

## Minutes – February 13, 2020

The Beauregard Parish School Board met in regular session Thursday, February 13, 2020, at 6:00 pm in the Central Office Board Room. David Vidrine, Darrin Manuel, Ray Bowman, Garrett Greene, Cassie Henry, Wesley Taylor, Martha Jackson, Casey Jones, Nikki Weldon, and Student Representative Alternate Rachel Morvant were present. Kathy Bruner and Brylee Cooley were absent.

Timothy J. Cooley, Superintendent, was present and acted as secretary.

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Jeffrey Odom.

Upon motion of Casey Jones, seconded by Darrin Manuel, board members voted to approve the agenda as presented.

Next, Ray Bowman offered a motion to adopt the minutes of the January 9, 2020, regular meeting of the Beauregard Parish School Board as published in the official journal, which was seconded by Wesley Taylor. Upon voting, the minutes of the January 9, 2020, regular meeting were adopted as published in the official journal. Cassie Henry stated that she wished to abstain.

Before beginning his Superintendent's Report, Mr. Cooley recognized Student Representative Alternate Rachel Morvant. Ms. Morvant provided details of events and activities at many of the parish schools, including club activities and competitions, sporting events, service projects, and spring test preparations.

Colonel Ryan Roseberry was not able to attend the meeting, but Tiffany Koch, Fort Polk School Liaison, was present and conveyed his appreciation for everything the board was doing to support the children of military personnel.

Next, Superintendent Cooley recognized Kathleen Storer, a Merryville High School sixth grade student whose artwork received first place honors at the Beauregard Parish Fair, then went on to earn the first place award at the Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals (LAFF) competition. An image of her winning entry was displayed for board members.

Jennifer Stark has been named assistant principal at DeRidder Junior High School, she was "acting" for a time, but will now be serving in that position from January 6, 2020, through January 5, 2022. Brad Parmley will serve as Administrative Assistant at DeRidder High School from February 4, 2020, through June 22, 2020, filling the vacancy left by Jason Thibodeaux's departure shortly after mid-term. Contract renewals which will use the standard, 2-year contract include: Sonya Greene, East Beauregard High School Assistant Principal; Pam March, G. W. Carver Elementary Principal; P. J. Crowe, G. W. Carver Elementary Assistant Principal; and Shawn Baggett, Merryville High School Principal.

Mr. Cooley advised board members that the Discipline Policy Review Committee would have its annual meeting at 1:00 pm, on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at the Title I/Media Center.

Next, Marlin Ramsey reminded board members that toward the end of the last bond, the board agreed to move some money into the technology fund to help with the implementation of the Google Classroom Initiative, and thanked Dana Daughety for her work toward achieving this goal across the parish. (Nikki Weldon arrived during this presentation.) Board members were each provided with a Chromebook computer to use during a demonstration lesson, and Ms. Daughety gave board members a brief overview of some of the features of Google Classroom, including how to create and edit Google Sheets (a spreadsheet program similar to Microsoft Excel) and how to use Kami (a program that can allow some editing of Adobe .pdf files.) Board members observed that learning the skills necessary to work within the digital environment was no longer an option for students; it was necessary for their future success.

Following the Google Classroom demonstration, Marlin Ramsey introduced Micheal Goodwin, Chief Operating Officer of Server@Work, who presented an update to the Technology Roadmap detailing progress made in implementing the recommendations that were presented previously. Mr. Goodwin began by summarizing the report, beginning with the cybersecurity alert that was issued by the State of Louisiana in response to a massive ransomware attack on schools and government agencies, noting that Louisiana is one of only a handful of states with a Cybersecurity Task Force to deal with such threats. Board members learned that the state expected all districts to follow certain steps to mitigate the damage from such attacks and explained that the Beauregard Parish School System was already using a software package that met the state's criteria. Because of Beauregard Parish's preparedness and response, there was little disruption and almost no downtime. Mr. Goodwin went on to explain other areas where work has been completed, including replacement of aging servers to include "virtual" testing servers; eliminating the need for separate, dedicated servers. Faulty fiber installations were repaired by Conterra, at no additional cost. Also, the licensing agreements for Microsoft Office software were upgraded to enable the use of Office 365, and upgrade or replacement of Windows 7 computers—which are no longer protected by Microsoft Support updates—with Windows 10 systems was in progress. Replacement of computers was discussed for a time, and board members heard that the per-unit costs for replacement computers are declining and may decline further as more Chromebooks are deployed. Mr. Ramsey noted that the goal was to provide a set of Chromebooks in every classroom. Addressing technology work orders, Mr. Goodwin informed board members that currently a little more than 200 tickets remained out of 500+ at the beginning of the school year, with about 25% of those being related to Promethean boards. Discussion continued as Mr. Goodwin reviewed the individual items on the Technology Roadmap, including cameras and printers/copiers. Ms. Simmons explained the switch from purchasing copiers outright to leasing from Alexandria Business Machines, and noted that the problems with the scan/print function on the copiers had been resolved with the cooperation of ABM. Hiring was mentioned as an item needing technology attention, and board members learned that although there was no specific software for this, the new website had the capability for

applicants to complete and submit their full applications online, including uploading resumes and certificates, without having to visit the office at all. Mr. Ramsey offered to have Ms. Daughety prepare a demonstration of the new feature in the future. Fort Polk School Liaison Tiffany Koch added that Colonel Roseberry had expressed that he was extremely pleased that the Beauregard Parish School System was one of the only districts in the area to have implemented a digital application process, which allows military spouses to begin submitting employment applications as soon as their families receive orders that they will be relocating to this area.

The next agenda item was to award Request for Proposals (RFP) for Category 2 E-rate funds. Tina Simmons began by reminding board members that in December 2019, Ms. Hieronymus had advised board members that it would soon be time to solicit proposals for Category 2 E-rate funds, noting that they had already approved the RFP for Category 1 E-rate funds. Board members learned that only one vendor had submitted a proposal for the Category 2 funds within the published time frame: Presidio Networked Solutions, LLC. One vendor had tried to turn in an RFP after the closing of the time to submit proposals and was ineligible. The total amount of the award was \$1,169,927, but the amount for which the board would be responsible was 20%, or \$233,985.40. Category 2 items include switches, cabling, racks, routers, UPS, wireless controllers, software, and all related installation costs. It was recommended to award the E-rate Category 2 funds for 2020-2021 to Presidio Networked Solutions, LLC for 1 year, with 4 years of voluntary extensions, beginning July 1, 2020, for the approximate amount of \$1,169,927. Board members were advised that some of these funds will help outfit the new schools with technology services and equipment, and that it might be possible to cover the 20% with bond funds. There was some discussion of the vendor who was late submitting the proposal, and Ms. Simmons advised that by law she was unable to open the bid. Board members were advised that should they choose to reject this proposal, E-rate regulations would prohibit the board from soliciting proposals again for a year, essentially missing out on the funds for this year. Ms. Simmons was asked to take note of the time the first year would end, to allow for sufficient time to reassess whether Presidio still represented the best value for the board. Garrett Greene offered a motion to award the E-rate Category 2 funds for 2020-2021 to Presidio Networked Solutions, LLC for 1 year, with 4 years of voluntary extensions, beginning July 1, 2020, for the approximate amount of \$1,169,927. The motion was seconded by Casey Jones and approved upon voting.

Next, board members heard a recommendation from the Finance Committee, which was a motion to accept the audit reports for FYE 19. Board members were reminded that the reports were presented and discussed at the Monday, February 10, 2020, Finance Committee meeting. There being no additional discussion, upon voting, board members voted to accept the audit reports for FYE 19.

The next recommendation came from the Building & Grounds Committee, a motion to proceed with the DOTD permitting process and purchase of flashing school zone lights at South Beauregard and East Beauregard. In response to a question about speed limits in front of East Beauregard, board members learned that outside of school hours, the speed limit on Hwy 113 was 55 mph.

The next agenda item was a recommendation from the Policy Committee to continue policy File:JS, Student Fees, Fines, and Charges without modification for the 2020-2021 school year. There being no additional discussion, board members voted in favor of continuing policy File:JS, Student Fees, Fines, and Charges without modification for the 2020-2021 school year.

The final item for board members was to receive the committee assignments for 2020. Mr. Vidrine stated that first the board should adopt a motion to have committees consisting of a Finance Committee, Building and Grounds Committee, Policy Committee, Calendar Committee, and the Discipline Policy Review Committee. Upon motion of Cassie Henry, seconded by Wesley Taylor, board members voted to have the committees listed above. Mr. Vidrine announced the following committee assignments:

Finance Committee: All board members

Building & Grounds Committee: Chair - Wesley Taylor, Ray Bowman, Cassie Henry, Darrin Manuel, Nikki Weldon

Policy Committee: Chair -- Cassie Henry, Kathy Bruner, Garrett Greene, Martha Jackson, Casey Jones

Calendar Committee: Casey Jones, who will represent the four-day schools, and Garrett Greene, representing the five-day schools.

Discipline Policy Review Committee: Nikki Weldon

There being no further business, the board meeting was adjourned.

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Secretary

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President