



Board Briefs

A report of the Beauregard Parish School Board meeting

The Beauregard Parish School Board met Thursday, November 14, 2019, with David Vidrine, president, District 3C, Darrin Manuel, vice president, District 4A, Martha Jackson, District 1, Casey Jones, District 2, Kathy Bruner, District 3A, Garrett Greene District 3B, Cassie Henry, District 3D, Ray Bowman, District 4B, Nikki Weldon, District 5, and Student Representative Courtney Smith present.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Timothy Cooley recognized Student Representative Courtney Smith who reported on Red Ribbon Week, Veterans Day, PWE Fun Run, Title I Reading Night, and Thanksgiving and Grandparent recognition activities at schools. She also updated the board on the Student Council Parish Officers leadership and teamwork building meeting.

Col. Ryan Roseberry of Fort Polk told the board about the Chief of Staff Panel visit from Washington, D.C., to the base as Fort Polk is being considered as an "Installation of Choice." The panel reviewed many aspects including education, housing, recreation, spouse employment opportunities, and other quality-of-life issues that concern military families. He stated that education was the number one issue of families moving to the area, and that initial impressions were not positive, but once families arrived and experienced the schools in the area, they were happy. One of the challenges is to provide more accurate information and to change the perception so that military families would choose to come to the area. He thanked Superintendent Cooley for personally attending a meeting with the panel, stating that his presence there sent a positive message to the panel. In addition, he expressed gratitude for the amazing and heart-felt experiences at local Veterans Day activities and the support that those who have served and are serving our country have in our community.

Title I Director Margie Hieronymus updated the board on the recent release of scores by the LDOE for Early Childhood, District Performance, and School Performance. She pointed out areas of strength such as the Early Childhood Network receiving an overall High Proficient rating, the District maintaining an overall "B" rating, and the sub-categories like Graduation Rate and Strength of Diploma where the district and high schools earned "A" ratings. She pointed out areas where the district will focus on improvement and expressed how the state will be changing the scoring formula and scoring ranges in the coming years.

Supervisor Eddie Joslin informed the board about the new App created by the Louisiana State Police – the Louisiana Panic Button – that will help improve safety on school campuses. The App will be used by school personnel for a variety of safety measures and is scheduled to be implemented in the fall of 2020.

Superintendent Cooley announced that Beauregard Parish schools will be observing American Education Week November 18-22, 2019, and thanked schools for sponsoring their Veterans Day programs.

October Financial Reports: The board received the financial report from the previous month. Superintendent Cooley reported that sales tax revenues were up for the month.

Revision to Supervisor Evaluation: The board approved a revision to the rating scale Form 101D, Supervisor Evaluation to align the BPSB form with the LDOE changes to a numerical value for ratings.

Phase I Bond Projects: The board formally approved architects for four Phase I bond projects - SBE Classrooms and DeRidder Elementary projects to Champeaux, Evans, and Hotard and MHS Cafeteria and EBE Classrooms – David Moss.

PWE Pine Tree Removal: Assistant Superintendent Marlin Ramsey apprised the board that there are several pine trees that must be removed on the PWE property due to damage, one of which has fallen down on the High School Drive side. In addition, several other pine trees will need to be removed prior to construction of the new school on that property. He asked to board to consider having other pine trees around the property removed at the same time, selling some of the lumber to offset the cost of the needed tree removal. The board asked to continue the discussion at the December board meeting to have more time to study the proposition.

BECI Agreement: The board approved a Right of Way Permit Servitude/Easement Agreement with BECI in the amount of \$4,151 concerning property at HYW 111 at the Junction near Merryville for upgrades to the existing lines already in place.

Policy Revision: The board approved final adoption for File: JS, Student Fees, Fines, and Charges. The policy provides that the School Board may impose student fees or charges for specific subjects or activities and will publish a Student Schedule of Fees which will be revised annually. Schools in the district will follow the schedule for consistency across the district. The schedule will be published on the BPSB webpage and in school handbooks. The policy outlines the process for an economic hardship waiver. School supply requests from classroom teachers will be reviewed by the principal and requests cannot exceed the published amount per student per school year. Students will not be denied the opportunity to participate in classroom activities due to inability to provide supplies requested, and academic records cannot be withheld for failure to pay a fee.