

The Ouachita Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at four (4:00) o'clock pm 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, Carey Walker and Greg Manley. John Russell was the only member absent.

Board member Tommy Comeaux led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

The Invocation was given by Board member Greg Manley.

Mr. Sims moved, seconded by Mr. Comeaux, that the Board approve the Minutes of July 25, 2018 as written. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public comment and motion carried unanimously. Reverend Russell was absent.

On motion by Tommy Comeaux, seconded by Greg Manley, that the Board amend the Agenda to include Business Item No. 1 (*Special Recognitions by Skeeter Boyd*) and Item No. 6 (*Permission to Purchase: Washing Machine (SHS)/Sound System (SMS)/Dirt-Work (RMS)-Eastside Bonds by Bobby Jones*). Motion carried unanimously. Reverend Russell was absent.

Scott Robinson moved, seconded by Tommy Comeaux, to accept the amended Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Reverend Russell was absent.

Dr. Coker announced that Chantay Johnson is replacing Amy Weems as the new Interim Assistant Principal for the first semester at Sterlington Middle School. Amy is taking a job with the ULM MAT Teacher Program.

Transportation Supervisor Skeeter Boyd recognized bus driver Harry Lilly for his heroic efforts in preventing an accident involving four boys that were crossing the road to catch the bus early one morning. While the students were attempting to cross the highway in front of the bus, Mr. Lilly noticed a truck advancing toward them at a high rate of speed in the opposite lane and was not going to stop. With the bus lights flashing and stop arms out, Mr. Lilly opened his window, waved his arm and yelled for the boys to stop and not proceed. Fortunately the boys stopped and avoided being hit by the oncoming vehicle. The mother of two of the boys witnessed the incident and was present at the meeting to personally thank Mr. Lilly for his quick response in preventing a tragedy. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Coker presented Mr. Lilly a Certificate of Excellence in appreciation of his community safety service performance during a crisis.

Title I Supervisor Cynthia Osborne presented policies to the Board previously reviewed for consideration as follows: Policy **BC**: *Retirement*; Policy **DJA**: *Authorized Signatures*; Policy **GBRIBA**: *Family and Medical Leave*; Policy **GBQ**: *Retirement*; Policy **JGC**: *Student Health Service*. These policies have been reviewed by district personnel as well as our Board attorney Elmer Noah. Whereby, Carey Walker moved, seconded by Scott Robinson, that the Board approve these 5 policies as presented by

Mrs. Osborne. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public comment and motion carried unanimously. Reverend Russell was absent.

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Coker, Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Greg Manley, to rename the *Instructional Annex on Thomas Road*, **The Ouachita Parish Auxiliary Annex**, effective immediately. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public comment and motion carried unanimously. Reverend John Russell was absent.

Personnel Director Todd Guice explained that the new Coordinator of the Alternative School, Wendy Allen, wants to change the name of the *Ouachita Parish Alternative Center (OPAC)* in order to create a more positive influence for this new facility. The study committee consisting of several administrators and Dr. Coker agreed that it needs a change and a new direction in the way we are going with our new alternative program. Whereby, Greg Manley moved, seconded by Carey Walker, that the Board grant permission to officially rename *OPAC*, **The Ouachita Parish Academy for Learning (OPAL)**. Dr. Coker briefly explained the significance of the acronym **(OPAL)** inspired by Mrs. Allen when describing an “opal” as a rough, unattractive stone lacking luster until it is polished and refined then applying a special technique yielding a beautiful stone. Dr. Coker feels, using this same concept, will create the same positive outcome from these students. Following an invitation by President Hicks for public comment, motion carried unanimously. Reverend Russell was absent.

Personnel Director Todd Guice provided the Board copies of the Finance Committee Report regarding their meeting of August 21, 2018 as well as the approved Minutes of the July 10, 2018 committee meeting. Mr. Guice directed the Board to look at the Minutes of August 21, 2018 Finance Committee meeting. The meeting centered on Business Director Juanita Duke’s preliminary proposed 5-Year Spending Plan for capital improvements from the M&O Fund. A recommendation from that discussion will be placed on the November 13, 2018 Finance Committee Agenda to seek the Board’s recommendation. Mrs. Duke presented the proposed 2018-2019 Annual Operating Budget that will be presented to the Board for their consideration at the next School Board meeting. The Finance Committee unanimously recommended slight changes and additions to the Coaches Stipends pay plan for Tennis and Volleyball that will be presented later on in this meeting by Mickey Merritt for the Board to consider. Sharon Bennett presented the June 30, 2018 Cash & Investment Report and Mrs. Duke presented the June 30, 2018 Unaudited Financial Report. Mr. Guice informed the Board that a Travel Policy Study Committee was formed and will meet and recommend possible changes to the OPSB Travel Policy at the November, 2018 Finance Committee meeting. The next OPSB Finance Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, November 13, 2018. Mr. Guice concluded his report announcing that the 5-Year Plan for M&O spending was discussed mostly on roof and bus replacements and it was decided as a committee to bring this issue back to the Finance Committee on November 13, 2018 to possibly consider a recommendation. This plan has been in the works with Mr. Hemphill and Mr. Boyd for some time now. Whereby, Carey Walker moved, seconded by Scott Robinson, that the Board approve the finance Committee Report as presented by Mr. Guice. President Hicks offered a brief period for public comment and motion unanimously carried. Reverend Russell was absent.

On the recommendation of Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones, Greg Manley moved, seconded by Scott Robinson, that the Board grant permission to purchase a new washing machine for Sterlington High School Field House (less than \$10,000.00), a new sound system for Sterlington Middle School Auditorium (less than \$10,000.00) and dirt work at Richwood Middle School (less than \$30,000.00), all three items funded with Eastside Bonds. Mr. Jones reported that he is still receiving quotes for these 3 items and assured the Board these items will cost less than \$50,000 total. President Hicks offered a brief period for public comment and motion unanimously carried. Rev. Russell was absent.

On the recommendation of the Director of Secondary Education Mickey Merritt and the Finance Committee, Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Greg Manley, that the Board approve stipends of \$5,700.00 per year for tennis coaches with a year-round program (only 2 schools have this program WOHS & WMHS consisting of *fall* and *spring* programs and if they maintain a fall schedule of 7-8 matches minimum along with their spring schedule), then it is recommended that they receive a stipend of \$5,700.00 per year (this is consistent with our current stipend plan for track coaches that run year-round programs). Some tennis coaches with 2 sports would receive stipends of \$4,500.00 and tennis coaches that coach only tennis would receive a \$2,000.00 stipend. It was also recommended that the Board grant permission to add the Volleyball program in two of our high schools (WMHS & WOHS) that currently have programs and that volleyball coaches in these two high schools receive a stipend of \$4,500.00 for the initial season. All stipends are effective immediately. President Hicks offered a brief period for public comment and motion carried unanimously. Reverend Russell was absent.

Special Projects/Safety Coordinator Kenneth Slusher announced that Reverend Russell has selected **M3 Architects** for the roof replacement job at Swayze Elementary School (It is customary for Board members to choose the architects for school projects in their districts). President Hicks called for a motion and Greg Manley moved, seconded by Scott Robinson, that the Board accept **M3 Architects** for overseeing the roof replacement job at Swayze Elementary School as recommended. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public comment and motion unanimously carried. Rev. Russell was absent.

On the recommendation of Special Projects/Safety Coordinator Kenneth Slusher, Scott Robinson moved, seconded by Tommy Comeaux, that the Board grant permission to Mr. Slusher to solicit quotes for the demolition of Edgewood Church and four (4) houses located on 511 Travis, 515 Travis, 523 Travis and 214 Riggs Street (across from WMHS) and, if the quote is under \$150,000 for all five structures, Dr. Coker is authorized to negotiate a contract with the demolition company to accept a quote under \$150,000 for all five structures that will be tested for asbestos once the bid is awarded. President Hicks offered a brief moment of public comment and motion carried unanimously. Rev. Russell was absent.

Special Projects/Safety Coordinator Kenneth Slusher reported that bids will be opened for the renovation/construction of the new Central Office on September 6 at 2:00 pm in the Board room of the Central Office. Mr. Slusher informed the Board that the only thing left to do on the baseball dressing room at West Ouachita is re-route a waterline and wait for the lockers to come in. At Sterlington High School, a dryer had to be fixed, another one replaced and Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones has received permission to order a new washing machine for the field house, which should complete this project by mid-September. His report reflected Work continues on the new roof replacement at Ouachita High

School and is currently about 50% complete. The gym and the auditorium are complete at this time. Principal Larry Long expressed his satisfaction with the new roof as there have been no reported leaks on the work the roofers have done so far. The roofers continue to work at night but the rain has slowed them down some. They anticipate completion of the roof sometime in mid-October.

On the recommendation of Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones, Greg Manley motioned, seconded by Scott Robinson, that the Board accept the only bid from D&H Sports for SHS Basketball Uniforms @ \$60.00 each for 18 uniforms [Bid No. 18-19] paid with SHS school funds and accept the bid from Robertson Produce, Monroe, LA in the amount of \$32,111.25 paid thru Child Nutrition Program for the Bid Period 9/01/2018 – 10/16/2018 [Bid No. FS6-19]. President Hicks offered a brief period for public comment and motion carried unanimously. Rev. Russell was absent.

Upon motion by Scott Robinson, seconded by Greg Manley, the Board rejected Item No. 1 under Evaluation of Bids because the bidder was non-responsive on [Bid No. 16-19] for Ag Science Equipment. Motion carried unanimously. Rev. Russell was absent.

On the recommendation of Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones, Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Carey Walker, that the Board grant permission to bid the following items: **(1)** Copy Paper [Bid No. 21-19]; **(2)** Claiborne Elementary Security Improvements [Bid No. 22-19]; **(3)** Ag-Science Items (Re-Bid) [Bid No. 23-19]; **(4)** Oil/Grease [Bid No. 24-19]; **(5)** Football Lockers (WOHS) [Bid No. 25-19]; **(6)** Awning (Riser Middle) [Bid No. 26-19]; and **(7)** Fresh Produce and Eggs [Bid No. FS8-19]. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public comment and motion unanimously carried.

President Hicks set the next Board meeting for September 11, 2018 at 12:00 Noon.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Sims moved, seconded by Greg Manley, that the Board meeting adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Jerry R. Hicks, President

ATTEST:

Don Coker, Secretary

/ps