

Minutes – June 11, 2020

The Beauregard Parish School Board met in regular session Thursday, June 11, 2020, at 6:00 pm in the Central Office Board Room. Board members in attendance: David Vidrine, Darrin Manuel, Ray Bowman, Garrett Greene, Cassie Henry, Wesley Taylor, Casey Jones, Nikki Weldon, and Student Representative Brylee Cooley. Kathy Bruner and Martha Jackson were absent.

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

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Debbie Dixon.

David Vidrine began by asking if everyone had received an agenda, stating that he would entertain a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Darrin Manuel offered a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, which was seconded by Casey Jones. In discussing the agenda, Ray Bowman expressed an interest in adopting a resolution similar to the one adopted by the Calcasieu Parish School Board, requesting that the Louisiana Department of Education grant autonomy to local districts in determining when and at what capacity schools would re-open. Mr. Bowman also questioned the wording of Item #6: To consider issuing a Request for Proposal for Athletic Training Services, expressing concern that the wording seemed to suggest that a change in procedure was being made. Mr. Bowman noted that, in his research, it did not appear that a Request for Proposal was used during the last two Athletic Training Services contract awards, in 2016 and 2018. After additional discussion, it was agreed to move forward with the adoption of the agenda, and to reserve further discussion until the appropriate time. Upon voting, the agenda was adopted as presented.

Next, upon motion of Wesley Taylor, seconded by Nikki Weldon, board members voted in favor of adopting the minutes of the May 21, 2020, regular meeting as published in the official journal.

Before beginning the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Cooley welcomed Brylee Cooley back to share her first Student Representative's Report, since the pandemic forced schools to close in March. Board members learned that summer school had gotten underway for those students who qualified to attend and that the LHSAA (Louisiana High School Athletic Association) was permitting practices and workouts to begin contingent upon maintaining appropriate social distancing and sanitizing procedures.

Next, board members learned that Colonel Ryan Roseberry was unable to be present. Tiffany Koch delivered remarks on behalf of Colonel Roseberry, beginning by introducing his Executive Officer, Captain Michelle Dowdy. According to Ms. Koch, Colonel Roseberry was in Baton Rouge for the ceremonial signing of House Bill 613, which will ease requirements for military spouses with a valid educational license from another state, so that they may be employed immediately, rather than wait for the state to issue a Louisiana teaching certificate. Board members learned that the Army was celebrating a birthday, and Ms. Koch stated that the Joint Readiness Training Center was beginning another rotation. Ms. Koch also expressed appreciation on behalf of Colonel Roseberry for everything that BPSB has done for military families during this time.

Mr. Cooley advised board members that Grant Schlueter is not recommending that the board proceed with refinancing the 2012-series bonds at this time. The board has already approved the sale, but according to Mr. Schlueter, the interest rates are not favorable at this time. Refunding the bonds now would produce only around \$10,000 worth of savings to taxpayers, so both Mr. Schlueter and Ms. Stephanie Ferry (with Raymond James Munici;al Advisors) agree that the bond sale should be postponed until interest rates come down.

Sales tax supplement amounts were announced: certified staff will receive \$2,100; support staff, \$1,400; and retirees, \$205.14.

The flashing beacons for the South Beauregard And East Beauregard school zones have arrived and board members were told that DOTD would be helping with placement and installation. In response to a question, Mr. Cooley advised board members that the DOTD has been onsite in front of the South Beauregard-area schools recently to explore the possibility of using grant funds to address the traffic congestion in that area. Mr. Cooley assured board members that he would provide updates when these became available.

Mr. Cooley requested that Kim Hayes, Director of Curriculum, provide board members with an update on summer school. According to Ms. Hayes, about 165 students were attending summer school from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm four days each week, and 15 students are attending classes completely online. There were additional students who started attending virtually, but then switched to the onsite instruction, which began June 8 and ends July 16, giving students 19 days of instruction. The focus during the summer school days will be English-Language Arts (ELA) and math, for those students who were struggling during the first three quarters of the year. Numbers are being kept very low to ensure that recommended social distancing be observed. Four days of remediation for the End-of-Course (EOC) testing would be held prior to the retest administration in July, according to Ms. Hayes. Mr. Cooley stated that lots of training in providing virtual learning was being provided, and it was hoped that in July, more information could be shared regarding how the beginning of the 2020-21 school year might look.

Next, board members learned that it was time to appoint the official journal for 2020-2021. Lesia Casanovas advised board members that Louisiana Revised Statute 43:141 requires public governmental agencies to select an official journal at their first meeting in June, noting that the *Beauregard Daily News* was the only publication meeting the guidelines established in the statute. It was recommended to appoint the *Beauregard Daily News* as the board's official journal for 2020-2021. Darrin Manuel offered a motion to appoint the *Beauregard Daily News* as its official journal for fiscal year 2020-2021, which was seconded by Cassie Henry. Before voting, Mr. Cooley shared a written statement from Lauren Blankenship, who had hoped to be in attendance, but was unable to attend. In her comments, she expressed appreciation to the board for helping make the coverage provided on education in Beauregard Parish by the paper accurate and informative, noting that education is the most important topic on which the *Beauregard Daily News* reports. Following the reading of Ms. Blankenship's remarks, upon voting, the motion to appoint the *Beauregard Daily News* as the official journal of the Beauregard Parish School board for 2020-2021 was approved.

Lesia Casanovas advised board members that it was time to consider the lease agreement with Valley Service, LLC, d/b/a TRIO Community Meals for the use of the cafeteria facilities at the Title I/Media Center for

preparing and serving senior meals. Ms. Casanovas explained that this company had been providing meals for the last three or four years, but this year they underwent a name change. There were no changes to the contract provisions, nor to the amount of rent they would pay, which remains at \$80 per month, so Ms. Casanovas stated that she recommended approving the agreement. Upon motion of Ray Bowman, seconded by Nikki Weldon, board members voted to approve the lease agreement with Valley Service, LLC, d/b/a TRIO Community Meals for the use of the cafeteria facilities at the Title I/Media Center for preparing and serving senior meals, from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.

The next item on the agenda was to consider approving the Fiscal Agent Agreement for FYE 2021. Ms. Casanovas advised board members that monthly reporting of pledged securities has already been implemented, which represents a change from quarterly reporting in the previous Fiscal Agent Agreement. Most bank representatives felt it would not be an issue to state 106% on the agreement as they generally keep the pledged securities amounts a little over the required 100% anyway to allow for market fluctuations and other contingencies; however, one bank expressed concern that this would not be the amount agreed upon with their other government agency customers and could affect their decision to enter into the agreement with BPSB. Ms. Casanovas asked if the board wished to send the agreement to all banks with 106% and the general consensus was in favor of this. In discussion, board members were reminded that when financial institutions fail to keep enough pledged securities, it can result in audit findings for the school board. It was hoped that future audit findings might be avoided, if the banks agreed to maintain 106% of pledged securities. Upon motion of Wesley Taylor seconded by Garrett Greene, board members voted to approve the Fiscal Agent Agreement, with monthly reporting and 106% of pledged securities included in the wording.

To consider issuing a Request for Proposal for Athletic Training Services was next on the agenda. Darrin Manuel offered a motion to issue a Request for Proposal for Athletic Training Services, which was seconded by Cassie Henry. Beginning the discussion, a question was asked about whether any contract proposals had already been received and why the board would consider seeking proposals for a free service with which the schools already seem to be satisfied? Mr. Ramsey indicated that the Center for Orthopaedics (formerly Imperial Health) had stepped in to fill the service gap when Beauregard Health Systems withdrew from their agreement twice during the last year, and was prepared to make an offer to provide all of the services to the parish athletes for the next 2 year contract period, but this contract development was put on hold when the possibility of having to prepare and submit an RFP was mentioned. Board members discussed the pros of seeking RFPs, which might allow a comparison of the frequency of visits by the athletic trainer and the types of services which would be rendered; and the cons, which include losing the rapport established between the trainers and athletes, and possibly not receiving future athletic training services at no charge. Mr. Ramsey provided a review to board members of the sequence of events precipitated by Beauregard Health Systems withdrawing from the Athletic Training Services agreement twice and Center for Orthopaedics (formerly Imperial Health) picking up the services at those schools formerly serviced by BMH. Board members were advised that the Center for Orthopaedics had requested satisfaction surveys after each of the past several years and have a satisfaction rating of 98% - 100%. Mr. Ramsey explained that the reason an RFP was not sought the first time BMH had withdrawn, was because there was only about a week before the football season kicked off, which would have left DeRidder High School without any athletic trainer, until RFPs could be issued and opened, then brought before the board. Then, after the Center for Orthopaedics had willingly agreed without hesitation to “fill the gap” left by the BMH departure, it just seemed “wrong” to tell them we were going to seek other providers. After additional discussion, Ray Bowman offered a substitute motion to renew the contract with the Center for Orthopaedics (formerly Imperial Health) to provide Athletic Training Services for two years, which was seconded by Nikki Weldon, and approved upon voting by a margin of 5 yeas to 3 nays (Henry, Manuel, and Vidrine.)

The final agenda item was to hear recommendations from the Finance Committee. Wesley Taylor offered a motion to consider items 7a - 7g *in globo*, or all together. The motion to consider the Finance Committee recommendations *in globo* was seconded by Casey Jones and approved upon voting. Upon voting, the following motions from the Finance Committee were approved *in globo*:

- a. Motion to accept RFP from J. Aaron Cooper, CPA, LLC for School District Audit with 12 schools for total amount of \$45,000.
- b. Motion to award bid for Bread and Bakery Products to Flowers Baking Company for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$28,177.
- c. Motion to award bid for Milk and Related Products to Oak Farms Dairy for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$192,869.50.
- d. Motion to award bid for Frozen Foods in Group A to William George Company, Inc., and Frozen Foods in Group B to Lamm Food Service for the 2020-2021 school year.
- e. Motion to award bid for Produce to William George Company, Inc., for the 2020-2021 school year.
- f. Motion to award bid for Staple Foods in Group A to William George Company, Inc., and Staple Foods in Group B to Lamm Food Service for the 2020-2021 school year.
- g. Motion to award bid for Paper Goods in Group A to William George Company, Inc., and Paper Goods in Group B to West Central Wholesale for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

Secretary

President