

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
MINUTES
January 6, 2023

The Board of Ethics met on January 6, 2023 at 9:03 a.m. in the LaBelle Room on the 1st floor of the LaSalle Building located at 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana with Board Members Bãnos, Bryant, Couvillon, Ellis, Grand, Grimley, Lavastida, Roberts, Scott and Speer present. Board Member Colomb was absent. Also present were the Ethics Administrator, Kathleen Allen; Executive Secretary, Carolyn Abadie Landry; and Counsel Tracy Barker, David Bordelon, Mallory Guillot, LaToya Jordan, Suzanne Mooney and Charles Reeves.

Board Member Colomb arrived at 9:08 a.m.

The Board deferred Docket No. 22-261 until next month.

Chief Bill Salmeron, with the New Orleans Emergency Medical Services (NOEMS) appeared before the Board in Docket No. 22-665 regarding an advisory opinion request as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits NOEMS from reimbursing an employee for the use of her service dog. After hearing from Chief Salmeron, on motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit a NOEMS employee from donating the services of her ADA compliant service dog to her agency.

Board Member Colomb left the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

Judge Stephen “Steve” Dean, District Judge, 5th Judicial District Court, Div. C, Franklin, Richland and West Carroll Parishes, appeared before the Board in Docket No. 22-819 requesting that the Board waive the \$2,000 campaign finance late fee assessed against him for filing his 2021 campaign finance disclosure report 185 days late. In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure and after hearing from Judge Dean, on motion

made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive and reduced the late fee to \$600 based on Rule 1205C of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

Board Member Colomb returned to the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

Greg Morrison, Chairman for Progressive Pelican PAC, appeared before the Board in Docket No. 22-303, requesting reconsideration of the Board's decision to suspend all but \$300 of a \$3,000 campaign finance late fees assessed against Progressive Pelican PAC, in the November 3, 2020 election, whose 10-G campaign finance disclosure report was filed 108 days late and the Board's decision to decline to waive a \$3,000 campaign finance late fee assessed against Progressive Pelican PAC, in the November 3, 2020 election, whose 40-G campaign finance disclosure report was filed 39 days late. In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure and after hearing from Mr. Morrison, on motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board considered the untimely request; with respect to the 10-G, reaffirm its decision to suspend all but \$300 based on future compliance and payment within 20 days of receipt of the reconsideration result letter, and with respect to the 40-G, suspend all but \$500 based on future compliance and payment within 20 days of receipt of the reconsideration result letter.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board requested to add Docket No. 22-708 to the agenda.

Lambert C. Boissiere, Jr., chairperson and treasurer, Community Organization for Urban Politics, appeared before the Board in Docket No. 22-708 requesting that the Board waive the \$3,000 late fee assessed for filing the 10-P 33 days late. In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure and after hearing from Mr. Boissiere, on motion

made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all but \$2,000 of the late fee based on future compliance.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board agreed to take action on items G4-G19 en globo subject to any items being removed from the en globo listing for further discussion.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the staff recommendations on items G4-G19, excluding items G4, G7, G14 and G16 taking the following action:

The Board approved the withdrawal of an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-748 from the CFO of St. Martinville, Avis Gutekunst, regarding two separate issues under the Code of Governmental Ethics, since Ms. Gutekunst stated that her concerns were addressed and she had no specific situation at this time.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-806 submitted by Shannah Ellender-Yuratich, regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit her from running for a seat on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) when she is a current employee of a Type 1 Charter School in Lafourche. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that based on the facts presented, the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit Shannah Ellender-Yuratich from serving on BESE while being employed by a Type 1 charter school.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-834 from a New Orleans Parish School employee Cheruba Sophia Chaves regarding contracts between her company, ELLipsis Learning, and other school systems. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that Section 1113A of the Code of Governmental

Ethics would not prohibit Ms. Chaves from contracting with other schools or school systems outside of Orleans Parish.

The Board approved the submitted disqualification plan in Docket No. 22-840 pursuant to Section 1111C(5) of the Code of Governmental Ethics concerning Michael Gupton's wife working for a company that has a contract with Mr. Gupton's employer, the City of Kenner.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-841 from Samuel Gabb on behalf of the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury (CPPJ) regarding parish employee James Deblanc and his wife applying for and receiving funding through the Calcasieu Parish Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Chairwoman Roberts recused herself from voting on Docket No. 22-841. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that since the Program is not under the supervision or jurisdiction of Mr. Deblanc's agency, the Section 8 Housing Program within the CPPJ Division of Human Services, Section 1113(A)(1)(a) of the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit James Deblanc and his wife from applying for funding through the Program while he is employed in the CPPJ Division of Human Services.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-850 submitted by Jill Bankston, CFRE, regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits various departments and offices of Northwestern State University (NSU) to enter into contracts with Natchitoches Inflatables, which is a rental business owned by Ms. Bankston's son. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that based on the facts presented, the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Natchitoches Inflatables from contracting with NSU departments and offices, other than Ms. Bankston's agency, which is the Office of Development.

The Board approved the submitted disqualification plan in Docket No. 22-851 from the Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District involving the employment of Robert Guillory and his son-in-law, Eric Johnson, since the proposed disqualification plan meets the requirements of Section 1112 of the Code of Governmental Ethics and related rules and regulations.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-859 from Alan Karr, a former employee of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, regarding the post-employment restrictions in the Code of Governmental Ethics. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that Section 1121(B)(1) of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mr. Karr, for a period of two years from his retirement, from assisting another person for compensation in a transaction involving the State of Louisiana, in which he participated. However, Mr. Karr is not prohibited from assisting third parties in new transactions involving DEQ, including the use of the publicly available DEQ Electronic Data Management System. Further, Section 1121(B)(1) of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mr. Karr from rendering the same services on a contractual basis to, for, or on behalf of his former agency, the DEQ Remediation Division. However, he is not prohibited from rendering new services on a contractual basis to his former agency.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-894 regarding the application of the nepotism prohibitions to Oak Forest Academy in Amite, Louisiana. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not apply to the members of the board of directors or the employees of the Oak Forest Academy since it is a private school.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-900 submitted by Jenee Robins, concerning whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Ms. Robins from

supporting two private school campuses through her education consulting company, TRANSCEND Education Consulting Service, LLC ("TRANSCEND") after terminating her employment with the Department of Education ("LDOE") in October 2021. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that based on the facts presented, the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Ms. Robins from supporting two private school campuses through her education consulting company, TRANSCEND Education Consulting Services, LLC after terminating her public employment with LDOE.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-912 regarding as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics requires State Representative Larry Frieman to file a disclosure statement pursuant to Section 1111E(2) of the Code of Governmental Ethics disclosing his representation of clients before the Office of Workers Compensation Administration. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded Rep. Frieman is not required to file a disclosure pursuant to Section 1111E(2) of the Code of Governmental Ethics if he is representing a governmental entity or the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation in a workers' compensation claim before a workers' compensation judge of the Office of Workers' Compensation Administration as neither are a "person" as defined by the Code of Governmental Ethics. Rep. Frieman is not required to file a disclosure pursuant to Section 1111E(2) of the Code of Governmental Ethics for assisting a person in a transaction, or in an appearance in connection with a transaction, with the Office of Workers' Compensation Administration, has since that office serves as an independent tribunal. However Rep. Frieman is required to file a disclosure statement pursuant to Section 1111E(2) of the Code of Governmental Ethics if either party requests, or the workers' compensation judge orders, mediation and the mediator is employed by the Office of Workers' Compensation

Administration. The disclosure statement shall be filed within ten (10) days of first contact with the State or its counsel. In addition, if a mediator employed by the Office of Workers' Compensation Administration is selected as a mediator, Section 1111E(2)(a) of the Code of Governmental Ethics requires a disclosure statement be filed within ten (10) days of first contact with the mediator. Furthermore, the Board concluded that if an attorney-member does not have contact with the State or one of its agencies or officials, or counsel for the State or one of its agencies or officials, the attorney-member is not required to file a disclosure.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-913 from Michael R. D. Adams on behalf of University View Academy Charter School (UVA) regarding the hiring of Department of Education Chief of Staff, Dr. Quentina Timoll, as Superintendent. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the various post-employment restrictions contained in the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit UVA from hiring Dr. Quentina Timoll as Superintendent. Dr. Timoll is prohibited by Section 1121A of the Code of Governmental Ethics from assisting UVA with any matters involving the Louisiana Department of Education, for a period of two years following Dr. Timoll's resignation.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-746 from Jean Paul Robert, Assistant District Attorney, on behalf of the Ascension Parish Government regarding elected officials and employees of Ascension Parish serving on the Board of the Ascension Cradle to Career Foundation LLC (Foundation). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded under the specific facts presented, the Foundation is operating as a public service organization by providing assistance to the Early Childhood Development Program. As such, the Board concluded that since the elected officials and employees of Ascension Parish will not be compensated for their services to the Foundation, the exception in

Section 1123(1) of the Code of Governmental Ethics allows them to participate in the affairs of the Foundation. The Board cautioned that the Ascension Parish Sheriff, Ascension Parish President, and members of the Ascension Parish Council are prohibited by Section 1113(A)(1)(a) of the Code of Governmental Ethics from appointing themselves or their immediate family members to the Foundation Board.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-815 submitted by Daniel Gillane, an employee of the Lafayette Public Library System, concerning whether the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit him from working for an LLC that operates the St. Mary Parish Library. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that based on the facts presented, the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Daniel Gillane from being employed by the LLC, which operates the St. Mary Parish Library, provided any services rendered to the LLC or St. Mary Parish Library are not during the time Mr. Gillane is working at the Lafayette Public Library System. Furthermore, the Board recommended that Mr. Gillane contact the Louisiana Department of Justice – Office of the Attorney General to inquire about Dual Employment laws, which are not under the jurisdiction of the Board.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-893 from Iberville Parish Sheriff Brett Stassi regarding the use of campaign funds to purchase a golf cart. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded, based on the facts presented, that Sheriff Stassi is permitted to use campaign funds to purchase a golf cart to the extent such golf cart is not considered a “motor vehicle” as defined in La. R.S. 32:781(5). Sheriff Stassi is also permitted to use campaign funds to repair a golf cart owned by the campaign, regardless of its designation as a motor vehicle. In each case, the use of campaign

funds is permitted only to the extent that use of the golf cart is related to campaigning or the holding of public office.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-896 submitted by Robert Gifford, an employee of the South Central Planning and Development Commission, concerning whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mr. Gifford's father-in-law from entering into a residential lease with Mr. Gifford's supervisor, Ryan Hutchinson. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that based on the facts presented, the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Mr. Gifford's father-in-law from entering into a residential lease with Ryan Hutchinson.

The Board took a recess from 10:37 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

The Board considered the following general business agenda items:

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the minutes of the January 5th and January 6th, 2023 meetings.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 21-081 concerning Jenn Davis, the former personnel manager for St. James Parish, and Jennifer Davis LLC regarding payments to Jenn Davis by S&W Payroll Services LLC, d/b/a Netchex. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted for publication the consent opinion for Jennifer Davis and Jenn Davis, LLC and adopted for publication the consent opinion for S&W Payroll Services LLC, d/b/a Netchex.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 21-707 regarding the employment of Roxie Jackson with DeQuincy Primary School in the Calcasieu Parish School System as a substitute teacher while her daughter, Amanda Guerrero, served as the Principal. On motion

made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted for publication the consent opinion for Ms. Jackson and Ms. Guerrero.

The Board considered an emergency advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-958 submitted by Timothy Brandon, CEO of TBA Studio Architecture, APC entering into contracts with state entities, at a time when Donna Cathey, Senator Stewart Cathey's mother, is an employee of the company. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit TBA from entering into a contract with Biomedical Research and Innovation Park for architectural services.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board unanimously agreed to take action on the requests for "good cause" waivers of late fees assessed against candidates and committees included in item G24-G25, en globo, subject to any items being removed from the en globo listing for further discussion.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the staff recommendations on the items in G24-G25, excluding Docket Nos. 22-821, 22-827, 22-607, 22-657, 22-671, 22-749, 22-758 and 22-759 taking the following action:

The Board unanimously declined to waive the campaign finance late fees assessed against the following:

Docket No. 22-817 from Christopher J. Bridges, SUPP 2021 of a \$420 late fee;
Docket No. 22-820 from Brian Hammons, 40-G of a \$160 late fee;
Docket No. 22-823 from Emily Merckle, SUPP 2022 of a \$60 late fee; and,
Docket No. 22-826 from William Wallis, SUPP 2011 of a \$480 late fee.

The Board unanimously declined to waive and offered a payment plan for the campaign finance late fees assessed against the following:

Docket No. 22-818 from Edward Butler, Jr., 10-G of a \$600 late fee.

Board Member Couvillon recused herself from voting on Docket No. 22-821.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 22-821 regarding the \$60 campaign finance late fee assessed against Lowell Christopher "Chris" Hazel, in the November 3, 2020 election, whose 2021 Supplemental campaign finance disclosure report was filed 1 day late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the late campaign finance late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 22-827 regarding the \$1,000 campaign finance late fee assessed against Christopher Williams, candidate for Sheriff, Orleans Parish, in the November 13, 2021 election, whose 2021 campaign finance disclosure report was filed 10 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the campaign finance late fee.

The Board unanimously suspended all of the personal financial disclosure late fees based on future compliance for the following:

Docket 22-366 Trevor Troy Land, 2018 Tier 2, 204 days late of a \$2,500 late fee;
Docket 22-608 Monica Baltedono Dubey, 2019 Tier 2.1, 370 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 22-609 Leland Marcelle Slaughter, 2019 Tier 2.1, 320 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 22-610 Melissa M. Cox, 2019 Tier 2.1, 30 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 22-621 Earl "Ben" Bernhardt Zahn, III, 2021 Tier 2, 29 days late of a \$2,500 late fee;
Docket 22-622 Robin A. Bell, 2020 Tier 2, 158 days late of a \$2,500 late fee;
Docket 22-646 Gustavo Rezende, 2019 Tier 2.1, 300 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 22-647 Barbara Norton, 2019 Tier 2, 406 days late of a \$2,500 late fee;
Docket 22-648 Joseph Forrest Riccobono, 2019 Tier 2.1, 338 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 22-649 Kenneth Allen Cochran, 2019 Tier 2.1, 301 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 22-650 Cameron Christy, 2019 Tier 3, 399 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 22-651 Luis Bustamante, 2020 Tier 3, 150 days late of a \$500 late fee;
Docket 22-652 Joseph "Joe" Daschbach, 2020 Tier 3, 353 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 22-653 Theodore McCray, Jr., 2019 Tier 3, 439 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 22-656 James Wallace Ginn, 2019 Tier 3, 434 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 22-658 Ryan David Thibodeaux, 2019 Tier 3, 325 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 22-659 Shelia Glover Bordelon, 2020 Tier 2, 232 days late of a \$2,500 late fee;

Docket 22-660 Dennis Ray Scott, 2020 Tier 2, 1 day late of a \$100 late fee;
Docket 22-667 Terrica Williams, 2020 Tier 2, 8 days late of a \$800 late fee;
Docket 22-668 Albert Orrell Saulsbury, IV, 2020 Tier 2.1, 84 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;

Docket 22-669 Gloria Bartley Moultrie, 2020 Tier 2.1, 15 days late of a \$750 late fee;
Docket 22-670 Ronnie James Williams, Jr., 2020 Tier 2, 6 days late of a \$600 late fee;
Docket 22-672 Lawrence Batiste, Jr., 2020 Tier 3, 186 days late of a \$500 late fee;
Docket 22-674 Tamara M. Crane, 2018 Tier 2.1, 15 days late of a \$750 late fee;
Docket 22-750 Walter S. Isaacson, 2019 Tier 2.1, 13 days late of a \$650 late fee;
Docket 22-751 Yvonne Allen, 2019 Tier 3, 430 days late of a \$1,500 late fee
Docket 22-752 Roderick Rushell Davis, 2020 Tier 3, 180 days late of a \$500 late fee;
Docket 22-753 Crystal Gates, 2019 Tier 3, 31 days late of a \$500 late fee;
Docket 22-754 Gerald Wade McMorris, 2020 Tier 2, 159 days late of a \$2,500 late fee;
Docket 22-755 Jacob Shaheen, 2020 Tier 2, 98 days late of a \$2,500 late fee;
Docket 22-757 Albert H. Schof, 2018 Tier 2.1, 114 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 22-761 Linda S. Gutierrez, 2019 Tier 2.1, 250 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 22-762 Audrey Thomas Winters, 2019 Tier 3, 412 days late of a \$500 late fee; and,
Docket 22-764 Lea Anne Batson, 2019 Tier 2.1, 308 days late of a \$1,500 late fee.

The Board unanimously suspended all of the late fees but \$250 based on future compliance with the reporting requirements under the Code of Governmental Ethics and payable within 20 days against the following:

Docket 22-608 Monica Baltedono Dubey, 2020 Tier 2.1, 75 days late of a \$1,500 late fee;
and,
Docket 22-611 Fred L. Banks, 2020 Tier 2.1, 88 days late of a \$1,500 late fee.

The Board declined to waive the late fees against the following:

Docket 22-624 Bryan Keith "Keko" Whittle, Sr., 2017 Tier 2, of a \$2,500 late fee;
Docket 22-666 Allison Berger Tiller, 2019 Tier 2.1, of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 22-666 Allison Berger Tiller, 2020 Tier 2.1, of a \$1,500 late fee;
Docket 22-667 Terrica Williams, 2020 Tier 2, 1 day late of a \$100 late fee; and,
Docket 22-756 Dadrus Cordell Lanus, 2021 Tier 2, 67 days late of a \$2,500 late fee.

The Board unanimously suspended all of the late fees but \$450 based on future compliance with the reporting requirements under the Code of Governmental Ethics and payable within 20 days against the following:

Docket No. 22-654 Mary Rideau Doucet, 2019 Tier 2.1, 128 days late of a \$1,500 late fee.

The Board unanimously declined to waive all of the late fees and to offer a payment plan with the reporting requirements under the Code of Governmental Ethics against the following:

Docket 22-751 Yvonne Allen, 2020 Tier 3, 61 days late of a \$500 late fee.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 22-607 for the \$1,500 late fee assessed against Toby Jean Aquillard, former member of the Lafayette Parish Communication Commission, for filing his 2019 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 343 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter until the February meeting.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 22-657 for the \$1,500 late fee assessed against Rita Wroten, former member of the of the Sikes Board of Aldermen, for filing her 2019 Tier 3 Annual personal financial disclosure 438 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all but \$100 based on future compliance with the reporting requirements under the Code of Governmental Ethics and conditioned on payment within 20 days.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 22-671 for the \$400 late fee assessed against Chad Doyle, Chief of Police / City of Oakdale, for filing his amended 2021 Tier 2 Annual personal financial disclosure 4 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all but \$100 based on future compliance with the reporting requirements under the Code of Governmental Ethics

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 22-749 for the \$2,500 late fee assessed against Robert Poole, former member of the Denham Springs City Council, for filing his amended 2019 Tier 2 Annual personal financial disclosure 387 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all based on future compliance with the reporting requirements under the Code of Governmental Ethics

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 22-758 for the \$500 late fee assessed against Adrian Moreno, former member of the Community Development Authority, for

filing his amended 2018 Tier 2 Annual personal financial disclosure 283 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the late fee and instructed staff to offer a payment plan.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 22-759 for the \$1,500 late fee assessed against Elliot L. Temple, a member of the Contractors Licensing Board, for filing his amended 2019 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 266 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all based on future compliance with the reporting requirements under the Code of Governmental Ethics

Chairwoman Roberts recused herself from voting on Docket No. 22-623.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board considered the untimely waiver request in Docket No. 22-623 submitted by Kevin Dale Guidry, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, District 9, regarding the \$2,500 late fee assessed for filing his 2019 Tier 2 Annual personal financial disclosure 442 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all but \$1,250 based on future compliance with the reporting requirements under the Code of Governmental Ethics.

The Board considered a reconsideration in Docket No. 21-694 regarding its decision to suspend all but \$1,250 of a \$2,500 late fee, based on future compliance, issued to Harold Stewart, Jr, successful candidate for City of Gonzales Council Member/ Division C /Ascension Parish in the November 3, 2020 election for filing his 2019 Tier 2 candidate personal financial disclosure 308 days late and its decision to decline to waive a \$2,500 late fee assessed for filing his 2019 Tier 2 Annual personal financial disclosure 308 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a reconsideration in Docket No. 22-514 regarding its decision to decline to waive a \$720 campaign finance late fee assessed against Bianca J. Vedell, a successful candidate for Member of School Board, District 5, St. Landry Parish, in the March 26, 2022 election, whose 30-P campaign finance disclosure report was filed 18 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board reaffirmed its decision to decline to waive.

The Board considered the following items on the General Supplemental Agenda.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 22-867 regarding whether the Parks and Recreation Department for the City of DeRidder could give sign-on bonuses and/or referral bonuses to employees that work part-time for the city. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics permits city employees to only receive payments to which they are duly entitled from their governmental entity for the performance of the duties and responsibilities of their position. Therefore, if part-time city employees are entitled to receive sign-on and/or referral bonuses, the Code of Governmental Ethics permits them to do so. Whether city employees are entitled to receive sign-on and/or referral bonuses is not addressed by the laws administered by the Board of Ethics and whether the program would need to be offered to all city departments is not subject to discretion by the Board of Ethics.

Kathleen Allen presented an updated draft on crypto-currency in response to HR 180 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suggested to present two options regarding the use of crypto-currency where the primary option would be to prohibit crypto-currency as a campaign finance donation and the second option would be if legislators choose to allow the receipt of crypto-currency as a campaign

contribution this option would follow with concerns and suggestions. Kathleen will present a final draft at the February meeting to be prepared to submit after the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Secretary

APPROVED:

Chairwoman