

The Ouachita Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at twelve (12:00) o'clock noon at their regular meeting place, the Ouachita Parish School Board office.

President Hicks called the meeting to order as he 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 and Greg Manley. Carey Walker 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.

On motion by A. R. Sims, seconded by Tommy Comeaux, the Board approved the Minutes of May 8, 2018 as written. Motion unanimously carried. ABSENT: Carey Walker

Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by A. R. Sims, that the Board amend the Agenda to delete Item No. 4. for Air Filters [*Bid No. 13-19*] under **X. Evaluation of Bids** and Item No. 1. For Athletic Equipment [*Bid No. 15-19*] under **XI. Permission to Bid**. An offer for public discussion was offered and motion carried unanimously. ABSENT: Carey Walker

On motion by Scott Robinson, seconded by Tommy Comeaux, the Board approved the amended Agenda as presented. President Hicks invited public comments and motion unanimously carried. ABSENT: Carey Walker

Superintendent Coker made the following announcements regarding personnel matters: Interim Maintenance Supervisor, Steven Hemphill, has been promoted to *Maintenance Supervisor*, effective May 22, 2018. Being formally a principal position that has been changed to an Alternative School Coordinator position, Wendy Allen has been appointed to this 12 month coordinator position, effective July 1, 2018 because it is now a program and not a school. Originally an Elementary Coordinator position, Dr. Coker announced that it has been renamed an *Instructional Team Coordinator for Science position (6-12 grade science)* and effective July 1, 2018, Jennifer McCorkle was appointed to the position. Two *Title II Professional Development Coordinators*, Ellie Hilton and Danielle "Dandy" Monroe, will fill this position formerly held by one coordinator, Tammie Cox, who will be retiring in July. At this time, Dr. Coker asked the Board for permission to allow him to open the following positions that will be left vacant once the following administrators retire: *Director of Student Support Services*, due to the upcoming retirement of Brenda Adams in July, *Principal of Sterlington High School*, upon the retirement of Dell Ashley, and *Curriculum Coordinator at East Ouachita Middle School*, left vacant due to the promotion of Ellie Hilton. Whereby, Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Scott Robinson, to grant permission to Dr. Coker to open the above described positions for application. A brief moment for public comment was offered and motion carried unanimously. ABSENT: Carey Walker

President Hicks recognized its independent evaluator Strategic Solutions, LLC, represented by Kimberly Williams, to present the results of this year's District Charter Application process. Ms. Williams announced one application was received from Cartwright Learning, Inc. for the J.W. Brown Laboratory Charter School. To comply with state law Ms. Williams recommended the Board take comments from the public prior to receiving the recommendation from her firm on this application. President Hicks opened the meeting to hear comments from the public regarding the J. W. Brown Laboratory Charter

School application announcing comments would be limited to 3 minutes each. Ms. Stephanie Henderson, Executive Director of Cartwright Learning, LCC, spoke on behalf of J. W. Brown Laboratory School. She expressed thanks to the Board for accepting and reviewing the application and stated their interest in working with the Ouachita Parish School System for their charter. They feel there is a need in the community and have a strong desire to improve the learning of at-risk students to achieve all that the State intends students to achieve. After there being no further comments from the public, the public comment period was closed.

Board received the report from its independent evaluator Strategic Solutions, Inc. Ms. Williams stated their review committee as well as the District's review committee recognized the applicant's strong commitment to Ouachita Parish being very evident in the application. However, the recommendation was made for the Board to deny the application submitted by Cartwright Learning for the J.W. Brown Laboratory Charter School. The application proposed one location to serve up to 350 students at its max enrollment in Kindergarten through sixth grade. Ms. Williams further reported five specific reasons for their recommendation. After receiving the recommendation, Scott Robinson moved, seconded by Tommy Comeaux, for the Board to accept the recommendation from Strategic Solutions, LLC, and to deny the charter school application as submitted by Cartwright Learning. President Hicks offered a brief moment for further public comment, and with no further comments, the motion unanimously carried. ABSENT: Carey Walker

Personnel Director/Finance Committee Chairman Todd Guice presented a report of the May 15, 2018 Finance Committee Meeting, as well as, the official Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on February 21, 2018, for the Board's consideration. He reported the meeting was lengthy and the committee information was provided in board packets mailed to the Board last week. A summary was presented on actions taken as follow:

Ms. Duke presented reports on school board cash & investments and finances as of March 31, 2018 approved by the committee.

Ms. Duke presented the proposed revised budget for 2017-18 which was unanimously approved for recommendation to the Board at a later date.

Ms. Duke gave a report on the preliminary proposed budget for 2018-19.

A lengthy discussion took place about athletic catalog bid process proposed for 2018-19 presented by purchasing agent Bobby Jones. Principals, athletic directors and a vender were present and participated in the discussion with committee members. After a lengthy discussion, the Finance Committee voted, with 5 yeas to 4 nays, not to extend the contract with the current vendor and to develop a plan to reevaluate the bid process for athletic equipment which will be brought to the Board for consideration at a later date.

Ms. Duke gave an update of the payment of school fees online piloted at some schools this past year. This has been received favorably by parents and participating schools. The committee unanimously agreed to continue offering the payments online, but with a study committee being assigned to make a recommendation to the Board at a later date on the funding structure for the fees charged by the online vendor associated with each online transaction.

Ms. Duke gave an update on last year's audit findings to the committee that were previously reported to the Board by the auditors.

A Notice of intent to levy millages for 2018 at the July 2018 Board meeting was given.

Recommendation for the Board to renew the claims management services agreement with Crawford and Company was approved and will be brought to the board at a later date.

Whereby, Greg Manley moved, seconded by John Russell, that the Board accept the Finance Committee Report of May 15, 2018 as presented, excluding some items discussed in the report that will be considered at another Board meeting, and further granting approval of the Finance Committee Minutes of February 21, 2018 as presented. The date of the next Finance Committee meeting is July 10, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public discussion and motion carried unanimously. ABSENT: Carey Walker

Special Projects/Safety Coordinator Kenneth Slusher gave a report on two construction projects ongoing at *Sterlington High School* (with the expansion of the laundry room and field house), and *West Ouachita High School* (with a new dressing room addition). In conclusion, Mr. Slusher announced that the new roof replacement bids for Ouachita High School are set to open on June 5 at 10:00 a.m.

On the recommendation of Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones, John Russell moved, seconded by Scott Robinson, that the Board accept the low bids meeting specifications from **Unisource** and **Economical Janitorial** for Copy Paper [Bid No. 45-18]; **Parker Wholesale @ \$18.25 per case** for Tork Paper [Bid No. 11-19]; and **Parker Wholesale @ \$.0.2800 per roll** for Toilet Paper [Bid No. 12-19], all funded with General Funds. Revered Russell further moved to accept the only bid from Robertson Produce of Monroe for Fresh Produce and Eggs in the amount of **\$18,036.00** for the Bid Period: 5/23/2018—6/30/2018 [Bid No. FS6H-18], paid with Child Nutrition funds. Following a brief moment for public discussion, motion carried unanimously. ABSENT: Carey Walker

President Hicks set the next Board meeting for Tuesday, June 19th at 12:00 noon. [However, due to conflicts with upcoming vacations for Board members, the meeting for June 19th has since been cancelled and changed to **Monday, June 18, 2018 at 12:00 noon.**]

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

OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Jerry R. Hicks, President

ATTEST:

Don Coker, Secretary

/ps