

Should anyone from the Public desire additional information, the recordings of the regular and special school board meetings are kept for ten (10) years and are available in the Superintendent's Office at the Hiatt Administration Center, 2300 Cason Street, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

September 24, 2007

#### **A. Call to Order**

This special meeting of the Board of School Trustees of the Lafayette School Corporation was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Robert Stwalley.

#### **B. Roll Call**

On call of the roll, board members Robert Stwalley, Brian Wagner, Greg Eller, Frank Lane, Rebecca Sprague (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), and Kay Walton were present. Also present was Board Counsel Kent Moore.

Superintendent Eiler explained that P.L. 221 sets forth certain procedural requirements related to the performance of a school on the ISTEP test. These requirements are different from the federal requirements in that it looks at the percentage of the students who pass the ISTEP and whether or not the percentage of those students is greater than the previous year.

In the particular case of Miller and Murdock schools, the percentage of students passing the ISTEP was not greater than the previous benchmark year. Therefore, these schools were in a category that required a public hearing. No guidance in terms of the nature of that hearing had been given. The hearing was to be open to anyone who wanted to speak to the issue of improvement of ISTEP scores at each of the schools. The law required that there be a specific hearing for each school, not a combined hearing. The hearings could be done consecutively, but could not be merged. A separate hearing on Miller and a separate hearing on Murdock must be held. The time for the Murdock hearing could not begin before 7:15 p.m. as advertised.

P.L. 221 varied in part from the federal law in that P.L. 221 only looked at the total aggregate information. It did not disaggregate into subgroups as the federal law does. In some ways the state law standards are higher than the federal requirements.

#### **A. P.L. 221 Hearing on Lack of Improvement on ISTEP at Miller Elementary School**

This was the time and place advertised for the hearing for Miller Elementary School. Anyone who wished to speak to the issues of improvement on the ISTEP at Miller Elementary School was invited to address the Board.

1. Mr. Rick Barnhart, Principal, Miller Elementary School, stated that in the 2006-2007 school year, Miller made adequate yearly progress in thirteen out of seventeen categories under No Child Left Behind. Two subgroups had been identified for improvement: Free and reduced lunch students and special education students in both

mathematics and language arts. Mr. Barnhart, Carolyn Claussen, Title 1 Coordinator and Reading First K-3 teachers' literacy coach for Miller, and Cassie Fine, attendance officer and counselor, noted efforts being made through reading and math interventions, positive behavior support, meaningful parent involvement, encouraging good attendance, and building a positive climate for students, parents, and staff.

2. Troy Corbin, Miller parent, questioned the Board whether class size was of concern to them. Mr. Corbin felt class size was overwhelming and it was very difficult for teachers to help all of the students who needed additional help. Mr. Corbin asked if additional aides would be hired to help in the overpopulated classes.

Superintendent Eiler stated an effort was made to limit split classes. However, there were some restrictions to being able to add class sections to reduce class sizes due to limited availability of classrooms and financial constraints. Aides were employed when large class sizes existed and the administration remained sensitive to adding aides in large classes. Dr. Eiler also noted that supplemental educational services were also offered to students on free or reduced lunch through Title 1 funding at Miller.

#### **B. P.L. 221 Hearing on Lack of Improvement on ISTEP at Murdock Elementary School**

This was the time and place advertised for the hearing for Murdock Elementary School. Anyone who wished to speak to the issues of improvement on the ISTEP at Murdock Elementary School was invited to address the Board.

1. Janell Uerkwitz, Principal, Murdock Elementary School, stated Murdock Elementary did not make annual yearly progress in two areas: Mathematics and Free Lunch. Since Murdock is a Title 1 school, all students benefited from Title 1 services. Mrs. Uerkwitz cited Murdock statistics for the 2006-2007 school year noting 76% of its students were on free and reduced lunch. Mrs. Uerkwitz believed the poverty level brought out other significant problematic issues, such as mobility. For the 2007-2008 school year, Murdock enrollment was 252 students as compared to 221 last spring. One-hundred and five new students had been enrolled since August and seventy-four had been withdrawn.

Mrs. Uerkwitz noted efforts being made with a three-tiered model to address interventions in language arts and math, before and after school academic enrichment programs provided through funding from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grant (FOCUS program), professional development, parent/family education, and student behavior management.

#### **C. Execute Agreement for Financing the Purchase of Network Switches**

Superintendent Eiler reminded the Board that the corporation was in the process of upgrading the infrastructure of our computer network, in part due to the telephony project and telephone system.

A very favorable quotation had been received to replace the internet switches. The total for the equipment was approximately \$1,300,000. A discount and the trade-in offered for our old equipment totaled approximately \$800,000. The corporation is able to upgrade the entire network for approximately \$475,000. Other competitive quotations for this work were received and the closest other competitive quotation was \$200,000 higher.

The lease allows the corporation to get the equipment at zero interest with a one-time payment in January or February of 2008. Board counsel had reviewed, approved, and signed the lease as necessary.

The Administration recommended approving the lease as presented.

Mr. Lane made the motion to accept the Administration's recommendation to approve the lease, seconded by Mrs. Sprague.

Roll Call: Ayes: Stwalley, Wagner, Eller, Lane, Sprague, Walton.

Nays: None.

The motion carried.

#### **D. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Board President Stwalley called for a motion to adjourn. On motion duly made by Mrs. Sprague, seconded by Mr. Lane and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Robert M. Stwalley, III, President

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Rebecca Sprague, Secretary