

A public hearing was held at eleven (11:00) a.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, prior to the Board meeting at twelve (12:00) noon providing the public an opportunity to review and inspect the proposed Ouachita Parish School Board Annual Operating Budget for the fiscal period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 before its adoption by the Board, bringing it into compliance with the “Notice of Public Hearing” law meeting state requirements. A notice of public hearing was prepared and advertised in the *Ouachita Citizen* on Thursday, May 26, 2022, inviting public inspection of the revised budget and made available to the public at the OPSB central office. Immediately following the public inspection of the revised budget, the Ouachita Parish School Board met in regular session at twelve (12:00) noon, Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at its regular meeting place, the Ouachita Parish School Board office to conduct the business of the Board.

At twelve (12:00) noon, 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, Shere May, Scotty Waggoner, Jerry R. Hicks, Harold McCoy, Dabo Graves and Greg Manley. There were none absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Shere May and a prayer was offered by Reverend Harold McCoy.

Roxie Johnston addressed the Board regarding her opinion of SEL Program (ESSER Funds) at this time. Whereby, President Hicks called for a motion for approval of the Minutes of May 10, 2022 and Scotty Waggoner moved, seconded by Shere May, that the Board approve the Minutes of May 10, 2022 as written. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

Tiffany Hatten representing “Parent’s Choice LA”, requested to address every agenda item during the meeting on her public comment card(s).

President Hicks called for a motion to approve the addition of Agenda items No. 6 & No. 10 under the IX. Business section of the Agenda. Whereby, Harold McCoy moved, seconded by Dabo Graves, that the Board approve to add Agenda items No. 6 & No. 10

under the IX. Business section of the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

President Hicks called for a motion to approve the amended Agenda and Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Greg Manley, that the Board approve the amended Agenda as presented. Motion unanimously carried by all members present.

Under his Personnel Report, Dr. Coker announced the following administrative appointments:

1. Orlando Freemont - \* **Supervisor of Safety & Security** (*Central Office*)
2. Janitra Underwood - \* **Principal of Shady Grave Elementary**
3. Angela Spivey - \* **Principal of Robinson Elementary**
4. Angela Mathews - \* **Title II Professional Development Coord.** (*Ctrl. Office*)

*\*Effective 7/1/2022*

5. Randa Wigley - \*\* **Assistant Principal of West Ouachita High**
6. Cory Emerson - \*\* **Assistant Principal of West Ouachita High**
7. Kory Onyemechara - \*\* **Assistant Principal of West Ridge Middle**

*\*\*Effective 8/1/2022*

No one has requested to speak to the Board regarding Item No. VIII. *Personnel Report* by Dr. Coker. Following his Administrative appointments, Dr. Coker asked the Board's permission to open a new 504 Supervisor (Coordinator) position for application along with the positions of Richwood Middle School Principal and Curriculum Coordinator. Personnel Director Todd Guice came forward and presented the Job Description of the 504 Supervisor that Dr. Coker is asking the Board's approval to open for application at this time. Whereby, Shere May moved, seconded by Dabo Graves, that the Board grant Mr. Guice and Dr. Coker permission of approval to open the 504 Supervisor position for application. Motion carried by all members present.

Representative Foy Gadberry presented a House Resolution from the House of Representatives and Louisiana Legislature honoring the West Monroe High School baseball team for winning the 2022 5A District State Championship.

4-H Assistant Extension Agent Tara Garlington presented the Board with an update on the 4-H Program partnership used in the Ouachita Parish School District.

Keven Woods with Arthur J. Gallagher presented a selection from three (3) Insurance Program Risk Renewal Plans for consideration of approval. Whereby, Greg Manley moved, seconded by Dabo Graves, that the Board select **Option No. 1** for the Insurance Program Risk Renewal for this coming year from Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance Company. This is a flat property renewal with no increase in the square footage rate or premium. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

Personnel Director Todd Guice, presented the details of the proposed Policy Review Committee format explaining that it would be a standing sub-committee of Ouachita School Board similar to the makeup of the Finance Committee on how that would operate. The role of the full board would be to recommend any changes by the Ouachita Parish School system policies and regulations that are mandated by state statutes suggested by Board members and/or employees of the district. Develop, revise and adopt policy and regulation to meet the needs of new or changing legislation to serve our residents, employees and students then make reports of the full board the outcome of each sub-committee meeting. Committee composition was made up of two board members, two school administrators, two directors and supervisors and two parents. The Policy Review Committee meetings will be open to the public.

Byron McCoy was allowed to speak to the Board regarding Business Item No. 4 as he requested on the public comment card.

Following Mr. Byron McCoy, Tiffany Hatten was also allowed to speak and ask questions regarding Business Item No. 4 as requested on her public comment card.

On motion by Greg Manley, seconded by Dabo Graves, the Board approved the Policy Review Committee policy as presented by Mr. Guice. Motion carried unanimously.

Prior to Finance Chairman Todd Guice's presentation of the Finance Committee Report, President Hicks and Mr. Manley discussed the procedure for addressing the public comments submitted by the public before or after the presentation. Board Attorney

Elmer Noah stated that according to the statute, if anyone submitted a card pertaining to the item, then the item should be presented first, after which, discussion be allowed if anyone had submitted a public comment card to address the item. Mr. Manley commended that it was the Board's intention to present the item, then allow the person or persons to comment to the Board regarding their concerns. Whereas, Mr. Guice announced that he has provided the Board with the Finance Committee Report for June 14, 2022 for their meeting of May 24, 2022 and an approved copy of the Minutes from that meeting. He advised that there are nine Agenda items and actions from the February 16, 2022 Finance Committee meeting and some will be discussed while others will be included in this meeting. He concluded his report and announced that the next Finance Committee meeting will be held Monday, July 25, 2022.

Mr. Reginald Fontana submitted a comment request slip to address Business Item No. 5 (*Finance Committee Report*) on behalf of the Ouachita Parish school bus drivers. He asked the board to implement the AC retrofit program for our district's buses for the next 4 years along with a pay raise for our bus drivers. Mrs. Tiffany Hatten was also allowed to address the Board with her concerns and questions regarding ESSER Grants.

President Hicks called for a motion to approve the Finance Committee Report and Shere May moved, seconded by Greg Manley, that the Board approve the Finance Committee Report concerning their meeting of May 24, 2022 as presented by Chairman Todd Guice. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

Harold McCoy led the discussion on Safety & Security in our schools and what we intend to do about it in all our schools for the 2022-23 school year.

Our present Safety and Security Director Jennifer Nichols addressed the Board with implemented plans for safety in all our schools and some future plans for student and faculty safety in our schools were discussed. She stated that one can find all our safety plans and guidelines on line. Following Mrs. Nichols' report, Patsy LeBouef and Tiffany Hatten addressed the Board with their comments regarding OPSB safety plans for 2022-2023.

Business Director Regina Mekus presented the Resolution to adopt the millages for the 2021 tax roll on property subject to taxation by Ouachita Parish School Board. Whereby, Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Greg Manley, that the Board adopt the millages as follows:

MILLAGE

Taxing District: Parish of Ouachita School Board	
Constitutional	5.18 Mills
Maintenance and Operation	24.15 Mills
 Taxing District: East Ouachita Parish School District	
East Ouachita Bond (Debt Service)	36.00 Mills

Ms. Mekus pointed out that there was no change in the millages from the prior year.

The following roll-call vote on Mr. Comeaux's motion was recorded: Tommy Comeaux, yes, Shere May, yes; Scotty Waggoner, yes; Harold McCoy, yes; Dabo Graves, yes; Greg Manley, yes; and Jerry Hicks, yes. Motion carried, with seven (7) "Yea" votes, zero (0) "Nay" votes, zero (0) Absentees and zero (0) Abstentions following an offer by President Hicks for public comments.

Business Director Regina Mekus provided the Board with a copy of the Annual Operating Budget of the Ouachita Parish School Board for the fiscal period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 for consideration of approval. A summary of the financial performance of the Board for this fiscal year was presented to the Board by Mrs. Mekus as she reviewed the budget with them before approval. It is noted that the necessary advertisements have been made in the official journal and that the public hearing on the budget was held at 11:00 a.m. immediately preceding this meeting allowing the public inspection of the 2021-2022 proposed Annual Operating Budget (Budget Revision No. 1) For the Fiscal Period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. In his previous Finance Committee Report, Chairman Todd Guice, stated that Ms. Mekus' proposed budget was unanimously approved by the Finance Committee in their meeting of May 24, 2022 to recommend the Budget Revision approval to the Board for the year ending June 30, 2022. Whereby, Harold McCoy moved, seconded by Dabo Graves, that the Board approve the Annual

Operating Budget (Budget Revision No. 1) for the fiscal period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 as submitted by Business Director Regina Mekus. Motion carried unanimously by all members present. No guests asked to speak to the Board regarding Business Item No. 8.

Business Director Regina Mekus presented her monthly 2021-2022 Interim Financial Report for the Period ended April 30, 2022 with a fund balance in the General Fund of \$40.9 million. She reminded the Board that a lot of salaries and benefits are prorated and as we go into the months of May and June for that period, you'll see that number come down to what was actually budgeted in the fund balance for the year. For the District M&O we are seeing an increase in sales tax collections. Not quite what we have seen in prior years, but we budgeted very conservatively in the current year and we are seeing that we are about 13 percent over the original budget. We have the other sales taxes there and they follow suit with the 13.5 percent tax increases as well for the year. In conclusion, Ms. Mekus referred the Board to the last three pages of the report, which gives a good three-year comparison of the General Fund and the M&O Sales Tax Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balances to date with the percentage comparison from the prior year. Whereby, Scotty Waggoner moved, seconded by Shere May, that the Board approve the 2021-2022 Interim Financial Report for the Period ended April 30, 2022 as presented by Business Director Regina Mekus. Motion carried unanimously by all members present. No guests requested to speak to the Board regarding Item No. 9.

On the recommendation of Supervisor of Safety/Construction Kenneth Slusher, Dabo Graves moved, seconded by Tommy Comeaux, that the Board approve the named architects for roofing projects as follows:

<b>Swartz Lower (<i>all flat roofs</i>)</b>	--	<b>Architecture Alliance Group</b>
<b>Robinson Elementary (<i>Cafeteria only</i>)</b>	--	<b>Land 3 Architect, Inc.</b>
<b>Highland Elementary (<i>Cafeteria Front Wing</i>)</b>	--	<b>TBA Studio</b>
<b>Crosley Elementary (<i>Entire School</i>)</b>	--	<b>Architecture Alliance Group</b>

*(Architect Fee of 6% will apply to all roofing projects listed)*

Motion carried unanimously by all members present. No guests requested to speak to the Board regarding Item No. 10.

Supervisor of Safety/Construction Kenneth Slusher announced that TBA has provided the Board with a Project Status Report on the Boley Project that included WOHS/Riser renovation projects then announced that there was a meeting this morning at Boley at 9:00 a.m. where Dr. Coker and Tommy Comeaux were in attendance. The meeting went well but wasn't at the place where they wanted to be at this time according to contractor. But, they are making good progress. They have prepared a punch list and are in the process of working on the items listed. They are going to start pouring slabs for the parking lots Monday. At WOHS, they have already knocked out the wall enlarging the AG building and have put up some steel and are moving faster now after a slow start. There is a monthly meeting tomorrow at Riser at 10:00 a.m. if anyone is interested in attending. In conclusion, Mr. Slusher announced that the demo work to complete Boley is one month away from completion. They are working every day to complete the last phase.

Mr. Manley announced that no cards were presented from guests wanting to speak to items on the Agenda for the balance of the meeting.

In the absence of Interim Purchasing Agent Waylon McCormick, and on the recommendation of Business Director, Regina Mekus, Dabo Graves moved, seconded by Scotty Waggoner, that the Board accept the low responsive bid from **(1. Bliss Products** for Woodchips in the amount of \$28.00 per yard [*Bid No. 52-22*]; **(2. accept the low bid from AGC** for Poster Printers as they were the lowest responsive bidder on qualifying items [*Bid No. 53-22*]; and **(3. There were no responsive bids received on Air Filters** [*Bid No. 49-22*]. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

In the absence of Interim Purchasing Agent Waylon McCormick, and on the recommendation of Business Director Regina Mekus, Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Shere May, that the Board grant permission to bid the following items:

(1. HVAC Upgrade (EOMS), *[Bid No. 03-23]*; (2. Musical Instruments, *[Bid No. 02-23]*; and (3. Disposable Flatware/Dispensers, *[Bid No. FS7-23]*. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 12:00 noon.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Scotty Waggoner, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

**OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD**

Jerry R. Hicks, President

**ATTEST:**

Don Coker, Secretary

/ps