

**JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Special Session Meeting**  
**April 10, 2014**

The Jefferson Parish School Board met in special session on this date at 4:30 p.m., at the Administration Building, 501 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, Louisiana, with the following members answering roll call: Mr. Morgan, Dr. Licciardi, Mr. St. Pierre, Mr. Tovrea, Mr. Dale, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Denapolis-Bosarge.

ABSENT: Mr. Floyd, Mr. Delesdernier

After the roll was called Mr. Morgan called a brief recess.

Following a brief recess the meeting resumed with Mr. Delesdernier as chair and Mr. Morgan as co-chair.

**Public Comment on Consent Agenda**

No delegations addressed the Board at this time.

**Consent Agenda**

**Legal representation for Rene Pierre, a former employee of Jefferson Parish Public School System, for alleged misconduct while employed in litigation titled “Xavier Allen v. Rene Pierre and the Jefferson Parish School Board through its President, Larry Dale “No. 731-621, Division “H”, of the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court, Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana**

Allegations were made of misconduct against a teacher of the Jefferson Parish Public School System. Suit was filed against the teacher and JPSB, by law JPSB owes the now former employee a defense in litigation involving actions he took while in the course and scope of his employment with JPPSS.

Funding shall be through the general fund. Mr. John Litchfield and the law firm of Berrigan, Litchfield, Schonekas, Mann and Traina, LLC shall be paid for their services in accordance with the same hourly rate structure of \$140.00 per billable hour for partners and \$135.00 per billable hour for associates.

It is the opinion of Grant & Barrow that the Rules of Professional Conduct would prohibit one law firm from representing Jefferson Parish School Board and the teacher in this matter. It is recommended the JPSB appoint Mr. John Litchfield and the law firm Berrigan, Litchfield, Schonekas, Mann and Traina, LLC to represent Rene Pierre in this matter.

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, Seconded by Mr. Morgan

Voting was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Delesdernier, Mr. Tovrea, Mr. Morgan, Dr. Licciardi, Mr. St. Pierre, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Denapolis-Bosarge, Mr. Dale

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Floyd

ABSTAIN: None

Motion carried.

At this time, Board president, Mr. Delesdernier asked that the bus driver advise the Board as to whether she wishes to have a public or private hearing. She and her attorney replied, public.

The termination hearing of Louvenia Penwright was conducted in open session with the following members answering roll call: Mr. Morgan, Dr. Licciardi, Mr. St. Pierre, Mr. Tovrea, Mr. Dale, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Delesdernier, Mrs. Denapolis-Bosarge.

ABSENT: Mr. Floyd

Mr. Michael Fanning, Attorney at Law, Grant & Barrow Law Firm, representing the Board members.

Mr. Neal Favret, Attorney at Law, Johnson, Johnson, Barrios & Yacoubian, A Professional Law Corporation was the Board's legal advisor.

Mr. Courtney Wilson, Attorneys at Law, represented Ms. Louvenia Penwright, JPPSS Bus Driver.

After the evidentiary segment of the hearing was completed the Board went into private deliberation.

Moved by Mr. Delesdernier, seconded by Mr. Tovrea that the Board goes into Executive Session, with only the Board members and their attorney, Mr. Fanning present, to consider the evidence presented.

After private deliberation moved by Mr. Dale, seconded by Dr. Licciardi to reconvene.

The Board returned to open session to vote on the charges against the employee.

Moved by Mr. Jacobs seconded by Mr. Morgan that the Board uphold the Superintendent's recommendation to terminate Louvenia Penwright.

The following voice vote was taken:

YEAS: Mrs. Denapolis-Bosarge, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Delesdernier, Mr. Tovrea, Mr. Morgan, Dr. Licciardi, Mr. Dale

NAYS: Mr. St. Pierre

ABSENT: Mr. Floyd

ABSTAIN: None

Motion carried.

### **New Business**

## **First Readings**

The following first reading was offered by Mr. Dale:

Move to authorize Coogan & Associates Consultants, LLC to secure corporate sponsorships which will provide the total required funding to replace and upgrade (2) non-functioning electronic marquees, one located at East Jefferson High School and the other located at West Jefferson High School. Both marquees were damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.