

MINUTES

POINTE COUPEE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
337 Napoleon Street
New Roads, LA 70760

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 5, 2024

The Pointe Coupee Parish School Board met in a special session on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at the School Board Office, 337 Napoleon Street in New Roads, Louisiana 70760. President Lisa Loupe D'Aquila called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

President D'Aquila offered the invocation.

Board Member Anita LeJeune led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

School Board members in attendance for roll call: Chad Aguiard, Frank R. Aguiard, Jr., Lisa Loupe D'Aquila, Walter Grezaffi, Aubry Hendricks, Anita LeJeune, and Thomas A. Nelson.

Board Member Jason Lemoine was absent.

Central Office Administrative Staff in attendance: Kim Canezaro Superintendent; Natalie Aguiard, Director of Human Capital; Marcie Cazayoux, Supervisor of Data and Accountability; Andrew Duhe', Supervisor of Maintenance/Support Services; Brandi Forbes, Supervisor of Teaching and Learning; Karla Jack, Federal Programs Director/Assistant Superintendent; Stephen Langlois, Chief Financial Officer; Kate Roy, Child Nutrition Supervisor, and Mary Wells, Special Education Supervisor.

School Administrative Staff in attendance: Karla Jack, Principal of Livonia High School; Dr. Rosie Courville, Assistant Principal; Khalil Thomas, Athletic Director/Football Coach at Livonia High School; and Sara Taylor, Principal of Valverde Elementary School.

Discussion and/or Action Regarding Bids for Project #23018 (Livonia High School Athletic Upgrades) and Project #23019 (STEM Academy Athletic Upgrades).

Mr. Stephen Langlois announced the bid opening for the athletic upgrade projects at Livonia High and the STEM Academy was Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. He stated a qualified bid was received from one bidder and the prices were within what they were hoping they would be budget-wise. Mr. Langlois mentioned that each site had a base bid as well as multiple alternates; information was placed on BoardDocs. Mr. Langlois stated after talking to the designers and engineers, the administration is recommending the following athletic project upgrades:

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- Livonia High- the base bid (natural grass turf and surface reconstruction) as well as alternate 3 (new electronic scoreboard)
- STEM Magnet Academy- the base bid (natural grass turf and surface reconstruction) as well as alternate 1 (new running track and field event stations)

Mr. Langlois announced the total cost for the athletic upgrade projects at Livonia and STEM is \$2,051,000.00 and recommends using funds from the capital outlay account to fund the projects.

Board member Aubry Hendricks questioned Mr. Langlois about the boiler at STEM. Mr. Langlois informed the Board the boiler was repaired. He also provided updates regarding the chiller system vs. HVAC and the mini splits that were installed. Mr. Langlois stated the price estimates he received to replace the boiler system would be \$140,000 - \$160,000 that would also include work on the infrastructure (piping) itself. Mr. Langlois stated that he also has cost estimates, not bids, to update the restrooms, concession stands to the home side as well as the visitor's side at STEM; and a few repairs to the press box for an estimated cost of \$400,000. Mr. Langlois further stated the combined costs to upgrade athletic fields, restrooms, concession stands and the press box at STEM would be almost 2.5 million dollars. He also mentioned he received an estimate of \$28,000 to update the lights on the field and explained that this involves replacing bulbs and rearranging placement of lighting for illumination.

Board member Thomas Nelson questioned the remaining balance in the capital outlay account after expenditures for the athletic upgrades and renovation at Livonia and STEM. Mr. Langlois stated the balance would be \$225,938.79.

President D'Aquila stated the School Board will continue to receive one-time payments for this account.

Board member Frank Aguillard clarified that it is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Chief Financial Officer that the Board accept the bid received for athletic upgrades at STEM and Livonia using funds from the Capital Outlay Account. Mr. Frank Aguillard mentioned that he is going to support the athletic upgrades at both campuses. He announced the reason there is 3.6 million in Capital Outlay, is because years ago, it was the wisdom of the Pointe Coupee Parish School Board to place any one-time revenue into a Capital Outlay Account to spend on facility upgrades.

President D'Aquila asked if any member of the Board would like to comment on this item and having no further questions, she asked if Mr. Mougeot would like to say anything. Architect Mougeot stated that he wanted to mention that one bid was received, and he thinks the reason is natural turf was requested for the base bid with artificial turf as an alternate and those two sub-contractors do not typically interchange with those two types of fields. He explained that Mr. Craig Gosserand, a local contractor, was interested in acting as a general contractor and although it looks like only one bid was received on paper, Mr. Gosserand received multiple prices from sub-contractors; therefore, competitive prices were received regarding each field type (natural grass turf & synthetic turf).

Board member Chad Aguillard questioned the procedure that will be used regarding ground preparation. A brief discussion ensued involving the process for the natural grass turf surface and new irrigation system on the athletic fields at each site. Mr. Aguillard inquired if it would be done professionally. David Mougeot, Architect, assured the Board the project would be done in a professional sound manner.

Mr. Thomas Nelson offered a motion to accept the bid from Sawfish Construction for the base bid and alternate #3 for athletic upgrades at Livonia High School (project #23018) and the base bid and alternate #1 for athletic upgrades at STEM (project #23019) using funds from the Capital Outlay Account. Mr. Chad Aguillard seconded the motion. Hearing no objection, the motion was carried by a 7-0 vote of the members present and voting.

Consider Approval of a Request for Proposals for Permanent Classroom Buildings at Livonia High School and Rougon Elementary School. Superintendent Canezaro stated that she is going to provide information regarding how this agenda item began. She stated a weather event occurred a few months ago at Rougon Elementary which caused roof damage on a modular classroom building. The principal evacuated the children out of the temporary buildings; she and other administrators toured the buildings, and having no students in the building, visually saw they needed to be replaced. Superintendent Canezaro stated along with the athletic updates, they think the modular classrooms at Rougon and Livonia need to be replaced with permanent classroom buildings where students spend the majority of their day. Ms. Canezaro stated that Mr. Langlois will review a plan to get rid of all temporary buildings at Rougon Elementary and one-half of the buildings at Livonia High as a start. Superintendent Canezaro stated if permanent classroom buildings are not constructed, the Board will have to replace the classrooms with new modular buildings; she yielded to Stephen Langlois to present estimated costs. Mr. Langlois stated that after the weather event, he contacted Architect Mougeot to conduct a site walk through and reviewed square footage for the classroom building projects targeted for Rougon and Livonia. He announced the estimated cost of an eight classroom building at Livonia is \$1,800,000.00, and \$1,850,000.00 for eight classroom building at Rougon; estimated design costs of \$292,000.00 for a total estimated classroom project construction cost of \$3,942,000.00 (information was placed on BoardDocs). Mr. Langlois announced the Board already had preliminary approval for two million five hundred thousand dollars in revenue bonds from the State Bond Commission for athletic upgrades. Mr. Langlois contacted Bond Attorney Wes Shafto to inquire if the original preliminary resolution can be amended and restated (to increase the amount of the bonds and redefine the project parameters) the attorney stated this could be done; the resolution received from Mr. Shafto (this afternoon) is on BoardDocs for members of the Board to review. Mr. Langlois stated the main difference between the original resolution and the amended is requesting not to exceed 4,000,000 to have enough funding for the estimates that were received, with a little cushion in case the request for proposals come in higher than anticipated; the term will also not exceed 15 years. Mr. Langlois announced that not all the projects have to be financed, some could be cash, depending on what is in the Capital Outlay Account. Mr. Langlois stated his recommendation is to use the State Bond Commission approved financing to pay for the classroom building project. He stated he would also recommend using a % of our annual tax proceeds from the Infrastructure Property Tax Fund to pay the annual debt payments for the classroom building project. Mr. Langlois also mentioned the percentage of proceeds could change annually depending on the payment needed and/or School Board needs. Mr. Langlois informed the Board that the current debt payment the Board has been paying for the last fifteen years will be completed in April 2025; if approved by the Bond Commission, it will be the only debt moving forward. Mr. Langlois stated the main request is for the Board to approve the amended preliminary resolution not to exceed four million dollars for 15 years for the purpose of permanent classroom structures replacing temporary modular buildings on the sites (Rougon and Livonia). Mr. Langlois stated the information will be submitted to the Department of Justice (since the school district is still under the consent decree) for their preliminary approval as well. He stated once approvals are received, the Board will be notified and begin the design work and will come

back to the Board to start finalizing the plans before going out for bids. Mr. Langlois stated the next Bond Commission meeting is in April. A brief discussion ensued regarding the anticipated annual note, the revenue generated from the one-mil tax, and anticipated solar panel revenue deposited in Capital Outlay Account, etc.

Board Member Walter Grezaffi mentioned that he would like to make sure the Board is doing enough to do good at every school. He stated that Livonia has more temporary buildings (18) than Rougon (8). A brief discussion ensued regarding the amount to ask the Bond Commission for (i.e. 4 1/2 or 6 million, etc.).

Board Member Chad Aguillard stated when they first began talking about the Bond Commission, they talked about requesting 2 million dollars for boilers, chillers, etc. which is the same thing we are doing. He asked for the number of students at each school and Supt. Canezaro stated there are 359 students at Rougon and Livonia has 547 students.

President D'Aquila stated the Board has time to discuss how the dollars will be spent and disbursed between schools and announced at this point a motion is needed to start the beginning phase (request for proposals and authorization from the Justice Department).

Board Member Chad Aguillard stated that he would like to make a request before adjourning. His request is when the Board gets to the point of talking about a firm decision that Mr. Bob Hammonds is present to talk about the impact it may have on existing litigation. President D'Aquila agreed with Mr. Chad Aguillard, as Mr. Hammonds will be going to the Justice Department.

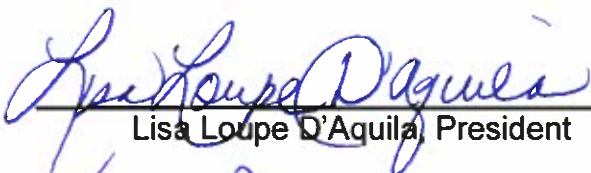
Mr. Frank Aguillard made a motion to approve a request for proposals for permanent classroom buildings at Livonia High School and Rougon Elementary School.

Mr. Thomas Nelson informed the Board that an agenda item to adopt the Resolution is necessary prior to submission to the Bond Commission; however, an item cannot be added to a special meeting agenda without all members of the Board present.


President Lisa Loupe D'Aquila announced that agenda item number B.2 needs to include adoption of a resolution prior to making application to the State Bond Commission; therefore, this item will be included on the regular meeting agenda in March.

Adjournment. On a motion by Mr. Thomas Nelson, seconded by Mr. Aubry Hendricks, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

POINTE COUPEE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD



Lisa Loupe D'Aquila, President



Kim Canezaro, Superintendent

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