

The Ouachita Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at six (6:00) o'clock p.m. at its regular meeting place, the Ouachita Parish School Board office.

President Hicks called the meeting to order and welcomed visitors and guests to the meeting.

The roll was called and the following members were present: Tommy Comeaux, Scott Robinson, A. R. Sims, Jerry R. Hicks, John Russell, Carey Walker and Greg Manley. There were none absent.

Board member Carey Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

The Invocation was given by Board member Greg Manley, prefaced with a prayer for the family of Scottie Nugent in his memory. Mr. Nugent was the current OPSB Maintenance Supervisor when he passed away un-expectantly last week.

On motion by A. R. Sims, seconded by Tommy Comeaux, the Board approved the Minutes of March 22, 2018 as written. Motion carried unanimously.

John Russell moved, seconded by Scott Robinson, that the Board amend the Agenda to add Item No. 3 (*Approval of amended Section 125 Flexible Benefit Plan – Juanita Duke*) under **IX**. Business section and delete Item No. 1 under **X**. Evaluation of Bids [*Bid No. RFP FS38—18*] *Temperature Monitoring System for Child Nutrition Program with a \$50,000 budget*. President Hicks briefly opened the meeting for public discussion and motion unanimously carried.

Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by A. R. Sims, that the Board approve the revised Agenda as presented. Public discussion was offered and motion carried unanimously.

Our special guests and representatives of Troop 27 Boy Scouts of West Monroe were extended a warm welcome from Superintendent Coker. Dr. Coker explained that the Boy Scout organization requires its members to attend a public government meeting in order to earn badges and learn how our government works for them.

Under his Personnel Report, Dr. Coker requested to open some positions that need to be filled. Some of the positions are not new and have not been filled in one to two years. At this time, Dr. Coker would like to open the following positions: **Title I Supervisor** (*Mr. Killian would like to reopen this position because a grant for \$1.36 million has been received to help our lower socio-economic "D" schools in the Title I program and Dr. Felicia Sledge Murphy, Title I Supervisor, will oversee the grant program, which will require Mr. Killian to refill this position at this time. There is no cost to the Board because all costs will be paid with the grant.*) **Professional Development Coordinator**, a Title II position once held by Cynthia Osborne until moving to a supervisory position in Title I. The current coordinator in the Title II program is contemplating retirement within the next year or two and need to have someone in place when that happens. Dr. Coker also recommends that **7 Master Teacher** positions be filled and all paid for with our TAP Grant Award. TAP is the redesign program that we are using. Two Master Teachers will be going to Richwood Middle School, one Master Teacher will be going to Riverbend, two will go to Robinson, one to Shady Grove and one to Swayze. Dr. Coker emphasized that these are all grant-funded positions with the exception of two that will be coming out of the Title II budget of classroom size reduction. The Board was reassured by Dr. Coker that all funding for these positions is coming from federal programs and not paid with General Funds. It is with the understanding

that The Master Teacher program will receive additional money up to \$1 million for three years consecutively if they meet state standards for round one of the award program. Once Phase I of the \$1 million grant is completed, the state will evaluate the program to see if improvements have been made within the first year and if so, we will be eligible to apply for Phase II of the grant program. Whereby, John Russell moved, seconded by Greg Manley, that the Board open the positions of **Title I Supervisor, Professional Development Coordinator and 7 Master Teachers** as recommended by Superintendent Coker. The effective date will be established once the appointments are made. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public discussion and motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Coker expressed his sorrow to the family and friends in remembrance of Maintenance Supervisor Scottie Nugent who recently passed away. Mr. Nugent was a good and loyal employee and will be missed by all who knew and loved him. The current Assistant Maintenance Supervisor Steven Hemphill was appointed by Dr. Coker to serve as interim Maintenance Supervisor until the position is opened up for application.

On the recommendation of Title I Supervisor Cynthia Osborne, Carey Walker moved, seconded by Greg Manley, that the Board approve the following policies as presented, which have been reviewed and approved by district personnel, our policy service provider (*Forethought Consultants, Inc.*), and Board attorney Elmer Noah: **Policy: IFDA (Parental Rights/Student Rights of Privacy)**; **Policy: JR (Student Privacy and Educational Records)** and further moving to delete **Policy: IDCJ (Supplemental Education Services)**. Public discussion was offered by President Hicks and motion carried unanimously.

Business Director Juanita Duke presented her monthly 2017-18 Interim Financial Report for the period ended February 28, 2018. Copies of her report were provided the Board that included all funds of the school board and the total budgeted revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year compared to actual performance. She reported on the financial operations of the Board for this period. The **General Fund** operations total revenue collections represent about 71.3% of the budget for the year and received the bulk of our property tax collections this month which is up about 6.6% compared to collections this same time last year. **Expenditures** for the month reached \$11.4 million in the General Fund. Year-to-date total expenditures in the General Fund are \$80.3 million, 2.4% more than expended this time last year (or a \$1.9 million increase). The total ending fund balance in the General Fund for the period is \$41.5 million which is about the same as this time last year. However, this balance is accruing to pay down the summary salary expenditures that will be booked in June. Mrs. Duke stated that the four **Sales Tax** funds have accrued six months of collections for the year, actually about 50% of what has been budgeted. However, in comparing collections to this same time last year, we are actually down about 4% on average for sales tax collections for the current year. The **M&O Sales Tax** expenditures today is about 62.8% of the budget for this year with an ending fund balance of \$17.4 million. Mrs. Duke noted that the **West Ouachita Sales Tax Fund** has a current ending fund balance of \$9.5 million. Although there is nothing unusual to report on the **Child Nutrition & Grant Funds**, the revenues are recorded after reimbursement is received for these funds. **Internal Service Funds** produced a number of claims during February and **Self-Insurance** recorded an ending fund balance of about \$2 million. Budgeted operating transfers will be made to Self-Insurance in the month of March because of a substantial claim payment that has accrued. Currently the **Centralized Printing Fund** (reported on a cash basis) has a deficit fund balance of \$27,923 because of normal outstanding receivables for services billed to schools and department. We normally see these payments collected and balanced out at fiscal

year-end after all payments are received in July. Mrs. Duke concluded her presentation reporting that payments on the **Debt Service Funds** for all of our bonds were made at the end of February to meet the March 1 deadline and is reflected in all of the Debt Service Funds for **West Ouachita School District Bonds** with a balance of \$991,518, **West School District No. 1 QSCB** with a balance of \$2,029,300 and **East Ouachita School District** with a balance of \$6,982,239. In closing, Mrs. Duke presented the **Capital Project Funds** balances on the **East 2015 Bond Construction Fund** as \$1.2 million and the **West 2015 Bond Construction Fund** as \$4.1 million. Whereby, Scott Robinson moved, seconded by Tommy Comeaux, that the Board accept the 2017-18 Interim Financial Report for the Period ended February 28, 2018 as presented. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public comment and motion carried unanimously.

Business Director Juanita Duke, provided copies of the Ouachita Parish School Board Section 125 Flexible Benefit Plan (*allows for the cafeteria plan benefits for employees*) and asked the Board's approval of its amendments. Following Mrs. Duke's presentation, Greg Manley motioned, seconded by Carey Walker, that the Board approve the Ouachita Parish School Board Section 125 Flexible Benefit Plan as presented. Mrs. Duke explained that this action makes this document an "Evergreen" document to prevent using specific language requiring us to bring it back to the Board to amend every year because of the IRS changes. If the language is very specific to the IRS Code, simply a reference will be made to the IRS Code that states what the benefits are because the IRS Code is definitely going to be followed.

Special Projects/Safety Coordinator Kenneth Slusher discussed the OPSB Project Status Report with the Board that was prepared and provided by Architect, Tim Brandon of TBA Studios. The report contains the individual project assignments with detailed information regarding the status of each project. Mr. Slusher concluded his report announcing that the West Ouachita baseball project bids will open on 4/19/18 at 2:00 p.m. and the laundry room pre-bids at Sterlington High will be opened on 4/13/18 at 10:00 a.m. and the project bids on 4/24/18 at 10:00 a.m. Richardson/OPAC renovations projects will be submitted for approval to the Fire Marshal by 4/17/18.

Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Scott Robinson, that the Board add the acceptance of the low quote for the dirt work in preparing the new practice football field at WMHS to the Agenda for consideration as recommended by Special Projects/Safety Coordinator. President Hicks invited public comment and motion carried unanimously.

On the recommendation of Special Projects/Safety Coordinator Kenneth Slusher, Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Scott Robinson, that the Board accept the low quote of \$63,814 from Owens Contracting Corporation for constructing a new practice football field at WMHS, excluding costs to move and replace an existing fence. The original budget was \$75,000. President Hicks invited public comment and motion carried unanimously.

On the recommendation of Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones, Greg Manley moved, seconded by Tommy Comeaux, that the Board accept the low bid of \$17,000 from D & H Sports for Football Jerseys and Pants for Sterlington High School [*Bid No. 42-18*] to be paid by Sterlington High School Athletic Dept. funds. Offer by President Hicks for public comments and motion unanimously carried.

On the recommendation of Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones, Carey Walker motioned, seconded by John Russell, that the Board grant permission to bid Banking Services to be paid from the General Fund being as the existing contract is set to expire [Bid No. RFP 44-18] and Copy Paper paid from General Fund/Title I [Bid No. 45-18]. President Hicks called for public comments and motion carried unanimously.

At 6:28 p.m., Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Scott Robinson, that the Board go into executive session and that the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute LSA-R.S. 42:17(A)(2) and 42:19(A)(1)(b)(iii)(bb) for the limited purpose of discussing prospective litigation for which formal written demand has been made in the matter, "Dannielle Caston on behalf of her minor child, A.C. v. Ouachita Parish School Board". The following roll-call vote was recorded: Tommy Comeaux, yes; Scott Robinson, yes; A. R. Sims, yes; Jerry Hicks, yes; John Russell, yes; Carey Walker, yes and Greg Manley, yes. Motion carried, with seven (7) "yes" votes and no (0) "no" votes.

At 7:53 p.m., the executive session closed, at which time, Greg Manley moved, seconded by Tommy Comeaux, that the meeting be re-opened to the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

President Hicks set the next meeting for Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 12:00 noon, then he and Dr. Coker made a couple of community announcements that included invitations to the Century Link sponsored Talented Art Exhibition Reception May 3, 2018, 4:00 – 7:00 PM at the Ouachita Parish Student Support Services building on 800 Claiborne Street in West Monroe with public viewing beginning at 8:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. April 30 – May 11, 2018 and the "Scholars' Banquet" honoring all qualified graduating seniors attending Ouachita Parish, Monroe City, private and parochial schools in our area next Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the Monroe Civic Center. Dr. Coker made tickets available to the Board members if they were interested in attending.

There being no further business to discuss, Carey Walker moved, seconded by A. R. Sims, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

**OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD**

Jerry R. Hicks, Secretary

**ATTEST:**

Don Coker, Secretary