski in the Lafayette Parish School System.

The Chair called for a roll call vote. Voting for were Guidry, LaCombe, Hardy, Sam, Hefner, Thibodaux, Cox and Wilson. Voting against were none. Gibson was absent. Motion carried.

Motion (Thibodaux, Hefner) that the Board President begin the process for the superintendent's search. Motion carried.

Dr. Zolkoski was recognized and read the following:

Board of Trustees,

Having completed six years of work in three years, I feel that it is time for me to consider a career move. As you can attest, being a superintendent is not an easy position. I have worked many years in administration and can truly say that this school system, the community of Lafayette, and the employees of LPSB are the best. The decision to return to Texas was not made lightly nor was it an easy decision to make. Please know that whoever follows me as superintendent will be a very lucky person. They will inherit a very hard-working, dedicated staff who will continue to move forward with the business of the parish. There are people in central office who could work anywhere, but they choose Lafayette Schools. We are indeed fortunate.

To the Board, thank you for the privilege of allowing me to work with you. Through your guidance and support the parish was able to accomplish a great many goals. I feel that I have experienced many situations in Lafayette that can never be duplicated. The majority of the Board was always by my side. It reminds me of the poem about the footsteps in the sand. God was always with you and me. To the Board presidents that worked closely with me for the past three years, thank you.

To the students, I am so proud to have shared in your accomplishments and been a part of the great education you are receiving. Please thank the countless number of teachers that work each day to prepare you for the future. To all the students that I have meet personally, and those that I have not, thanks for all you gave to your schools and communities. Continue to strive to be the best.

To the community and its leaders, thanks for your support during my tenure. School uniforms, four new schools, major renovations, boot camp, scholarship golf tournaments, algebra camp, and the Toys for Tots Campaign would not have been possible without your support. My church, St. John's Cathedral, and well as other churches within the parish, I cannot thank you enough for your help, guidance, and prayers.

To the families of two individuals who died during my tenure, my love and support go out to you. To Jowelle Ardoin's family, her loss was our loss. She propelled our staff to improve and look at the bright things in life. To the Ted Ardoin family, a sincere regret goes out to Ted's wife and children. Ted's work in the field of vocational education was one of love and patience.

To my office staff and cabinet members, thank you for your continuous support, dedication, and patience. I knew I could always count on you to get the job done. To Melva Perry, Burnell Lemoine, Charlie Dennis, and Jules Gaudin, thank you. I appreciate all the countless hours you dedicate to the parish.

To the Rudolph Review, thank you for the happiness you brought to so many children. You have filled my heart with the most precious memories. I will miss this very special time with you.

To the principals, teachers, and staff, thank you for a great three years. Continue to do what you do to make Lafayette Parish the best.

In closing, there are two exceptional people I need to thank, Lawrence Lilly and Margaret Guilbeau. Lawrence has been my employee but more than this, he has been my friend. Lawrence has a demanding job that often requires him to work on weekends and holidays. No job is too big or too small for Lawrence. He is a man that can get things done. Lawrence is truly one of a kind. Thanks, my friend.

Since Margaret has worked for eight superintendents, I once asked her, "Who was the best?" She responded, "It's to early to tell." Well, I hope I made the top three. No one,

and I repeat, no one, can ask for a better person as a secretary, administrative assistant, or a friend than Margaret. She has picked me up when I was down, she protected me from hurt, and sometimes mothered me as needed. Margaret cannot be replaced. My wife and I appreciate her friendship and her ability to share her family with us. I consider her family.

Please except this resignation as of October 15, 2000. If I have left any person out of this letter, please forgive me. I will start school, tie up loose ends before I leave. I will also offer to come at anytime to help the Lafayette Parish. I truly consider Lafayette my "Home away from Home."

Your friend and superintendent,

Michael Zolkoski

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Hefner, seconded by Thibodaux and carried.

SIGNED:

/s/Beverly Wilson, President

/s/ Michael Zolkoski, Secretary-Treasurer

LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

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