

# School Board denies Neville Charter again

By Kaitlin Maness  
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The Monroe City School Board denied the Neville Charter Association's application last week to convert Neville High School to a Type-3 charter school for a second time.

During its regular meeting on Jan. 22, the School Board entertained several comments from the public before deciding whether Neville High School would be converted into a Type-3 charter school. School Board members Bill Willson and Jennifer Haneline voted in

favor of the conversion, while School Board members Betty Ward-Cooper, Brenda Shelling, Brandon "B.J." Johnson, Daryll Berry and Michael Sampognaro voted against the conversion.

Stewart Shelby, Neville Charter Association president, explained that if the School Board approved the application to convert Neville High School to a Type-3 charter school, the school would be operated by the Neville Charter Association and the School Board.

"We humbly ask that you put politics aside and place the educational and administrative

powers back inside the school building where we believe they belong, 600 Forsythe Ave., and launch what we believe will be a long and successful relationship with the Monroe City School Board," Shelby said. "That's our intent—to partner—and that's what we'd like you to approve."

Willson warned that if the School Board denied the application, the Neville Charter Association planned to seek to convert Neville High School to a Type-2 charter school through the state Board of Secondary and Elementary Education (BESE) instead.

As a Type-2 charter school, Neville High School would be operated by the Neville Charter Association and BESE, meaning that the Monroe City School System's rating could decline from the loss of Neville High School's grades, according to Willson.

"If we lose Neville to a charter 2, we will not get Neville's academic scores, which we need as a school system to help evaluate our school system," Willson said. "So, I want everyone tonight to really consider this because if these dominoes fall as I think they will, in six or seven years from now, our school system is academically bankrupt."

"I voted for Neville's Charter 3," Willson continued. "I can live with that and look at myself in the mirror. I love this community, I love our kids, I love our school system and so, this vote for Neville Charter 3, is to help keep our system actu-

ally in better tact."

Sampognaro noted there were negative consequences to converting Neville High School to a Type-3 charter school that had yet to be discussed, such as the possibility of having to relocate the high school.

"There's so many unknown variables that we aren't discussing—one being the facility," Sampognaro said. "There's a good possibility we might not get to keep the facility where Neville's housed right now, and that's not being talked about. Do you want to make Neville High School a Charter 3 and take the chance of having to move to another facility?"

Cliff Thomas, president of the Monroe-Ouachita NAACP, urged the School Board to deny the Neville Charter Association's application, stating that the community wished to keep Neville High School as it was. Thomas also denounced accusations that Neville High School was being treated unfairly compared to other Monroe City schools.

"The administration has invested into Neville, and the thing that's out in the community is always that nothing is being given to Neville," Thomas said. "Neville is not being neglected. Neville, in a dual enrollment position, is receiving double than what Carroll and Wossman together in their budgets for that program is receiving."

Carroll High School was allocated \$35,325 for its dual enrollment program during the 2024-2025 school year,

Wossman High School was allocated \$43,951.72 and Neville High School was allocated \$191,338.16, according to figures presented to the School Board by Willie Brown, a member of the Monroe-Ouachita NAACP.

Former School Board member Rick Saulsberry pointed out that in 2018 the School Board denied an application to convert J.W. Brown Laboratory School to a charter school after public scrutiny and research that suggested approving the application would "damage the district financially." He noted that at that time, Willson contacted him numerous times to deny the charter application.

"So, I'm just trying to figure out what's the difference now from 2018," Saulsberry said. "The education funding has been cut, so we're in worse shape now. I want to see why right now we want to pass this charter."

Willson claimed that converting Neville High School to a Type-3 charter school would improve its students' education by offering more programs, such as higher level classes and skilled trade programs. He also tried to dispel rumors that Neville High School's district lines would change if converted.

"There's misinformation going out in the community, especially on the south side from my friends I've talked with that came to me and said, 'Hey, the district lines are going to change,'" Willson said. "The kids that are currently zoned for Neville will not be allowed to

go to Neville.' That's not true."

Willson further warned that although the Neville Charter Association's attempt to convert Neville High School to a Type-2 charter school failed last year because of low voter turnout, it was likely to have a favorable outcome next time because of legislation being filed during the upcoming legislative session.

Currently, BESE mandates that 50 percent of parents and faculty participate in Type-2 charter school voting for an application to be approved. State Rep. Michael Echols is expected to file legislation to change laws regarding voting on charter school applications to eliminate that requirement, according to Willson.

"We at Neville did not have the 50 percent of the parent vote to qualify for the official vote, so Michael Echols—who is now the leader of the House of Representatives—already has teed up legislation that's going to do away with that archaic rule," Willson said. "So, it's going to go back to a parent vote, and the number of parents that vote will be inconsequential. What will count—just like every other vote in Louisiana—is what the majority votes. That's going to speak for itself."

In other news, the School Board elected its officers for the 2026-2027 school year. Johnson was elected to serve as board president and Sampognaro was elected to serve as the board's vice president.



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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WINNSBORO, LOUISIANA 71295

GENEALOGY ROOF REPLACEMENT

General Notice

The Franklin Parish Library is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

GENEALOGY ROOF REPLACEMENT  
PROJECT NO. 2505-61-EN

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the Franklin Parish Library – Learning Center Building located at 705 Prairie Street, Winnsboro, LA 71295 until the 24th day of February, 2026, 10:00 AM local time, and shall at that time and place publicly open bids and read them aloud.

The Project includes the following Work: Genealogy Building Roof Replacement.

Bids are requested for the following Contract: Genealogy Roof Replacement  
Project No. 2505-61-EN  
Owner anticipates that the Project's total bid price will be approximately \$100,000.00 Project has an expected duration of 120 calendar days.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: Service Group Unlimited, LLC, 116 Smelser Road, Monroe, LA 71202. Prospective Bidders may obtain or examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office by paying a deposit of \$150 for each set. Deposits on the first set of documents furnished prime bidders shall be fully refunded upon return of the documents no later than ten days after receipt of bids. On other sets of documents furnished to bidders, the deposit less the actual cost of reproduction, shall be refunded upon return of the documents no later than ten days after receipt of bids. Compact Disc containing Bidding Documents (PDF) are available at a cost of \$25. No refund will be given for returned CDs. Make deposit checks for Bidding Documents payable to Service Group Unlimited, LLC. Cost does not include shipping charges. Upon Issuing Office's receipt of payment, printed Bidding Documents or electronic documents on compact disc will be sent via the prospective Bidder's delivery service. The shipping charge amount will depend on the shipping method chosen.

All bids shall be accompanied by bid security in an amount of five percent (5.0%) of the sum of the base bid and all alternates. The form of this security shall be as stated in the Instructions to Bidders included in the Bid Documents for this project.

The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance and Payment Bond written as described in the Instructions to Bidders included in the Bid Documents for this project.

Bidder is required to comply with provisions and requirements of LA R.S. 38:2212(B)(5). No bid may be withdrawn for a period of forty-five (45) days after receipt of bids, except under the provisions of LA. R.S. 38:2214.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids for just cause. In accordance with La. R.S. 38:2212(B)(1), the provisions and requirements of this Section; and those stated in the bidding documents shall not be waived by any entity.

Instructions to Bidders

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

Classification

This project is classified as: Building Construction  
1/21, 1/28, 2/4

Re-Scheduled Council Meeting  
January 23, 2026

The Mayor and Council of the Village of Baskin met at a re-scheduled session on Friday, January 23, 2025, at 8:00 AM, at the Village of Baskin Town Hall.

Present: Mayor George "Layton" Curtis, Council Members Mark Troha, and Zane Johnson.

Also Present: was the Assistant Clerk. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Curtis and the opening prayer by Mr. Roger Grayson.

Minutes Read: By Assistant Clerk, Sandy Cobb

Motion made by: Mark Troha 2nd Zane Johnson, Yeas: 2 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

Public Comments: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Financial Report, and permission to pay all bills and obligations.

Motion made by: Zane Johnson, 2nd Mark Troha, Yeas: 2 Nays: 0 Absent: 1  
Budget vs. Actual for December 2025

Motion made by: Zane Johnson, 2nd Mark Troha, Yeas: 2 Nays: 0 Absent: 1  
Introduction to amend Ordinance# 1007-I AMMENDMENT OF ORDINANCE 1007 A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H to Update Fines and Forfeiture list to comply with Louisiana's new hands-free driving law (RS 32:59). It will be updated to \$100.00 for non-school zone areas, and \$250.00 for School Zone areas.

Motion made by: Mark Troha 2nd Zane Johnson, Yeas: 2 Nays: 0 Absent: 1  
Resolution #01-01-2026 to draw \$30,000.00 from CD# 6203787 at Caldwell Bank and Trust to pay Kenneth and Folden, LLC. and Municipal Police Employee Retirement System (MPERS) and bills and other obligations.

Motion made by: Mark Troha 2nd Zane Johnson, Yeas: 2 Nays: 0 Absent: 1  
Annual Sexual Harassment Report required by the LLA for 2024/2025 FY.

Motion made by: Mark Troha 2nd Zane Johnson, Yeas: 2 Nays: 0 Absent: 1  
Resolution 01-01-2026 #2 to apply for state funds- LGAP 2025/2026.

Motion made by: Zane Johnson, 2nd Cary Collier, Yeas: 2 Nays: 0 Absent: 1  
Mayor's Update: Every employee and elected official must have ethics and sexual harassment training completed by 02/28/2026 and turned into the town clerk. No findings from Audit, LGAP work will begin Monday. We had a meeting with Risk Management, if we do the training we will receive a 15% Discount.

Fire Department Report: Mayor Curtis said fire department is running well. Dismissed one volunteer. We have a Motorola radio and charger missing.

Police Report: Mayor Curtis and Chief Grayson have a meeting with Franklin Parish Sheriff Office (OSHEP) regarding the upcoming weather conditions. Officer A. Lemoine is no longer with us; we thank him for his service. Chief Grayson purchased new tasers with his personal funds for the department. David Wallace was hired as a part time officer.

Further Business: None

Adjourn: Motion made by: Mark Troha 2nd Zane Johnson, Yeas: 2 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

Time: 8:21 AM

Mayor: George Layton Curtis Clerk: Terry Arnold  
2/4  
Cost: \$45.00

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids for the following will be received by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Procurement Section, 1201 Capitol Access Road, 4th Floor, East Wing Room S-447, Headquarters Administration Building, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, Telephone number (225/379-1444) on date(s) shown below, until 10:00 A.M. No bids will be accepted after this hour. At 10:00 A.M. of the same day and date, they will be publicly opened and read in Headquarters Administration Building, 4th Floor, East Wing S-447. Evidence of authority to submit the bid shall be required in accordance with R.S. 38:2212 (A)(1)(c) and/or R.S. 39:1594 (C)(2) (D).

BID TO BE OPENED February 19, 2026

DOTD Asphaltic Mixture f/Hot Application RfX 3000025844

Full information may be obtained upon request from the above address.

The Department reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities.

GLENN P. LEDET, JR.  
SECRETARY, LADOTD  
JULIE KENNISON, CPPB, NIGP-CPP  
DOTD PROCUREMENT DIRECTOR  
2/4

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BID TO BE OPENED February 12, 2026

DOTD Contract for Waterborne Traffic Paint RfX 3000025836

Full information may be obtained upon request from the above address.

The Department reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities.

GLENN P. LEDET, JR.  
SECRETARY, LADOTD  
JULIE KENNISON, CPPB, NIGP-CPP  
DOTD PROCUREMENT DIRECTOR  
2/4

STATE OF LOUISIANA \* FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT \* FRANKLIN PARISH

Citizens Progressive Bank

V. DOCKET NO C-49713

Misty Wallace Chapman and James Michael McClendon

SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE, to me directed by the honorable Fifth District Court of Louisiana, in and for the Parish of Franklin, I will offer for sale at public auction, at the front door of the Courthouse, in the City of Winnsboro, Franklin Parish, Louisiana, on Wednesday the 18th day of February, 2026, at 10:00am, within legal sale hours, the following described property, to-wit:

2015 Avenger Prime Time 33 RSD TT (Serial Number 5ZT2AVYB906060)

seized in the above styled suit. Terms of the sale, cash, with the benefit of appraisal. Letter of credit from financial institution stating availability of funds day of sale required for all purchases.

K. Bryan Linder  
Sheriff and Ex-Officio Tax Collector  
Franklin Parish, Louisiana

Done in my office in the City of Winnsboro, Parish of Franklin, Fifth Judicial District, State of Louisiana on the 29th day of January, 2026.

By Kayla Blossom  
Chief Civil Deputy  
Franklin Parish, Louisiana  
2/4

STATE OF LOUISIANA \* FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT \* FRANKLIN PARISH

Franklin State Bank & Trust Company

V. DOCKET NO C-49796

Mary K. Jenkins and Jack L. Jenkins

SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE, to me directed by the honorable Fifth District Court of Louisiana, in and for the Parish of Franklin, I will offer for sale at public auction, at the front door of the Courthouse, in the City of Winnsboro, Franklin Parish, Louisiana, on Wednesday the 18th day of February, 2026, at 10:00am, within legal sale hours, the following described property, to-wit:

2006 Parr Utility Trailer

seized in the above styled suit. Terms of the sale, cash, without the benefit of appraisal. Letter of credit from financial institution stating availability of funds day of sale required for all purchases.

K. Bryan Linder  
Sheriff and Ex-Officio Tax Collector  
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By Kayla Blossom  
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2/4