

The Beauregard Parish School Board met in regular session Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 6:00 pm in the Central Office Board Room. David Vidrine, Darrin Manuel, Ray Bowman, Kathy Bruner, Garrett Greene, Cassie Henry, Wesley Taylor, Martha Jackson, Casey Jones, Nikki Weldon, and Student Representative Brylee Cooley were present.

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

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Anthea Fontenot.

Upon motion of President David Vidrine, seconded by Wesley Taylor, board members voted to approve an amendment to the agenda "To consider going into Executive Session under LA R.S. 42:17 to discuss a case of possible extraordinary emergency." Board members were reminded that to amend an agenda required a unanimous vote of all members present. Upon voting, the amended agenda was adopted.

Next, upon voting, the minutes of the February 13, 2020, regular meeting were adopted as published in the official journal.

Before beginning his Superintendent's Report, Mr. Cooley recognized Student Representative Brylee Cooley. Ms. Cooley began by sharing with board members the different activities that were planned or had taken place recently beginning with a Math Bee at Carver Elementary, and including a Career Day, a wear-green-for-St. Patrick's-Day fundraiser benefitting Relay for Life, a Silent Auction and Science Explorer events (at Pine Wood Elementary. Parish elementary students will take part in the Physical Fitness meet in late March. Merryville High School girls' basketball team was named a semi-finalist in the state tournament, the EdRising class at South Beauregard High School placed second in state competition, the Wrestling Team at SBHS had several students place in the state top 10, and the Rodeo Team placed first in the state for team roping. Members of the Future Business Leaders of America across the parish qualified to compete at the state convention in Lafayette and Beauregard Parish sent several students to the state Literary Rally. Juniors and Seniors will be taking the ACT this month and preparation continues for the End-of-Course tests.

Tiffany Koch, School Liaison Officer for Fort Polk, conveyed greetings to the board from Colonel Ryan Roseberry. Colonel Roseberry was unable to attend due to his participation at a farewell ceremony for the Fort Polk Sergeant-Major. Colonel Roseberry asked Ms. Koch to advise the board that he was wrapping up his tour of the Vernon Parish schools and would like to begin touring the Beauregard Parish schools, soon.

Mr. Cooley recognized the South Beauregard High School EdRising class, some of whom were present and congratulated them, noting that these were students who were preparing to pursue a career in Education. In addition, members of a Boy Scouts troop attended the meeting as one of the requirements to earn a citizenship badge.

Next, Mr. Cooley asked Mr. Mike Lavergne to deliver his annual report on the 4-H program in Beauregard Parish. Mr. Lavergne gave a folder of information to board members detailing the particulars of the program currently, especially describing the new "Clover Buds" program started as an introduction to the 4-H program for 3rd graders, and several students shared their experiences in 4-H with board members.

Mr. Cooley stated that March was Youth Art Month and encouraged board members to visit the gallery to view examples of student art from around Beauregard Parish. A public reception will be held at the gallery on March 28 to honor these young artists. Board members learned that "The Coffee Bean," a motivational presentation, will be open to all 9-12 graders on March 14 at 2:00 in the Exhibition Hall at the Beauregard Parish Fairgrounds.

Board members were advised that in the very near future, an advertisement for a Payroll Accountant would appear, as Donna Williams has announced her retirement at the end of the summer. Also, Tina Simmons, Purchasing Agent, will be retiring near the end of June. Board members were advised that if someone already in the department is selected, they may see the newly vacant position advertised, as well.

Mr. Cooley shared that there was one contract renewal to report: Cassady Hickingbottom will have her contract renewed with the standard administrative contract from September 24, 2020, through September 23, 2022.

To conclude the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Cooley called board members' attention to a letter to that had been placed in their folders explaining the precautions that people should take and steps that all Beauregard Parish schools are taking to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The next item on the agenda was to recognize the Beauregard Parish Students of the Year. Kari Iffland spoke to board members about the rigorous selection process, which includes a 3.5 grade point average over 4 consecutive school years, submission of a 25-page portfolio detailing their activities and community involvement, a timed writing assignment and a 15-minute interview at each level. The Beauregard Parish Elementary Student of the Year, Anna Clary, of South Beauregard Upper Elementary, was presented by Principal Wesley Henry. The Beauregard Parish Middle School Student of the Year, Camryn Reeves, was recognized by Jeffrey Odom, East Beauregard High School Principal, and Joey Bartz, South Beauregard High School Principal, introduced Maria Fontenot the Beauregard Parish High School Student of the Year. Each of these students received a plaque in honor of their accomplishments.

Board members were asked to consider approval of the 4-day and 5-day calendars for the 2020-2021 school year. Cord Ensminger reviewed the process of developing the calendars, explaining the difference in professional development days between the two and advising that because November had a

federal election day, a holiday was necessary. Board members heard that school administrators were consulted and approved of the calendars. There was discussion of the Mardi Gras and Easter holidays, and Casey Jones offered a motion to adopt the 4-day and 5-day calendars for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. The motion was seconded by Darrin Manuel and approved upon voting.

Next, board members heard recommendations from the Discipline Policy Review Committee. There was one recommendation, a motion to approve the Discipline Policy and the School Uniform Dress Code for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Vidrine explained the process, noting that the motion had two parts, and advised that since there were several public participation requests, the two parts would be considered separately. Eddie Joslin began reviewing the four suggested revisions to the Discipline Policy, beginning with the policy on bus violations. Board members learned that currently the bus violation policy provided In-School Suspension for bus violations, which removed the student from the classroom, but put them back on the bus where they had gotten into trouble to go home. The proposed change would remove them from the bus for a time, making the consequences match the violations. Board members learned that the second change to be recommended was for the cell phone policy, to provide a way for parents to retrieve a confiscated device sooner than under the current policy. This was necessary, according to Mr. Joslin, to prevent a student whose phone was confiscated near the end of the day on a Friday from being without his or her phone over the entire weekend and seemed prudent given the current cost of these devices. The third proposed revision dealt with fighting without a weapon, and Mr. Joslin explained that an increase in the number of fights had prompted him to consider beefing up the penalties for fighting (without a weapon.) The final change being requested is to remove e-cigarettes or “vapes” from the section on smoking and possession of tobacco products and give them a separate section in the handbook, with first-occurrence penalties of 3 days Out-of-School Suspension, a school-based hearing, and mandatory viewing of educational videos detailing the damaging effects of vaping. Board members asked a few questions about different scenarios pertaining to cell phones and fighting, specifically whether the instigator of a fight would face a more severe penalty, and Mr. Joslin explained that the violation was the same, regardless of who hit first, but assured board members that there would be consideration of self-defense on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Vidrine asked if board members wanted to consider these recommendations separately or *in globo*. Nikki Weldon offered a motion to consider all of the Discipline Policy recommendations at one time, which was seconded by Kathy Bruner. Upon voting, the motion to consider the four discipline recommendations together was approved. Next, upon voting, all four of the changes recommended by the Discipline Policy Review Committee were approved.

Following action on the Discipline Policy, Mr. Vidrine stated that the discussion on the School Uniform Dress Code would begin. Cassie Henry opened the discussion with a motion to allow jeans as an acceptable pant on the school uniform dress code, stipulating that jeans would have to meet the same guidelines as khaki or navy pants, with no holes, rips, or tears, which was seconded by Kathy Bruner. Nikki Weldon asked to amend the motion to add “no excessive fading, faux tears, or jewels.” The amendment was seconded by Ray Bowman. After discussion, both the original motion and the amendment were withdrawn, and Cassie Henry offered the following motion, which was seconded by Kathy Bruner: To add blue jeans to the school uniform dress code as an acceptable pant. Blue jeans shall meet the same requirements as khaki and navy blue pants, with no holes, rips, tears, excessive fading, faux tears, or jewels. At this point the board heard from members of the audience regarding the proposed change to the school uniform dress code. Following the public comment period, board members discussed the “excessive fading” for a time, expressing concern that the decision would be subjective, noting that this was not specified as being applicable to khaki or navy blue pants. When a voice vote was inconclusive, Mr. Vidrine called for a roll call vote. Voting in favor of adding blue jeans to the school uniform dress code as an acceptable pant. : Ray Bowman, Kathy Bruner, Cassie Henry, Wesley Taylor, Martha Jackson, Casey Jones, and Nikki Weldon. Voting against adding blue jeans: David Vidrine, Darrin Manuel, and Garrett Greene. The motion was passed. Following this vote, Cassie Henry moved to strike “no jeans, khaki or any other color,” as well as the provision that “brand names, emblems, or logos, showing outwardly, must be small and non-distracting,” and to move “blue jeans” to the “Acceptable Attire” column, but “jeggings (any color)” will remain in the “Not Acceptable” column, with no changes to shorts. Casey Jones offered a second to this motion which was adopted upon voting. Following this vote, Garrett Green offered a motion to strike all shirts from the dress code except for school-sponsored, school-created, spirit shirts, pullovers, and sweatshirts. This motion was seconded by Wesley Taylor and board members discussed hoodies and pullovers at length. An amendment was offered to leave the uniform dress code provisions for shirts in place, but to require hoodies and pullover sweatshirts be school-sponsored or school created. Upon voting the amendment failed. Following this vote, Mr. Green withdrew his original motion. Mr. Bowman offered a motion to strike the verbiage under facial hair for students and to allow high school students to wear non-excessive facial hair. Ms. Henry seconded the motion, and when the voice vote was inconclusive, a roll call vote was called. Voting in favor of allowing non-excessive facial hair for high school students: Ray Bowman, Kathy Bruner, Garrett Greene, Cassie Henry, and Nikki Weldon. Voting against: David Vidrine, Darrin Manuel, Casey Jones, Wesley Taylor, and Martha Jackson. The motion to allow non-excessive facial hair for high school students failed on a tie vote.

After a short break, board members heard a recommendation from the Finance Committee, which was a motion to approve Budget Revision #1 for FYE 2020. After discussing additional information which was placed in their folders, board members voted in favor of approving Budget Revision #1 for FYE 2020.

Next, board members were to consider two recommendations from the Building and Grounds Committee. The first recommendation was a motion to authorize the liquidation of a fixed asset. Upon voting this motion was approved. The second recommendation was a motion to approve the plans and

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specifications for bid for the South Beauregard Elementary School building addition for the Beauregard Parish School Board. Ms. Simmons responded to a question about the dates for the bidding by reminding board members that the advertisement for bids must run for 25 days by law, which would be dependent upon when the architect has the bid specifications prepared. Mr. Manuel requested assurance that future development would be a consideration when making drainage improvements, beginning dirt work, planning for water service and making future restroom additions. Upon voting the motion was approved.

Next, board members were asked to consider going into Executive Session under LA R.S. 42:17 to discuss a case of possible extraordinary emergency. Upon motion of Wesley Taylor, seconded by Kathy Bruner, board members voted to move into Executive Session. Upon motion of Ray Bowman, seconded by Wesley Henry, board members voted to come out of the Executive Session and return to open meeting. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

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

Secretary

President

Special Board Meeting: March 19, 2020

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD OF THE PARISH OF BEAUREGARD, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A SPECIAL MEETING HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020

The Parish School Board of Beauregard Parish met in Special Session on Thursday, March 19, 2020, beginning at 2:00 o'clock (2:00) pm, in the Beauregard Parish School Board Central Office, at 202 W. Third Street, DeRidder, LA., pursuant to the following written notice given to each and every member thereof and duly posted in the manner required by law:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a SPECIAL MEETING of the Beauregard Parish School Board of the Parish of Beauregard, State of Louisiana, has been ordered and called and will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2020, beginning at 2:00 o'clock (2:00) pm, in the Beauregard Parish School Board Central Office, at 202 W. Third Street, DeRidder, LA.

*1. To consider going into Executive Session under LA R.S. 42:17 to discuss a case of possible extraordinary emergency.

*2. To consider adopting a resolution declaring a public emergency.

Board members present were President David Vidrine, Darrin Manuel, Kathy Bruner, Garrett Greene, Cassie Henry, Wesley Taylor, Martha Jackson, Casey Jones, and Nikki Weldon. Ray Bowman was absent.

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

The invocation and pledge were led by Garrett Greene.

Darrin Manuel offered a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, which was seconded by Wesley Taylor and approved upon voting.

The first item on the agenda was to consider going into Executive Session under LA R.S. 42:17 to discuss a case of possible extraordinary emergency. Mr. Vidrine stated that he would entertain a motion to proceed with an Executive Session. Upon motion of Casey Jones, seconded by Cassie Henry, board members voted to go into Executive Session under LA R.S. 42:17 to discuss a case of possible extraordinary emergency. Cassie Henry left the meeting during the Executive Session.

Upon motion of Garrett Greene, seconded by Kathy Bruner, board members voted to come out of Executive Session and move back into open meeting to address the next agenda item: To consider adopting a resolution declaring a public emergency. After confirming that all board members had received a copy of the resolution, Mr. Vidrine gave board members a few minutes to look through it. Mr. Cooley explained that adopting such a resolution would make it possible to apply for federal disaster relief and noted that he had asked whether the OEP (Office of Emergency Preparedness) resolution declaring a disaster parishwide would be sufficient. The prevailing thought was that it would be wise for each agency to adopt individual, agency-specific disaster resolutions. Board members inquired about the origin of the resolution document and learned the template had been provided by the Louisiana School Boards Association (LSBA.) There was discussion about the provisions included in the document, including the provision for purchases that would exceed an amount that normally would require seeking bids and board action. Board members were assured that purchases of this nature would only apply to costs of operations, not capital projects. Mr. Cooley explained that another parish had failed to adopt a resolution declaring an emergency after Hurricane Katrina, thinking that they were covered by their parish OEP resolution, and as a result had to fight several extra months for reimbursement of any of their costs. Mr. Vidrine pointed out that the resolution included language intended to ensure that the superintendent will keep the board informed in writing and at regular intervals of the amount of money or actions taken by the superintendent, pursuant to the declaration, and indicated that a copy of the resolution should be placed in the official minute book.

Upon motion of Kathy Bruner, seconded by Darrin Manuel, board members voted in favor of adopting a resolution declaring a public emergency.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary

President