

March 17, 2020
Jonesboro, Louisiana

The Jackson Parish School Board met in a Special Called Meeting at 1:00 p.m. on March 17, 2020 at its regular meeting place, 315 Pershing Highway, Jonesboro, Louisiana. The following were present for roll call: Calvin Waggoner, Gloria Davis, Wade McBride, Mary Saulters, Gerry Mims, Rickey McBride and Dennis Clary

Gerry Mims gave the Invocation.

Rickey McBride led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Saulters.

A motion was made by Calvin Waggoner, seconded by Rickey McBride and carried to approve adopting the Declaration of Public Emergency – COVID-19 resolution.

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY

COVID-19

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2019, officials in China alerted the World Health Organization (“WHO”) to several cases of an unknown respiratory illness primarily concentrated in the City of Wuhan, Hubei Province; and

WHEREAS, after further investigating the illness and ruling out the recurrence of other previously known viruses, officials, on January 7, 2020, announced the discovery of a new virus belonging to the coronavirus family of viruses (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, over the following weeks, the Chinese government began to report additional cases of the virus, evidencing a propensity of the virus to spread throughout China and beyond; and

WHEREAS, by January 30, 2020, approximately eighteen countries, outside of China, were reporting cases of the virus, causing the WHO to declare the virus a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern;” and

WHEREAS, over the following weeks, the virus continued to spread to nations around the globe, infecting thousands of individuals; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the WHO declared the coronavirus outbreak a “Global Pandemic;” and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Louisiana declared a “Public Health Emergency” over the coronavirus outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States of America declared a national emergency due to the coronavirus outbreak; and

WHEREAS, in an attempt to combat the spread of the virus, the Governor, on March 13, 2020, ordered the closure of all public elementary and secondary schools in Louisiana, beginning on March 16, 2020 and ending on April 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, many children depend on the services of the Jackson Parish School Board for essential services such as the provision of healthy meals; and

WHEREAS, while the cancellation of school will hopefully serve to combat the spread of the virus, such cancellation may put children at risk of not receiving enough healthy meals during the prolonged closure; and

WHEREAS, the spread of the virus and its impact on the everyday lives of the School Board’s students, faculty, staff, and their family members requires the School Board to take unprecedented steps to combat the spread of the virus and to serve the children of Jackson Parish; and

WHEREAS, the sudden closure of all schools until April 13, 2020 or later has also caused confusion and concern to employees of the school district about their ability to continue to be able to support their families through receipt of compensation from the School Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, the above recitals considered, the School Board desires to utilize its assets in the fight against the coronavirus, as more fully set forth below.

AND NOW, CONSIDERING THE FOREGOING, THE SCHOOL BOARD HEREBY DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

BE IT DECLARED, that the Jackson Parish School Board hereby declares a public emergency due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that, notwithstanding any policy or rule to the contrary, the School Board hereby confers emergency powers upon its Superintendent of Schools, for purposes of leading the School Board’s response to the outbreak. Such

emergency powers include, at the sole discretion of the Superintendent:

- (1) The authority to enter into any agreement or contract, without any further Board approval, for the purchase of materials, equipment, supplies, or services for sanitation, cleaning, technology, and other Covid-19 related services and supplies on behalf of School Board.
- (2) The authority to supply and arrange for the delivery of meals to all children of the parish, eighteen (18) years of age or younger, at no costs to the child or his/her family.
- (3) The authority to continue to pay school employees their regular compensation during the period schools are closed.
- (4) The authority to adjust curriculum, work schedules, compensation, and staff assignments without any further Board approval.
- (5) The authority to adjust the school calendar.
- (6) The authority to apply to BESE, LDOE, and/or USDOE, or any other governmental body for waivers of regulations or requirements, the compliance of which is impacted by COVID-19.
- (7) The authority to apply for waivers, grants, reimbursements, aid, and other Covid-19 related matters on behalf of the School Board.
- (8) The authority to provide non-mandatory, supplemental educational resources to students.
- (9) The authority to take any other action reasonably necessary to implement the above directives.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that the Superintendent is required to report, in writing and at reasonable intervals, to the School Board as to the amount of expenditures made pursuant to this Declaration, as well as, the actions taken by the Superintendent pursuant to this Declaration.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that, in accordance with the Governor's declaration, any bidding requirements of the Louisiana Public Bid Law (La. R.S. 38:2212 et seq.) applicable to any purchases related to the School Board's response to the coronavirus outbreak are hereby suspended.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that this Declaration shall remain in effect until COVID-19 emergency ceases or withdrawn by the School Board.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED that notice of the provisions contained herein shall

be published in the official journal of the Jackson Parish School Board within ten (10) days hereof.

THIS DECLARATION is adopted by the Jackson Parish School Board, at a Special Meeting held on the 17 day of March, 2020 in Jonesboro, Louisiana.

A motion was made by Gerry Mims, seconded by Wade McBride and carried to approve adopting the Increase in the 2020-2021 MFP resolution.

**RESOLUTION
INCREASE IN THE 2020-21 MFP**

WHEREAS, the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) establishes the state funding component of the K12 public education system in Louisiana and the Legislature is required to fully fund the formula;

WHEREAS, there was no increase in the base per pupil for the school years of 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14;

WHEREAS, in the 2014 Regular Session the MFP base per pupil increased from \$3,855 to \$3,961 for the 2014-15 school year;

WHEREAS, in the 2019 Regular Session the MFP base per pupil increased from \$3,961 to \$4,105 for the 2019-20 school year;

WHEREAS, had the MFP base per pupil been increased each year, since 2008 by the anticipated 2.75%, the 2020-21 MFP would be \$5,195;

WHEREAS, the Governor's Executive Budget anticipates and seeks to fund a 1.375% increase in the base per pupil of 2020-21, raising the base per pupil from \$4,015 to \$4,070;

WHEREAS, this would be the first time in over a decade that the base per pupil in the MFP was increased in two consecutive years;

WHEREAS, the Jackson Parish School Board has been absorbing ever increasing operational costs, from health insurance, to curriculum to align with new state standards, to increasing demands of the state accountability system, to technology, to security of students, and more recently to protection from cyber-attacks on student and employee data, without consistently increasing state funding;

WHEREAS, the potential increase in the MFP will benefit local school districts in every parish, as well as every public charter school in the state, as well as afford school districts with the ability to continue to strive toward higher teacher and support worker compensation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jackson Parish School Board supports the proposal to increase the base per pupil funding in the MFP by not less than 1.375%;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Jackson Parish School Board urges BESE to incorporate an increase in the base per pupil of not less than 1.375% in the MFP it recommends to the Legislature;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Jackson Parish School Board urges the Legislature, and in particular the INSERT Parish Legislative Delegation, to approve an MFP with an increase in the base per pupil of not less than 1.375%;

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Jackson Parish School Board directs the Superintendent to forward a copy of this Resolution to each member of the Jackson Parish Legislative delegation, to Chairman/Senator Cleo Fields, Chairman/Representative Ray Garofalo, and Governor John Bel Edwards.

A motion was made by Gerry Mims, seconded by Rickey McBride and carried to approve adopting the State Superintendent for Education resolution.

RESOLUTION STATE SUPERINTENDENT FOR EDUCATION

WHEREAS, for the first time in almost decade, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will be electing a new State Superintendent of Education (BESE);

WHEREAS, the election of a State Superintendent is one of the three primary functions of BESE;

WHEREAS, making the best choice of a new State Superintendent is critically important to the approximately 700,000 public school children in Louisiana;

WHEREAS, LRS 17:21 provides that the State Superintendent, at a minimum, should process the qualifications established by BESE for a local school superintendent;

WHEREAS, LAC 28:I.309 provides that the State Superintendent shall possess the following qualifications:

- Advanced degree in public administration, education or related area;
- Background in the formulation and implementation of public policy;
- Strong academic background; and
- Qualifications for the position of superintendent of a city, parish, or other local public school board;

And provides that a candidate should have the following experience:

- Proven record of success in administration;
- Demonstrated ability to achieve positive results
- Credibility in his/her current profession; and
- Proven record of team building.

WHEREAS, LAC 28:747 provides that the qualifications for a superintendent of a city, parish or other school superintendent:

- Valid Type A or Level 3 Louisiana teaching certificate
- 5 years of experience as a superintendent, asst. superintendent, supervisor of instruction, principal, or assistant principal, or equivalent experience.
- Master's degree

- 48 hours of graduate credit, including at least 30 hours in education administration and supervision of instruction, along with specific requirements in various educational administration content areas.

WHEREAS, while BESE has the authority, by a two-thirds vote, to waive the requirements to be the State Superintendent of Education, those adopted qualifications are vitally important to ensuring that the leader of public education in Louisiana has the appropriate educational background and experience, and a waiver should only be considered in extraordinary circumstances, such as when there are no viable qualified applicants;

WHEREAS, BESE has established a process for vetting all applicants for State Superintendent;

WHEREAS, the first step in the process should be to separate the applicants into two categories, those that meet the established qualifications and those that do not;

WHEREAS, the next step in the process should be to review more closely the applicants that meet the established qualifications;

WHEREAS, the second step in the process should focus on those qualified candidates that have displayed the most student success in their prior experience in public school administration, with a focus on success that spans across diverse communities, rural, urban and suburban, and communities with diverse student populations that most closely mirror the student populations across Louisiana, and evidence of an understanding of the challenges of educating students in the varied public school districts across Louisiana;

WHEREAS, only upon a determination by BESE, acting in an open meeting, that none of the candidates that meet the qualifications are suitable to serve as the State Superintendent of Education, should BESE consider waiving the established minimum qualifications and further evaluating the non-qualified candidates.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jackson Parish School Board, urges BESE, in the process of selecting the next State Superintendent of Education, to uphold the established minimum qualifications adopted by BESE and existing in current Louisiana law and regulation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Jackson Parish School Board urges BESE to refuse to waive the minimum qualifications set forth in existing Louisiana law and regulation without a public determination, as a body, that none of the candidates meeting those qualifications is a suitable candidate for State Superintendent of Education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Jackson Parish School Board urges BESE to select a new State Superintendent who:

- Meets the established minimum qualifications set forth in Louisiana law and regulation;
- Has displayed student success in public school administration in Louisiana;
- Has displayed student success in public school administration in both rural and suburban/urban communities;
- Has displayed student success in communities with diverse student populations;
- Has an understanding of the challenges of educating students in the varied public school districts across Louisiana;

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Jackson Parish School Board directs the Superintendent to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Board of Elementary and Secondary

Education and to each BESE member whose district incorporates a portion of the Jackson Parish School District.

A motion by Gloria Davis, seconded by Wade McBride and carried to approve the 2020-2021 School Calendar.

Motion was made by Wade McBride, seconded by Gloria Davis and carried to adjourn at 1:30 p.m.

President

Secretary