

**LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, June 30, 2004 - 5:30 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, June 30, 2004 at 5:30 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.

The Superintendent began the meeting by reading a statement:

“Since the Special Board Meeting of May 12, 2004 held at J. Wallace James Elementary School, I have thought long and hard about that very important meeting and the educational and financial challenge before us, and I want to apologize to each of you for not adequately explaining and portraying the significant and real importance of our teacher-student staffing formula. I wish I would have impressed upon you how very important the staffing formula is to everything that happens in this parish. So again I apologize”.

After some discussion, the Superintendent was allowed to complete his statement as follows:

“However, this evening I will not make the same mistake. You need to know that the adopted staffing formula of this parish influences all future spending, **all** future spending! We are labor intensive - 90% of our budget is personnel expenditures. Two years ago this Board directed me as its Superintendent to present to this Board a balanced budget. I along with my staff willingly accepted the challenge and complied with the directive. This evening I present a resolution to this Board that in fact will allow me to present a balanced budget. So I ask of you to allow me and my staff to do in part what you directed us to do two years ago”.

I. RESOLUTION - 06-04-1455/GENERAL FUND BUDGET BALANCING WORKSHEET

Discussion was held on Resolution 06-04-1455 and the General Fund Budget Balancing Worksheet.

Motion (Guidry, Thibodaux) that the Board approve the budget projections for sales tax revenues be increased to 2% for 2004-2005.

A substitute motion was made by LaCombe and seconded by Hardy that the Board approve the budget projections for sales tax revenues be increased to 3% for 2004-2005.

After some discussion, the Chair called for a roll call vote on the substitute motion.

Voting for the substitute motion were Hardy, LaCombe, Thibodaux and Sam. Voting against were Cox, Gibson, Guidry, Hefner and Wilson. Substitute motion failed.

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

II. OTHER BUSINESS

Motion (Thibodaux, Guidry) that the Board maintain the elementary physical education program as it currently exists. Motion carried.

The Chair called for a ten minute recess.

The Chair reconvened the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 06-04-1455 GENERAL FUND-PRELIMINARY BUDGET APPROVAL RECOMMENDATION/BUDGET BALANCING WORKSHEET

Motion (Cox, Hardy) that the Board approve Resolution 06-04-1455 General Fund-Preliminary Budget Approval Recommendation.

RESOLUTION 06-04-1455

GENERAL FUND - PRELIMINARY BUDGET APPROVAL RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS, in recent years the Lafayette Parish School Board has assigned the task of developing and presenting an annual balanced budget to the Administration; and,

WHEREAS, in order to adopt a balanced budget and protect existing programs; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED, that the Lafayette Parish School Board directs the Administration to develop a balanced budget for fiscal year 2004-2005 by:

- 1) Utilizing the baseline budget from fiscal year 2003-2004 after adjustment for one-time items (Revenues \$160,038,534; Expenditures \$161,962,115); and
- 2) Increasing recurring revenues \$1,603,480 after adjustment for non-recurring fiscal year 2003-2004 revenues; and
- 3) Include mandatory increases as may be appropriate, not to exceed \$4,699,190, for:
 - a. Fiscal year 2003-2004 debt service
 - b. Teachers' retirement tax
 - c. School employees' retirement tax
 - d. Health care premiums
- 4) Include increases as necessary, not to exceed \$4,053,900, for:
 - a. New instructional programs- reading
 - b. New debt service for FY 2004-2005 capital needs only
 - c. Equity adjustments/minimum salary for staff
 - d. Reading facilitators
 - e. Operational Needs for Schools of Choice
 - f. Utility expense
 - g. Fuel increases for vehicles/busses
 - h. Election expenses
 - i. Encumbrance carryover
 - j. Opening of school/unexpected expenditures
- 5) Include revision of the baseline budget from fiscal year 2003-2004 to transfer funds to cover three (3) Area Directors (a reduction from four (4)) and other staff included in the reorganization; that is, underspending and cost savings in various cost centers will be utilized to avoid any increase in budget needs.
- 6) Include decreases in expenditures with a minimum of \$6,291,704 as follows:
 - a. Retirement/consolidations
 - b. Cost center reductions
 - c. Increase in estimated underspending
 - d. No borrowing for operational expenses
 - e. Increases in class size at low performing schools to equal other schools - thereupon Title I schools can elect to voluntarily lower their class to 18:1 by using Title 1 funds
 - f. Adjustments in class size as may be necessary and appropriate to staff schools not to exceed two (2).

After some discussion on the resolution, Hardy withdrew his second to the motion. Wilson seconded the motion.

A substitute motion was made by Thibodaux and seconded by Guidry that the Board approve Resolution 06-04-1455 except for item **6f. Adjustments in class size as may be necessary and appropriate to staff schools not to exceed two (2).**

After some discussion, the substitute motion was amended to delete the word **by** in the third paragraph of the resolution: **THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED**, that the Lafayette Parish School Board directs the Administration to develop a balanced budget for fiscal year 2004-2005:

Sam called for the question.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Guidry, Hardy, LaCombe, Sam and Thibodaux

NAYS: Cox, Gibson, Hefner and Wilson

ABSENT: None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 30th day of June, 2004.

A motion was made by Wilson to adjourn the meeting. Motion died for lack of a second.

IV. APPROVAL OF RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND APPROVAL OF CONTINUED OPERATIONS PENDING FORMAL ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005 UNIFIED BUDGET

Motion (Sam, LaCombe) that the Board defer action on Approval of Retirement Incentive Program and Approval of Continued Operations Pending Formal Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Unified Budget until a later meeting. Motion carried.

There being no further business, it was moved by LaCombe, seconded by Guidry 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, Ed.D., Secretary-Treasurer
LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

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