

The Ouachita Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at twelve (12:00) o'clock noon 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 Tommy Comeaux led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

The Invocation was given by Board member Greg Manley.

Mr. A. R. Sims moved to approve the Board Minutes of October 10, 2017 as written, seconded by Reverend John Russell. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public comment and motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Carey Walker, seconded by Greg Manley, the Board approved the deletion of Item No. 2 listed on the Agenda under the IX. Business section (*A request to address the Board in consideration of Bancroft Bag, Inc. ITEP application approval presented by Cindy Dunaway, Bancroft Bag/Tana Trichel, NE LA Econ. Alliance*). Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Greg Manley, seconded by Tommy Comeaux, the Board approved the Agenda as amended. Motion unanimously carried.

On motion by Greg Manley, seconded by Carey Walker, the Board approved the revised Agenda as presented. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public comment and motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Coker had no personnel matters to report.

Title I Supervisor Cynthia Osborne provided the Board copies of two policies, one for review and consideration at the November meeting and the other presented for approval. Whereby, Carey Walker moved, seconded by Greg Manley, to approve **Policy JS: Student Fees, Fines and Charges**. Both policies have been reviewed and approved by district personnel, our policy service provider (Forethought Consultants, Inc.), and Board attorney, Elmer Noah. Mrs. Osborne announced that **Policy JDA: Corporal Punishment** will be considered for approval at the November meeting. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public comment and motion carried unanimously.

Business Director Juanita Duke presented a Resolution for the Board's consideration in support of the Industrial Tax Exemption Program ("ITEP") application approval for Bancroft Bag, Inc. Whereby, Carey Walker moved, seconded by Scott Robinson, that the Board approve the Resolution granting Bancroft Bag, Inc. permission to make application to the Board of Commerce and Industry ("BCI"), with the approval of the Governor, 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. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public comment and ask 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. There were none absent.

Architect Rice Gregory gave a report on his assigned school projects. He stated that the contractor for East Ouachita Middle School is still lacking a few items on the punch list and Mr. Gregory is still withholding some money awaiting a successful completion of these items. Mr. Gregory reminded the Board of the extended warranty agreement on the vinyl tile floors and some reimbursement for utilities that were in transition, in addition to a few other items. Mr. Gregory assured Mr. Manley that he was holding a sufficient amount of money to take care of items on the punch list at East Ouachita Middle School that are not finished and that he has notified the floor contractors to mobilize operations to come to East Ouachita Middle School the day after Christmas and finish the gym flooring that was agreed upon before school started. At the opening of school, it was decided to delay completion of the gym floor until school was out on Christmas break so as not to interrupt the students’ learning environment. School authorities will be contacted and made aware of the date so they can coordinate their time with the flooring contractors while the work is being performed.

Mr. Gregory continued his report stating that the new parking lots at WOHS were inspected and granted substantial completion. The school staff was notified last week that they are free to utilize the new parking facilities whenever they want to. There are still a few items on the punch list but Amethyst Construction should be taking care of these very soon. The canopies at Calhoun and Good Hope schools are scheduled for inspection. Good Hope Middle School had requested to do a final inspection with the fire marshal tomorrow at the school, and it is expected that the contractor will turn the school back over to them after the inspection. It is anticipated that Calhoun will be completed in about 2 weeks, at which time the contractor will turn the school back over to them.

On the recommendation of Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones, Scott Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. Sims, that the Board reject [*Bid No. RFP 18-18*] for the purchase of Read/Math Site Licenses. The bid was rejected because no responsive bids were received. It is to be funded through Title I with a budget of \$188,500. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public comment and motion carried unanimously.

On the recommendation of Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones, Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Greg Manley, that the Board accept the bids meeting specifications typed in **BOLD** print listed on the bid sheet for the purchase of ink cartridges [*Bid No. 22-18*]. Following President Hick’s offer of a brief period for public comment, motion unanimously carried.

On the recommendation of Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones, the Board agreed to table [*Bid Item No. 20-18*] Helmets and Shoulder Pads for various schools.

On the recommendation of JoLynne Correro, Director of Child Nutrition Program, John Russell moved, seconded by Scott Robinson, that the Board accept the low bid of \$33,439.50 from Robertson Produce, Monroe, LA [*Bid No. FS6B-18*] for Fresh Produce and Eggs for the Bid Period 10/30/2017 – 12/01/2017 as presented by Purchasing Agent Bobby Jones. President Hicks offered a brief moment for public comment and motion carried unanimously.

No Permissions to Bid were presented for approval.

Superintendent Coker reported on the Board of Elementary & Secondary Education (BESE) Committee meeting held in Baton Rouge last week attended by 45 school superintendents from all over the state. Dr. Coker commented that he was very disappointed in the outcome of the meeting where the “new” scoring ratings for schools were voted on and accepted by BESE Board Members. Our Board members were cautioned by Dr. Coker about his concern for the future of our schools using these new scoring elements. After his comments, he expressed his gratitude to the Board for their diligence and professional performance exhibited during and outside our Board meetings.

President Hicks scheduled the next Board meeting for November 14, 2017 at 12:00 noon.

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

**OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD**

Jerry R. Hicks, President

**ATTEST:**

Don Coker, Secretary

/ps