The Franklin Parish School Board met for its regular scheduled board meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 5:00 PM in the Franklin Parish School Board complex boardroom.

Present for the meeting were, Mr. Eddie Ray Bryan, Mrs. Alaina Nichols, Mr. Danny Davis, Mr. Richard Kelly, Dr. Jacqueline Johnson, Mr. Matt Stephens and Ms.Laquetta Barnes.

None were absent from the Meeting.

President Richard Kelly called the meeting to order. Mr. Danny Davis led in prayer and President Kelly led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA FOR, JANUARY 10, 2023, REGULAR MEETING

ORDINANCE # 2023-01-0001

BE IT ORDAINED, ETC., that the Franklin Parish School Board approved the agenda for the January 10, 2023, regular meeting as listed.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING:**

**January 10, 2023, Regular Meeting**

**FRANKLIN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD COMPLEX**

**7293 PRAIRIE ROAD**

**WINNSBORO, LA 71295**

**Board Room, 5:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: President

INVOCATION: Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: President

I. Approval of Agenda for January 10, 2023, regular meeting.

II. Swearing in Ceremony for newly elected School Board Members.

III. Election of 2023 School Board Officers and Appointment of Committees.

IV. Approval of minutes from December 6, 2022 regular meeting.

V. **Recognition of Visitors – Carol Pinnell-Alison - LSU AgCenter**

-**Troy Bell, Federal Programs/Academics**

VI. Presentation of Audit Report. (Postlethwaite/Netterville)

VII. Business

A. To consider and/or take action on Extension of the Superintendent's Contract.

VIII. Business Manager Report

IX. Superintendent’s Report

X. President’s Report

XI. Adjourn

MOTION: Mrs. Alaina Nichols SECOND: Mr. Eddie Ray Bryan

YEAS: Mr. Eddie Ray Bryan, Mrs. Alaina Nichols, Mr. Danny Davis, Mr. Richard Kelly,

Dr. Jacqueline Johnson, Mr. Matt Stephens and Ms. Laquetta Barnes.

NAYS: None

ABSENT AND/OR NOT VOTING: None

The motion was approved.

Mr. John Gullatt, Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Richard Kelly, President

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Judge Scott Sartin administered the Oath of Office to all Board Members.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ORDINANCE # 2023-01-0002

BE IT ORDAINED, ETC., that the Franklin Parish School Board elect a School Board President.

Mrs. Alaina Nichols nominated Mr. Richard Kelly as Board President, seconded by Dr. Jacqueline Johnson. Mr. Danny Davis nominated Mr. Eddie Ray Bryan as Board President, seconded by Mr. Matt Stephens. A roll call vote was taken for Board President.

Vote for Mr. Eddie Ray Bryan.

MOTION: Mr. Danny Davis Second: Mr. Matt Stephens

YEAS: Mr. Eddie Ray Bryan, Mr. Danny Davis, Mr. Matt Stephens and Ms. Laquette

Barnes

NAYS: Mrs. Alaina Nichols, Mr. Richard Kelly and Dr. Jacqueline Johnson

ABSENT AND/OR NOT VOTING: None

Vote for Mr. Richard Kelly.

MOTION: Mrs. Alaina Nichols Second: Dr. Jacqueline Johnson

YEAS: Mrs. Alaina Nichols, Mr. Richard Kelly and Dr. Jacqueline Johnson

NAYS: Mr. Eddie Ray Bryan, Mr. Danny Davis, Mr. Matt Stephens and Ms. Laquetta Barnes

ABSENT AND/OR NOT VOTING: None

The motion for Mr. Kelly as Board President failed. Mr. Eddie Ray Bryan assumed the office of President.

Mr. Richard Kelly nominated Dr. Jacqueline Johnson as Board Vice-President, seconded by Mrs. Alaina Nichols. With no other opposition, Dr. Jacqueline Johnson assumed the office of Vice President. Mr. Danny Davis nominated Mr. Richard Kelly as Board Chaplain, Mr. Kelly declined nomination. Mr. Richard Kelly nominated Mr. Danny Davis as Board Chaplain, seconded by Dr. Jacqueline Johnson. With no other opposition, Mr. Danny Davis assumed the office of Chaplain.

President Bryan appointed, Mr. Richard Kelly, Ms. Laquetta Barnes, and Mrs. Alaina Nichols to the Finance Committee and Mr. Danny Davis, Mr. Matt Stephens and Dr. Jacqueline Johnson to the Maintenance Committee. Insurance Committee will comprise of Mrs. Alaina Nichols, Mr. Danny Davis and Dr. Jacqueline Johnson. Mr. Matt Stephens, Ms. Laquetta Barnes and Mr. Richard Kelly to the Policy Committee.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 6, 2022 REGULAR MEETING

ORDINANCE # 2023-01-0003

BE IT ORDAINED, ETC., that the Franklin Parish School Board approved the minutes from the December 6, 2022 Regular meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Danny Davis SECOND: Dr. Jacqueline Johnson

YEAS: Mr. Eddie Ray Bryan, Mrs. Alaina Nichols, Mr. Danny Davis, Mr. Richard Kelly,

Dr. Jacqueline Johnson, Mr. Matt Stephens and Ms. Laquetta Barnes

NAYS: None

ABSENT AND/OR NOT VOTING: None

The motion was approved.

Mr. John Gullatt, Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Eddie Ray Bryan, President

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VISITOR:  **Carrol Pinelle-Allison-LSU AgCenter**

Mrs. Allison gave the quarterly report for the Franklin Parish AgCenter. She spoke about Krissten Medlin and Quincy Vidrine both heading up Nutrition Education. They are still looking for a 4-H agent. We are still having the monthly meeting in schools and the traditional contest. Today we had the Ag-Expo going on. We created Christmas cards and gave them out at local nursing homes. There are a few things coming up in February and the livestock show is coming up soon. Neil West was inducted in the Hall of Fame. He has volunteered for years in the shooting sports.

**Mr. Troy Bell, Mr. Logan Dugard, and Mr. Michael Young-Rebranding of Franklin Parish**

A Brand on Mission-Here at Franklin Parish School District, we believe that our brand should reflect the unity and direction that we embody as a parish. For us, our goal is to MOVE FORWARD, TOGETHER!

Mr. Troy Bell spoke of “Why” we should rebrand, to increase student enrollment, retain teachers, and improve communication with the community. Enrollment sets us apart from other school districts. Moving forward together, I feel with this, it shows the community and parents that we are united. Teacher pride in our community, pride in our schools. It will be recognized in our school system and in others. It helps to tell our story. All communication will be consistent.

Mr Logan Dugard added that moving forward together is what we want to embody. The brand will be identifiable and constant. We want to build the Franklin Parish School District. It will be from letterheads to email signatures and social media. It shows that we are all in the same accord. We still want each school to have their own identity but also show that we are consistent.

Mr. Michael Young ended with if we do not tell our story, someone else will. We can let someone else tell our story which could be only negative or make it our mission to tell our story.

PRESENTATION OF AUDIT REPORT - FREDDY SMITH WITH POSTLETHWAITE/NETTERVILLE

Mr. Smith presented a summary of the annual audit. He issued an unmodified opinion on financial statements and compliance for federal programs. There were two findings; the first involved the student activity funds, where uniforms were ordered without sufficient funds. The next finding concerned the dollar limits for contracts in Special Education.

He suggested that the board look at the policy that requires a 15% fund balance and possibly increase the amount to at least 28%. Mr. Smith explained to the board that the district is about $39 million in the hole. This amount includes invested property and restricted funds. He went over the report presented to the board page by page. After answering questions from the board members, he concluded his report.

MOTION TO CONSIDER AND/OR TAKE ACTION TABLING THE EXTENSION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S CONTRACT

ORDINANCE # 2023-01-0004

MOTION: Mr. Matt Stephens SECOND: None

BE IT ORDAINED, ETC., motion failed due to lack of support.

MOTION TO CONSIDER AND/OR TAKE ACTION ON EXTENSION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S CONTRACT

ORDINANCE # 2023-01-0005

BE IT ORDAINED, ETC., that the Franklin Parish School Board approved extending the Superintendent’s contract after some discussion

MOTION: Mr. Richard Kelly SECOND: Mr. Danny Davis

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: Mr. Eddie Ray Bryan, Mrs. Alaina Nichols, Mr. Danny Davis, Mr. Richard Kelly,

Dr. Jacqueline Johnson and Ms. Laquetta Barnes

NAYS: Mr. Matt Stephens

ABSENT AND/OR NOT VOTING: None

The motion was approved.

Mr. John Gullatt, Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Eddie Ray Bryan, President

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BUSINESS REPORT

Mrs. Rebecca Bouquet reported to the board, for the 2022-2023 school year, the month of December, the numbers look a little better. We received the Ad Valorem taxes in the general fund. From these taxes, some have to be transferred to debt services. We have over $600,000 in indirect cost from ESSER funds this year. If you look at the 2020-2021, we only had $161,000. The Indirect cost from the ESSER funds are still propping up the general fund. Looking at the report, Maintenance of Plant has increased. Student Transportation Services is looking better. This is due to the decrease in fuel cost. Utilities, the worst in utilities has not happened yet. We are “keeping our head above water,” so to speak.

A small cushion was set back because of the workers comp. This was to recognize an expense that did put us in the hole a little. We hope that if it is not all used we can put it in other funds.

In the next agenda meeting, I will discuss a few things. Some of that will be about some of the projects that are coming up and insurance.

Sales Tax has held steady. Some of those funds go towards debt. I feel we have accomplished many things and managed our money well.

Mrs. Nichols asked about the 15% policy that was mentioned by Mr. Freddy Smith and how we need to change that. Is there a way that you and your team could look at that? Mr. Gullatt and I have spoken with our attorney, Mr. Jon Guice; he feels that we probably do not need a policy. Mr. Gullatt said that the easiest thing is to remove the sentence and then present it to the board.

Something I would like to point out is that last year we had to place the student activity fund in our financial statements. Which is why he suggested that we budget that. We have to put all school funds into our finances. This is because we are all part of the same organization.

With that, Mrs. Boquet concluded her report to the board.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. John Gullatt spoke at how he was at a loss for words on losing Mrs. Boquet. He spoke about how he had come to rely on her opinion and all of us here. We wish her well, even though I have tried to convince her to stay a little longer. The official date is January 31.

He also brought up that we do have heat and air in the central office once again. The cold spell that we recently had caused several pipes to burst at Baskin.

The next agenda meeting will be January 31, 2023. The regular meeting will need to be adjusted due to programs scheduled for that week. Would it be possible to have the regular meeting, Monday, February 6, 2023? Mrs. Nichols let the board know that she will not be able to attend due to meetings that will be held out of parish. Everyone else agreed to have the meeting on February 6, 2023 at the regular time. With that, Mr. Gullatt concluded his report.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT –

Mr. Bryan wanted to mention that it was nice to have such a good crowd and to show interest in the meeting. I would like to welcome the new members. Our goal is to improve education in Franklin Parish and better our facilities for our staff and students. With that, Mr. Bryan concluded his report.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

ORDINANCE # 2023-01-0006

BE IT ORDAINED, ETC., that there being no further business to discuss the regular meeting is adjourned.

MOTION: Mrs. Alaina Nichols SECOND: Dr. Jacqueline Johnson

YEAS: Mr. Eddie Ray Bryan, Mrs. Alaina Nichols, Mr. Danny Davis, Mr. Richard Kelly,

Dr. Jacqueline Johnson, Mr. Matt Stephens and Ms. Laquetta Barnes

NAYS: None

ABSENT AND/OR NOT VOTING: None

The motion was approved.

Mr. John Gullatt, Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Eddie Ray Bryan, President

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