

The Ouachita Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at twelve (12:00) o'clock p.m. at its regular meeting place, the Ouachita Parish School Board office.

The roll was called and the following members were present: Tommy Comeaux, Shere May, Scotty Waggoner, Jerry Hicks, Harold McCoy, Dabo Graves and Greg Manley. There were none absent.

The meeting was called to order by President Hicks, followed with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Shere May and a prayer offered by Greg Manley.

On motion by Scotty Waggoner, seconded by Shere May, the Board approved the Minutes of April 12, 2022 as written. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Tommy Comeaux, seconded by Greg Manley, the Board approved the addition of **Item No. 3. Under XI. Permission to Bid [Bid No. FS6-23] (Forklift for Warehouse)** on the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

Harold McCoy moved, seconded by Dabo Graves, that the Board approve the amended Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

Under his Personnel Report, Dr. Coker announced the following appointments to administrator positions:

1. Dr. Rick Hearn - **Principal – Calhoun Middle**
2. Brent May - **Principal -- West Ridge Middle**
3. Rusty Farrar - **Principal -- West Ouachita High**
4. Tressa Farrar - **Assistant Principal – Calhoun Middle**
5. April Cole - **Coordinator of Elementary C&I – Instructional Team**

Dr. Coker asked the Board's permission to open and advertise the following positions for application through the interview process:

1. **Supervisor of Safety & Security**
2. **Principal – Robinson Elementary**
3. **Assistant Principal – West Ouachita High**
4. **Assistant Principal of Curriculum – West Ouachita High**
5. **Assistant Principal – West Ridge Middle**
6. **Professional Development Coordinator – Title II**
7. **Curriculum Coordinators: East Ouachita, Highland, Pinecrest, Riverbend, West Ridge**
8. **Reading Interventionists: Riverbend/Crosley**

On motion by Greg Manley, seconded by Dabo Graves, the Board granted Dr. Coker permission to open these positions for application through the interview process. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

After confirming with Mr. Manley that no one submitted cards requesting to speak to Business Items No's 1-8 on the Agenda, President Hicks asked Interim Purchasing Agent, Waylon McCormick to come forward with his presentation and review of the quotes he received from the local newspapers for the selection of the Board's Official Journal for 2022-2023 fiscal year. Whereby, Greg Manley moved, seconded by Shere May, that the Board select **The Ouachita Citizen** as their Official Journal for fiscal year 2022-2023. Motion unanimously carried by all members present.

Mitch McGee with the Wildlife & Fisheries Dept. addressed the Board requesting that their renewal of the Wildlife & Fisheries Lease be continued on Ouachita Parish School District's 16th Section property adjacent to the Russell Sage WMA off Prairie Road. Whereby, Dabo Graves moved, seconded by Shere May, that the Board approve the continuation of the renewal of the Wildlife & Fisheries Lease Agreement on our school district's 16th Section land adjacent to the Russell Sage WMA off Prairie Road. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

Title I Supervisor Jennifer Nugent presented the following policies for consideration of approval: **Policy: JBCE** (*Public School Choice*) recommending the policy be amended to add the Definition and Verification of "Capacity" in the content and **DELETE Policy: DIBA** (*American Recovery and Reimbursement Reporting Requirements*) as it is no longer relevant. Whereby, Harold McCoy moved, seconded by Dabo Graves, that the Board approve the recommended changes on the above policies as presented by Ms. Nugent. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

At this time, Dr. Coker announced that he is working on forming a Policies & Procedures Review Committee to take under consideration, with the Board's approval, another review committee and appoint some Board members to serve on this committee to oversee the Legislative policies passed down to us from the State and go over with a fine tooth comb and maybe start tweaking them from a local level without getting into what the law is actually written or intended as the policies come down to us. He advised that we are not to that point yet, but as we are moving into July and these new policies start coming out to us in August and September, we need to have a plan in place to be able to go through these policies because 85 to 90 percent of these are law related to education. These policies are sent from the Legislature to our policies provider, Forethought Consultants, Inc. to be reviewed then sent to us for approval. Dr. Coker would like to bring this plan to the Board in June and hopefully have it ready for July. Nothing to be voted on today but something for the Board to be thinking about.

Upon the recommendation of Personnel Director Todd Guice, Shere May moved, seconded by, Tommy Comeaux, that the Board approve the *Supervisor of Safety and Security Job Description*, in which the position moves from **director** of safety and security to a **supervisor** position, as described by Mr. Guice. He pointed out that the highlighted changes were editorial changes indicating the position moving from **director** to a **supervisor** position with a couple of exceptions. The responsibility of overseeing our video surveillance systems in the district should fall in line with *Supervisor of Safety and*

Security. Mr. Guice stated that attorney Noah has helped him identify this position under the qualifications part, which would be a master's degree in education leadership supervision and at least five years as an administrator rather than a principal. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

A concerned citizen, Mr. Aaron Hoyle addressed the Board asking for their consideration of an adjustment in the way policies are voted on for approval. He acknowledged that policies currently under consideration whether there is one policy or 14 policies, get one agenda item and only one opportunity is provided for public comment and in most cases, policies get one vote whether or not it is one policy or 14. Mr. Hoyle suggested listing each policy consideration as a separate agenda item and vote on them separately. He commented that his number one concern is with the public comment because unless one really knows how to navigate the website, can go do the research and are able find out what policies are under consideration, one really walks in here blind as a community member. He thinks it would help if each item had its own agenda item, then people would be more informed and they would be better prepared to give comments. After listening intently to Mr. Hoyle's suggestions, the Board responded favorably to his request as they often referred back to the potential committee Dr. Coker plans to form where the public can have a voice. The Board took no action at this time, but will take Mr. Hoyle's suggestions on policy approval procedures under advisement.

Business Director Regina Mekus presented her 2021-22 Interim Financial Report for Period ended March 31, 2022. Ms. Mekus reported ending our period with a fund balance of \$33,072,025 in the General Fund and are currently operating at about 65% of our budget, which is exactly where we hoped to be at this point. In our District #1 M&O fund, we are ending the period with \$25,591,447. We are running a little lower in expenditures in this account because of different factors from ESSER Grants and supply chain issues, which means our fund balance is higher than we anticipated it to be at this time of year. We have had some issues in getting the larger items that we have needed right now. Steven in maintenance is waiting on two chillers that we had hoped would have been here a month ago. We are taking into consideration regarding the supply chain issues. Also in the M&O account is where we purchase our busses and Driver's Ed vehicles and are having trouble placing orders right now because these items are not even on State bid contracts. In taking all that into consideration, we may end the year with a little more funds in M&O than we had anticipated. Know that those funds will remain where they are allocated so we will be able to purchase items such as busses and Driver's Ed vehicles that we need right now but are unable to get. She assured the Board that when we are able to purchase these items, we will have the funds available. Ms. Mekus announced that she is in receipt of the Sales Tax Distribution funds in May that were collected in March 2022. In January 2022 collections were up 4% for the year, then in February collections grew to 8% and in March we are back down to 4% growth for the year. She made the Board aware that the Sales Tax Collections environment is fluctuating as we have seen tremendous growth over the last 18 months. However, now we are starting to see it level out some and now we will have to keep an eye on that and

as always will be very conservative when budgeting Sales Tax Collections to make sure that we are not spending something we don't have in hand. She referred the Board to Page 2 and stated that she doesn't normally talk about grant funds because our grant funds are typically cost reimbursement. That is whatever we spend is an approved budget and then we receive it back when we do a reimbursement request. But, if you'll look under grant funds, the second column, you'll see that we had quite a jump in expenditures for the grant funds and that was the \$6.6 million that is our normal monthly expenditures plus the expenditures that we had for the pandemic pay supplement that went out in the month of March. Referring to the last couple of pages just to give an overview of our three-year General Fund revenues, expenditures and fund balance to give a good comparison of where we are compared to where we've been over the last two years. Ms. Mekus' concluded her report and President Hicks called for a motion, whereby, Shere May moved, seconded by Scotty Waggoner, to approve the 2021-22 Interim Financial Report for the Period ended March 31, 2022 as presented. Motion unanimously carried by all members present.

Safety/Construction Supervisor Ken Slusher presented a copy of a proposal from the engineering firm Lazenby & Associates for parking lot additions at West Monroe High School that include more than 90 parking spaces in front of the school's tennis courts along Riggs Street. This is just a proposal as one can see from the photo and the site improvement plan. He will include the bidding of the contract award once a cost is established for the project and get it ready to put out for bid then come back to the Board with a cost for this project. Right now Mr. Slusher is asking for approval of this proposal only from Lazenby & Associates. Whereby, Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Shere May, that the Board approve the parking lot proposal at WMHS submitted by Lazenby & Associates as presented by Mr. Slusher with bids to be let after cost is established and evaluated for this project. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

Safety/Construction Supervisor Ken Slusher presented a project report from TBA Architects on the Boley Elementary/West Ouachita High/Riser restrooms construction projects. Mr. Slusher offered to answer any questions the Board may have regarding these projects. He reported they had their regular construction meeting at Boley this morning at 9:00 a.m. which went really well and showed progress. They are trying to catch up and get finished this month. Mr. Manley asked about the new Sterlington Middle School construction site. Mr. Slusher remarked that they have gotten all the footings in place and should start pouring the footings for the drives and right after that will be the slab. Mr. Graves said the foundation of dirt coming in looked good as they poured it and the compaction came back great. No experience of any bad dirt for a change. So far anyway, "Let's knock on wood," says Ken Slusher. They are starting from the gym and the cafeteria coming towards the front with the slabs and the construction. That is what you will see first from Keystone Road. Mrs. May asked when the opening date is for Boley? Mr. Slusher answered that it was the first day of school this fall. He believes the Boley construction will come to an end at the end of this month. Dr. Coker toured the

school this morning and remarked that (Boley) is an outstanding building and something that this community can be proud of.

On the recommendation of the Interim Purchasing Agent Waylon McCormick, Scotty Waggoner moved, seconded by Shere May, that the Board accept the bid for Welding Machines and Supplies at West Ouachita High from Matheson *[Bid No. 41-22]* funded through Westside Sales Tax funds with various budgets. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

On the recommendation of the Interim Purchasing Agent Waylon McCormick, Harold McCoy moved, seconded by Shere May, that the Board accept the bid for Reading K-2nd Grade from Amplify Education (*Louisiana Approved*) *[Bid No. 45-22]* funded through ESSER funds. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

On the recommendation of the Interim Purchasing Agent Waylon McCormick, Shere May moved, seconded by Harrold McCoy, that the Board accept the bid for Middle School Science Resource Kits from Aqua-Phoenix (*Louisiana Approved*) *[Bid No. 47-22]* funded through ESSER funds. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

On the recommendation of the Interim Purchasing Agent Waylon McCormick, Harold McCoy moved, seconded by Shere May, that the Board accept the bid from College Board (*Louisiana Approved*) for Algebra I/Algebra II/Geometry *[Bid No. 48-22]* funded through ESSER funds. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

On the recommendation of the Interim Purchasing Agent Waylon McCormick, Tommy Comeaux moved, seconded by Greg Manley, that the Board grant permission to bid the following items: **1)** Air Filters/Installation/Service *[Bid No. 49-22]* paid with All Funds; **2)** Food Service Large Equipment *[Bid No. FS5-23]* paid with CN Equipment funds; and **3)** Forklift for Warehouse *[Bid No. FS6-23]* paid with CN Equipment funds. Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

President Hicks set the next meeting to be held June 14, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.

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

OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Jerry R. Hicks, President

ATTEST:

Don Coker, Secretary

/ps