

The Ouachita Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, January 9, 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.

Under the leadership of Colonel Brian Buck, the WMHS Junior ROTC unit led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Board member Greg Manley gave the Invocation.

On motion by Mr. Sims, seconded by Carey Walker, the Board approved the Minutes of December 12, 2017 as written. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Greg Manley, seconded by Carey Walker, the Board approved the additions to the Agenda that included the following items: Under Business – Item No. 3 (*Presentation of Board Resolution for Robertine Hammonds by Supt. Coker*); Item No. 7 (*Consider Emergency Declaration for Purchase of Fresh Produce and Eggs by Bobby Jones*); Item No. 8 (*Approval of Change Order for Riser Elementary Drainage Project by Ken Slusher*); and, add under Permission to Bid – No. 1 [*Bid No. 33-18*] (*Copy/Color Paper*). Motion carried unanimously.

Upon motion by Tommy Comeaux, seconded by A. R. Sims, the Board approved the amended Agenda as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Under his Personnel Report, Dr. Coker announced the appointment of Amanda Crain to the position of Assistant Principal of Ouachita Junior High School (a 10 mo. position), effective January 12, 2018. She is replacing Janet Breard who is retiring Thursday.

President Hicks called for Board nominations for election of officers and Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Carey Walker, that the Board retain the current officers for 2018. The Board will retain Jerry Hicks as President and Greg Manley as Vice President. Motion unanimously carried.

President Hicks announced that he is moving Business Item No. 6 ahead to the No. 2 position to allow guests to speak before they have to attend another meeting.

Board attorney Elmer Noah presented a Resolution for the Board's approval in support of the Industrial Tax Exemption Program/Industrial Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Application #20170083-ITE) ("ITEP) giving Shield Pack, LLC, permission to make application to the Board of Commerce and Industry ("BCI") so as to approve contracts for the exemption of ad valorem taxes of a new manufacturing establishment or an addition to an existing manufacturing establishment, on such terms and conditions as the Board, with the approval of the Governor, deems in the best interest of the state. Article 7, Section 21(F) of the Louisiana Constitution provides for the "BCI", with the approval of the Governor, through Executive Order JBE 16-73 executed on June 24, 2016, has set forth new conditions for his approval of Industrial Tax Exemption ("ITE") contracts, and affirmed that those conditions are in the best interest of the State of Louisiana. Whereby, Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Carey Walker, that

the Board approve the Resolution as presented granting Shield Pack, LLC permission to make application for the (“ITE”) tax exemption to the “BCI” as explained above. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public comment and asked for a roll call on the vote. 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 “no” votes. No one was absent.

Communications Specialist Aline Smead introduced Lieutenant Colonel Brian Buck as the Senior Aerospace Science instructor at West Monroe High School AFJROTC, teaching over 100 cadets. Following his introduction, Commander Buck introduced each honor guard while giving background information regarding their training program, responsibilities as mentors of young men and women teaching them to become better citizens. Being very proud of his students, Colonel Buck commended his squadron for each giving 14 hours of community service this year and also placing in the upper 50% of the Quiz Bowl competition. Winning multiple awards along the way, his cadets placed fourteenth world-wide out of 180 competitive teams. In conclusion, Colonel Buck invited Dr. Coker to attend his squadron’s unit evaluation scheduled for the end of this year. Dr. Coker’s visit was acknowledged by Colonel Buck’s inspector when he attended a prior inspection. He stressed the importance of the superintendent attending his cadet’s evaluation review.

Dr. Coker announced that a Memorial Service will be held in remembrance of Robertine Jenkins Hammonds at 10:30 a.m. on January 13, 2018 at Rose of Sharon Baptist Church. A Resolution was also presented for the Board’s consideration memorializing Mrs. Robertine Jenkins Hammonds’ life of dedicated service to the education of children of the State of Louisiana. The contents of the Resolution was also read by Dr. Coker regarding her legacy remembering forever her five years of service in Franklin Parish and thirty-nine years of service in the Ouachita Parish School System. Before her recent death, Mrs. Hammonds retired in 2015 as Director of Professional Accountability with Ouachita Parish Schools, a position in which she used her knowledge and dedication to the education profession to lead teachers in the district toward greater accomplishments in their careers. The current Board members extend their deepest sympathy to the family and dear friends of Robertine Hammonds as everyone respectfully acknowledge with gratitude the legacy of this loyal and faithful educator who spent her entire career giving back to the community by serving others. Whereby, Greg Manley moved, seconded by Scott Robinson, that the Board respectfully adopt this Resolution dedicated to Mrs. Hammonds as presented. Motion unanimously carried. A copy of this Resolution will be given to the Family of Robertine Jenkins Hammonds in her memory after it is signed by the Superintendent and Board members.

Title I Supervisor Cynthia Osborne provided the Board copies of the following four policies to be approved and considered at a later date after they have been reviewed and approved by district personnel, our policy service provider (*Forethought Consultants, Inc.*), and Board attorney, Elmer Noah: **1) DFL – Sale of Buildings and Land; 2) ECA – Authorized Use of Equipment; 3) GBC – Recruitment; and 4) GBRIB – Sick Leave.**

Business Director Juanita Duke presented her monthly 2017-18 Interim Financial Report for the period ended October 31, 2017. The Board was provided copies of the report showing all funds of the school board and the total budgeted revenues and expenditures all through the year comparing to their actual performance through the end of October 31, 2017. Overall, she reported that 22.6% of

expenditures were spent in the General Fund budget through the end of the period and expenditures are about 104% of prior fiscal year period expenditures. The fund balance was about 98% of the balance in the General Fund at this same time last year. The four sales tax funds are continuing to show a decline in sales tax revenues as previously reported. She noted approval was received from the Finance Committee to adjust the budget in the next revision reflecting the decline experienced this year. Currently, revenue collections in the Sales Tax Funds are about 92%-93% compared to last fiscal year, except in the **West Ouachita Sales Tax** which is at 96% of prior fiscal year-to-date collections. **District M&O** total expenditures are \$2.4, in line with prior year expenditures. The **Internal Service Funds** and **Debt Service Funds** showed normal activities. **Capital Project Funds** continue to show a slowdown in capital spending. Following Mrs. Duke's presentation of her 2017-18 Interim Financial Report, Scott Robinson moved, seconded by Tommy Comeaux, that the Board approve Mrs. Duke's report as presented. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public comment and motion unanimously carried.

Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones presented an Emergency Declaration for the Board's consideration for the Purchase of Fresh Produce and Eggs for the Child Nutrition Program. No bids were received for Fresh Produce and Eggs [*Bid No. FS6E-18*] during a bid opening yesterday and Mr. Jones explained that normally these items are bid every 30 days. Since there were no responsive bids received, there is a need to declare an emergency in order to buy the produce and eggs over the next 30-day period. He stated that he is also exploring another opportunity to "piggyback" off the bid of another parish or look at federal guidelines to possibly use another format. In any event, Mr. Jones asked the Board to grant approval of the emergency declaration in case he couldn't "piggyback" off another parish or another option is not available. Whereby, Greg Manley moved, seconded by Tommy Comeaux, that the Board grant the request of Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones to declare an emergency for the purchase of fresh produce and eggs for the Child Nutrition Program for a 30-day period. Motion carried unanimously.

On the recommendation of Special Projects/Safety Coordinator Kenneth Slusher, Scott Robinson moved, seconded by Tommy Comeaux, that the Board accept Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$14,897.50 in addition to the original amount of \$109,757.00 for a total cost of \$124,654.50 for drainage improvements at Riser Elementary School for the removal and replacement of unsuitable subgrade soils encountered beneath the new sidewalk needed to provide a suitable base for new construction and the alignment of approximately 491 feet of sanitary sewer line found to be in conflict with the proposed new drainage outfall ditch located north of the school site. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public comment and motion unanimously carried.

Special Projects/Safety Coordinator Kenneth Slusher reported that the removal of the lights and poles from Osterland Recreation Center are on hold due to inclement weather conditions and is causing a delay installing them at the football/soccer practice fields at SMS and WMHS football practice field. Tim Brandon with TBA Studios is working with the plans for West Ouachita High School baseball locker/dressing room addition. Because of the timeframe, Mr. Slusher explained that Mr. Brandon is slowing the process down to allow time for the bid opening the first of May giving them time to have contracts signed and materials bought by summer because there is no time to do it before baseball season anyway. According to architect Rice Gregory, the gym floor replacement and repair at East Ouachita Middle School was finished during the Christmas break and Mr. Gregory was pleased with the outcome. Greg Manley asked if the punch list was completed and Mr. Slusher responded that most of it

except for the gym doors and adjustments to the restroom doors and stall partitions. The gym doors are not closing properly and have to be cut off at the bottom so that they will close and lock. Some of the stall doors and partitions in the restrooms are not lining up properly and need to be readjusted. Mr. Gregory is working with the contractor to get them corrected. After Mr. Manley's request, Mr. Slusher concluded his report by reassuring him that Mr. Gregory would review the punch list items with the Board before the contractor is paid the final check (around \$300,000) for the project.

On the recommendation of Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones, Carey Walker moved, seconded by Scott Robinson, that the Board accept the low bid of Mechanical Concepts for Items 1 & 2 -- **Item No. 1** for fan coils at Pinecrest School in the amount of \$29,990 and **Item No. 2** for a chiller at Riser Middle in the amount of \$34,990 and accept the bid for **Item No. 3** from Commercial Industrial Sales for a cooling tower at Ouachita Junior in the amount of \$32,950 with a total budget of \$211,000 [Bid No. 28-18]. Following an offer from President Hicks for public comment, motion carried unanimously.

On the recommendation of Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones, Greg Manley moved, seconded by Tommy Comeaux, that the Board reject [Bid No. FS6E-18] Fresh Produce and Eggs for Child Nutrition Services because there were no responsive bids received. Motion carried unanimously.

On the recommendation of Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones, Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Carey Walker, that the Board grant permission to bid Copy/Color Paper [Bid No. 33-18]. Following an offer from President Hicks for public comment, motion unanimously carried.

The next Board meeting will be held at 12:00 noon on January 23, 2018.

Dr. Coker commended Maintenance Director Scottie Nugent and his staff for working on their time off during the Christmas holiday break continually monitoring unoccupied schools to prevent water pipes from bursting and making sure the heat was working properly during the extreme cold weather. The Board members and audience were also reminded by Dr. Coker that they are invited to the "Student of the Year" Luncheon at the West Monroe Convention Center this Friday at 11:30 a.m.

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

**OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD**

Jerry R. Hicks, President

**ATTEST:**

Don Coker, Secretary

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