

**JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD  
DECEMBER 18, 2020**

The Jefferson Davis Parish School Board met in Regular session at 203 E. Plaquemine Street, Jennings, LA 70546, on Thursday, December 17, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., with the following School Board members present: President, Jody Singletary, Vice-President, James Segura, Members, Phillip Arceneaux, Jason Bouley, Charles Bruchhaus, Donald Dees, Malon Dobson. Doise Doise, Terry Leger, Denise Perry and Paul Trahan. Absent: Greg Bordelon and David Capdeville

**The Jefferson Davis Parish School Board welcomes public input as to all agenda items which it considers and understands the inconvenience which COVID-19 guidelines impose. In an effort to meet within the CDC recommendations and to comply with the Governor's orders (Modified Phase II), while at the same time providing the opportunity for public comment, the Board will adhere to the following procedures at its meetings:**

1. **Capacity limitations of 30 persons (First preference to Board Members and necessary staff) will be followed in the Board Room at its normal meeting place in Jennings, LA;**
2. **Public participants wishing to become an active part of the meeting agenda must request written permission (via email to [debbie.abshire@jdpsbk12.org](mailto:debbie.abshire@jdpsbk12.org)) no later than one day prior to the meeting date. Individual speakers are granted three minutes to speak when public comment is acknowledged.**
3. **Once public participants have submitted a written request to speak, they will receive the active participant link via email.**
4. **This is a live remote-access meeting for public participation. Video and audio will be recorded throughout the entirety of this meeting and will be archived.**
5. **As this is a live remote-access meeting, all active speakers are to adhere to professional meeting etiquette. Please refrain from using any profane language or making derogatory remarks aimed at any individual or group.**
6. **This meeting will be moderated for all active participants. Any active participant not adhering to the guidelines set forth in this document will be muted or removed from the meeting (depending on extent of violation).**
7. **Active participants are asked to mute their microphones when not speaking. Unmuted participants (not actively speaking or asked to speak) will be muted by the moderator.**
8. **During the meeting, questions can be submitted using the "Chat" feature (comment bubble icon). All questions submitted in the "Chat" feature will be visible to all participants and should adhere to the same guidelines as outlined in number 2 on this page.**
9. **This meeting will be live-streamed (view only) to the public for those requesting. The live-stream recording will be available after the meeting on the district website at [www.jeffersondavis.org](http://www.jeffersondavis.org).**

The meeting was called to order by President Singletary.

President Singletary certified the following:

- A. President or presiding officer certifies the following:
  - A. Governor has declared a State of Emergency (Modified Phase II)
  - B. Nature of Emergency could cause more than 30 persons present in the Boardroom to be detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the Public in order to adhere to social distancing guidelines;
  - C. This is a live remote-access meeting for public participation. Video and audio will be recorded throughout the entirety of this meeting and will be archived.
  - D. This meeting will be live-streamed (view only) to the public. The live-stream link will be available on the district website at [www.jeffersondavis.org](http://www.jeffersondavis.org).

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The record will reflect that all requests for public viewing were sent links to the meeting.

An invocation by Mr. Leger, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag led by Mr. Bouley.

Motion by Mr. Arceneaux, seconded by Mr. Leger and unanimously carried to approve the School Board minutes of the Regular Meeting on November 19, 2020.

Motion by Mr. Bouley, seconded by Mr. Doise and unanimously carried that the Board call for a vote to take care of items of business not listed on the original agenda or to change the order of topics to be addressed and to add items not on the original agenda. Added - New Business item to discuss High School students returning to a five day school week.

President Singletary turned the meeting over to Superintendent Credeur for election of President.

Motion by Mr. Arceneaux, seconded by Mr. Segura to nominate Jody Singletary for president.

Motion by Mr. Bouley and seconded by Mr. Dees that nominations cease.  
Jody Singletary was unanimously elected as President for 2021.

Meeting returned to President Singletary.

Motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Arceneaux to nominate James Segura as Vice-president.

Motion by Mr. Dobson and seconded by Mr. Doise that nominations cease.

James Segura was unanimously elected as Vice-President for 2021.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

The following recommendations were made by Mr. James Segura, Finance Committee Chairman, that the School Board:

Grant permission to contribute \$7,500.00 to the Jeff Davis Arts Council "Arts in Education" program. To be paid from General Fund. Motion seconded by Mr. Doise and unanimously approved.

Grant permission to Danielle Simien, CTE Supervisor to pay the Fall tuition for dual enrollment students to SOWELA Technical Community College in the amount of \$11,915.00. This fee will be covered with SCA (Supplemental Course Academy/

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Course Choice) funds. Motion seconded by Mr. Arceneaux and unanimously approved.

Grant permission to WHS Student Council, to accept a \$2,170.00 donation from 2020 Homecoming Dance Committee. Funds to be used towards the purchase of supplies for school improvements and convention expenses. Motion seconded by Mrs. Perry and unanimously approved.

Grant permission to WHS Volleyball Program, to accept a \$180.00 donation from the Volleyball Parents Committee. Funds to be used towards the purchase of supplies for the volleyball program. Motion seconded by Mr. Bouley and unanimously approved.

Grant permission to WHS Football Program, to accept a \$500.00 donation from Jerry Warden. Funds to be used towards the purchase of supplies and equipment for the football program. Motion seconded by Mr. Bouley and unanimously approved.

At the March 19, 2020 Board Meeting, the board passed the Jefferson Davis Parish School Board Declaration of Public Emergency that declares “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 being suspended.” The Child Nutrition Program would like permission to accept the quote from Chalmette Container Sales Rentals, LLC for a 40' refrigerated cargo unit at the price of \$36,950 (original quote was \$39,450). This price includes delivery and offloading to the Food Service Warehouse. Two other requests for quotes were obtained from Advanced Container (none available), and Aztec Container (\$28,987, under the condition that we will offload. Awaiting quotes for Offloading. To be paid out of the School Lunch Fund with funds provided by the Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign grant. Motion seconded by Mr. Arceneaux and unanimously approved.

Grant permission to HHS to purchase four 75” TruTouch NewLine boards from Troxell Communications on state contract at a cost of \$12,180.00. To be paid from Maintenance #3. Motion seconded by Mr. Doise and unanimously approved.

Grant permission to Wilbert Gilbeaux, Transportation Supervisor, to have 6 Fuel Injectors replaced on Bus 292, a 2015 Blue Bird Vision, at a cost of \$7,759.17. To be paid from General Fund. Motion seconded by Mr. Leger and unanimously approved.

Grant permission to WHS Football program to accept a \$4,255.00 donation from Point to Point Directional Drilling. Funds to be used towards the purchase of an industrial washing machine for the WHS Athletic Program. Motion seconded by Mr. Bouley and unanimously approved.

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Grant permission to WHS Football program to accept a \$810.00 donation from St. Louis Catholic High School. Funds to be used towards the purchase of an industrial washing machine for the WHS Athletic Program. Motion seconded by Mr. Arceneaux and unanimously approved.

Grant permission to WHS Boys Basketball Team to accept a \$470.00 donation from Dayna Hall. Funds to be used towards the purchase of supplies and equipment for the WHS Boys Basketball Program. Motion seconded by Mr. Bouley and unanimously approved.

Grant permission to LAHS Varsity Cheer Program to accept a \$1,470.00 donation from the Lake Arthur HOCO Committee. Funds to be used for the LAHS Varsity Cheer Program to help offset expenses. Motion seconded by Mr. Dobson and unanimously approved.

Grant permission to LAHS Boys Basketball Program to accept a \$1,500.00 donation from LJS Services. Funds to be used for the LAHS Boys Basketball Program to help offset expenses. Motion seconded by Mr. Dobson and unanimously approved.

Grant permission to LAES to accept the quote of Trox Igniting Curiosity in the amount of \$3,240.00 (\$540.00 each) for chromebook carts. Other quotes received from Detel Computer Solutions \$4,050.00 (675.00 each) and CDWG \$4,200.00 (\$700 per cart). To be paid from Maintenance #1. Motion seconded by Mr. Dobson and unanimously approved.

Grant permission to HHS to accept a \$2,388.76 donation from Hathaway Lil Dribblers to purchase boys basketball shoes and \$5,813.82 to purchase girls basketball uniforms. Motion seconded by Mr. Doise and unanimously approved.

Finance Committee Chairman, Mr. Segura asked to be recused from the next item and turned the committee item over to President Singletary.

Grant permission to JHS to accept the following donations:

1. Football team \$600.00 from Jennings Alumni to pay for costs of painting the football field.
2. Jennings Alumni - Various sports \$11,000.00 to help defray program costs.
3. Varsity Cheerleaders and Jazzers \$2,410.00 from several anonymous donors to pay for a charter bus for the Lutchter football game.

Motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mrs. Perry, and unanimously carried, with Mr. Segura recused from voting.

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The following recommendations were made by Mr. Phillip Arceneaux, Policy Committee Chairman, that the School Board adopt the following new or revised policies:

1. **School Board Policy File: BD** Effective November 2020 La. Rev. Stat. 17:416.8 requires the establishment of a *Discipline Policy Review Committee*. The policy *School Board Policy* has been revised to clarify that the School Board does not appoint the committee, but establishes it in accordance with statutory Guidelines.
2. **Discipline File: JD** Effective Upon Approval Act 48 revised La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 17:416 to require that a School Board's discipline policy "clearly define the rules of conduct and expectations of students engaged in virtual instruction." *Virtual instruction* is defined by statute as "instruction provided to a student through an electronic delivery medium, including, but not limited to, electronic learning platforms that connect to a student in a remote location to classroom instruction." The *Discipline* policy has been revised to include a new section *Discipline of Students Engaged In Virtual Instruction*; and the definition of *virtual instruction* added to the end of the *Definitions* section.
3. **Suspension File: JDD** Effective November 2020  
**Expulsion File: JDE**  
Another change made by Act 48 to La. Rev. Stat. 17:416 provides the parent or tutor of a student who is recommended for expulsion the right of review by the School Board within five (5) days even if the recommendation for expulsion is reduced to a suspension. Parents/tutors of a student who receives an adverse ruling of the School Board may then appeal the matter to the district court within ten (10) days, even if the recommendation for expulsion is reduced to a suspension.  
Language has been added to both the *Suspension* and *Expulsion* policies to reflect this statutory change.

Motion seconded by Mr. Dobson and unanimously carried.

**Legislative Liaison - Donald Dees, Chairman** - Mr. Dees advised that all School Board Members were sent a questionnaire.

The following committees had no reports to present:

**Insurance - David Doise, Chairman**

**Building & Grounds - Terry Leger, Chairman**

**Transportation - Greg Bordelon, Chairman**

**16th Section - Charles Bruchhaus, Chairman**

**Ward II (Ad Hoc) - Donald Dees, Chairman**

**Food Service Committee - Malon Dobson, Chairman**

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The Sales Tax report was given by Mrs. Amber Hymel, Tax Collector.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion by Mr. Bouley, seconded by Mr. Doise and unanimously carried to adopt the following Resolution of Recognition for outgoing District Attorney, Michael Cassidy, who has served as legal counsel for the Jefferson Davis Parish School Board for thirty years:

**RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION**

WHEREAS, MICHAEL CASSIDY has served as legal counsel for the Jefferson Davis Parish School System for thirty years.

WHEREAS, his loyalty, leadership, and dedication to the Jefferson Davis Parish School

System in fulfilling his duties and legal knowledge have brought credit to the system, and served as an example and inspiration to his colleagues.

WHEREAS, his spirit of Public Service has been in the finest tradition of democratic government;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Jefferson Davis Parish School Board in regular session on the 17th day of December, 2020, that said Board recognizes and commends MICHAEL CASSIDY for his faithful legal service in representing the Board. The above Resolution, having been put to a vote and having passed, was duly declared adopted and ordered spread on the minutes of this Board on this 17th day of December, 2020.

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/s/ JODY SINGLETARY

President

Motion by Mr. Arceneaux, seconded by Mr. Leger and unanimously carried to name newly-elected District Attorney Kevin Millican as the legal counsel for the Jefferson Davis Parish School Board, effective upon his oath of office in January, 2021.

Motion by Mr. Bruchhaus, seconded by Mr. Doise and unanimously carried to approve the following non-faculty coach for the 2020-21 school year upon completion of LHSAA coaching course certification and Board policy requirements.

- A. Devaughn Davis, EHS basketball.

Motion by Mr. Doise, seconded by Mr. Bruchhaus and unanimously carried to declare the following HHS items as surplus and send to the next available auction:

1. 8 (g) HHS Detel 30 unit laptop cart.

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Motion by Mr. Bouley, seconded by Mr. Arceneaux and unanimously carried to approve the following non-faculty coach for the 2020-21 school year upon completion of LHSAA coaching course certification and Board policy requirements.

- A. Jada Bradley, WHS girls basketball.

Addendum to New Business added by unanimous consent.

Discussion to return High School students return to a five day school week on January 4, 2021.

After lengthy discussion a motion was made by Mr. Bouley and seconded by Mr. Burchhaus to delay returning students on January 4, 2021. Motion by Mr. Segura and seconded by Mr. Dees, amend to have a special meeting on December 30, 2020 to determine return date. Mr. Bouley withdrew his original motion and Mr. Bruchhaus withdrew his second to original motion. Thus no motion on the floor.

Motion by Mr. Segura, seconded by Mr. Dees and unanimously carried to have a Special Meeting on December 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss High School students returning to a five day week.

**INFORMATION**

1. Condolences are extended to the families of:
  - A. Peggy Seilhan, EHS Cafeteria Manager, who retired in 2016 with 9 years of Service.
  - B. Hubert "Sonny Boy" Thomas, EHS Custodian who retired in 2003, with 25 years of service.
2. From OGB: The ever changing costs of healthcare requires OGB to occasionally make changes to our health plans in order to continue to provide our members with the coverage they are accustomed to. Therefore, effective January 1, 2021, premium rates for the Pelican and Magnolia plans will increase by 5.5 percent. Vantage Health Plan also will raise their rates by 6 percent.  
-----The insurance department has been working diligently to make sure all employees and retirees are aware of the increase. Mrs. Kershaw has mailed letters to retirees giving them notice of an increase and she plans to mail out letters with the amount to be withheld from their retirement check by the end of the month.

**PERSONNEL CHANGES**

- A. **Personnel changes:**

**APPOINTMENTS**

1. Cindy Wilks Morse, EHS Teacher, effective 01/04/21, re: Debra Bruchhaus resignation.
2. Skakeena Celestine, JHS Cafeteria Tech, effective 12/01/20, re: Geri Daniels retirement.

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3. Kyle LeBlanc, HHS Custodian, effective 12/14/20, re: Eric Crochet resignation.
4. Joseph Trahan, HHS Custodian, effective 12/14/20, re: Aaron Sonnier lateral transfer.

**TRANSFER**

1. Ronald Carnahan, LHS extra sub Custodian to LHS Full-time Custodian, effective 01/04/21, re: Allen Duplantis resignation.
2. Aaron Sonnier, HHS Custodian to WAR Custodian, effective 12/17/20, re: Adam Anthony, IV resignation.

**EXTENDED MEDICAL**

1. N. Reed, Welsh Schools Cafeteria Tech, 11/10/20 to 11/30/20 and 12/01/20 to 12/06/20.
2. P. Maynard, HHS Cafeteria Tech, 12/01/20 to 04/14/21.
3. A. Prejean, JWES Clerical Aide, 11/18/20 to 12/18/20.
4. A. Foreman, LHS Paraprofessional 11/20/20 and 11/30 to 12/04/20 and 12/7/20 to 12/18/20.
5. A. Smith, JWES Cafeteria Tech, 11/20/20 to 04/29/21.
6. P. Thibodeaux, LAHS Bus Driver, 11/02/20 to 03/15/21.

**RESIGNATION**

1. Debra Bruchhaus, EHS Teacher, 12/18/20.
2. Craig Castille, JHS Teacher/Coach, 02/26/21.
3. Adam Anthony, IV, WAR Custodian, 11/12/20.
4. Eric Crochet, HHS Custodian, 11/21/20.
5. Allen J. Duplantis, LHS Custodian, 01/01/21.
6. Neal Pruchomme, Child Nutrition Warehouse Driver Helper, 12/1/202.

**DISABILITY RETIREMENT**

1. Jacqueline Slate, EHS Cafeteria Tech, with 13 years of service.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

Motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Doise and unanimously carried to enter into executive session to discuss the following litigation:

Roma Lynn Bergeron vs. Jefferson Davis Parish School Board  
Suit # C-051220 - Jefferson Davis Parish

Motion by Mr. Segura, seconded by Mr. Bruchhaus and unanimously carried to return to regular session.

Motion by Mr. Segura, seconded by Mr. Bruchhaus and unanimously carried to hire Jon Guice with Hammonds, Sills, Adkins & Guice as co-counsel with our insurance company in the suit entitled Roma Lynn Bergeron vs. Jefferson Davis Parish School Board, Suit # C- 051220 - Jefferson Davis Parish.



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**ADJOURN**

There being no other business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Dobson, seconded by Mr. Leger and unanimously carried, to adjourn.

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/s/ Jody Singletary, President

ATTEST:

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/s/Kirk Credeur, Secretary/Superintendent

Note: Items purchased by quotes or bids may be reviewed at the School Board office during normal business hours. All policies can be reviewed at any facility under the jurisdiction of the Jefferson Davis Parish School Board.