The Ouachita Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at twelve (12:00) o'clock p.m. at its regular meeting place, the Ouachita Parish School Board office.

Note: There were no comment cards completed for any agenda business item addressed in this meeting. Additionally, there were no remote requests for any agenda business item addressed in this meeting.

Presence of the following members was verified through roll call: Tommy Comeaux, Shere May, Mike Batey, Jerry R. Hicks, Harold McCoy, Dabo Graves, and Greg Manley.

President Tommy Comeaux called the meeting to order as he welcomed the visitors and guests, followed by the presentation of colors by West Ouachita High School NJROTC, Pledge of Allegiance by Greg Manley and the Invocation offered by Chief Darrius Stewart.

Shere May made the motion, seconded by Jerry Hicks, to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2024 regular meeting as well as the April 29, 2024 Special Called Meeting as written. Motion carried without opposition.

Shere May made a motion to approve the Agenda. Mike Batey seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

During the Personnel Report, Superintendent Guice announced the newly filled positions of Principal at Drew Elementary, Jenea Freeman, Principal at Riverbend Elementary, Veleka Gray, and Principal at Swartz Upper Elementary, D'Anne Bennett. He also announced the following positions to be opened and advertised: Special Education Supervisor, Assistant Principals at Richwood High, West Monroe High (2), Richwood Middle, Drew Elementary, Central Elementary and Swartz Upper Elementary. As well as Pupil Appraisal Coordinator, and Curriculum Coordinators at Good Hope Middle, Ouachita Junior and Riverbend Elementary.

Mr. Comeaux introduced Aline Smead with the first item of business, Special Recognitions. The first recognition and Congratulations go to the Sterlington High School Lady Panthers as the Louisiana State Softball Champions for 2024, followed by the West Monroe High Rebels as the Louisiana State Baseball Champions for 2024.

Our next recognition was an award of excellence to Bryce Watkins, a 4th grade student at Boley Elementary for his heroism on the school bus when he came to the aid of the Bus Aide during a medical emergency.

The next recognition was to East Ouachita Middle School student, Lillianna Rose, for being a Louisiana Student of the Year Finalist.

The next two recognitions go to John Wesley Floyd and Brantley Martin, the only Ouachita Parish students making the prestigious list of National Merit Scholars.

The next congratulations go to Kristen Gix, who was recognized as a 2024 Louisiana Exemplary Educator by the Department of Education.

Finally yet importantly, we honored a staunch supporter of the Ouachita Parish School Board, Ms. Viola Duncan, for diligently attending every board meeting for over 40 years.

Chief Darrius Stewart presented the second item of business with his announcement of the North Louisiana Teen Summit that he will be hosting at the Monroe Civic Center on June 15, 2024 for students 13 to 19 years old.

Board Member Greg Manley presented the third item of business, Discussion of and potential contractual action against Don M. Barron Contractor, Inc. relating to the delayed progress of Sterlington Middle School Project. Rice Gregory of Rice Gregory & Associates explained the delayed progress by giving a Time Line Summary of the project as well as the Terms of the Contract, recommending the Board place the contractor in default. Bill Brasher, who represented the contractor, said the slow progress was due to issues with the steel erector on the project. After much discussion, Greg Manley made the motion to move that the Ouachita Parish School Board declare the general contractor, Don M. Barron, Inc., to be in default of the contract concerning the Sterlington Middle School construction project, and to authorize the Superintendent to issue any required notices related thereto. Dabo Graves seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The fourth item of business, Consider approval of Statement of Voluntary Participation – RE: East Town & Country Drainage Improvement Project, was introduced by Elmer Noah and presented by Joshua Hays from Lazenby & Associates. Mr. Hayes explained this project is being funded by FEMA and the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency and requires a signed Voluntary Participation Agreement and permission for Right of Way to proceed. After discussion, Greg Manley made a motion to sign the Agreement and give them the Right of Way, seconded by Dabo Graves. Motion passed without opposition.

The fifth item of business, Consideration and selection of Engineer for Baseball and Softball turf fields at WOHS, was introduced with Mike Batey making a motion to select Simpson Sports as Engineer, seconded Jerry Hicks, Motion passed unanimously.

Mike Batey presented the sixth item of business, Consideration and selection of architect for Good Hope Middle additions and improvements making a motion to select TBA Studios as architect for the project, seconded by Harold McCoy. Shere May abstained stating “I am recusing myself out of an abundance of precautions as I have a family member employed by a related company.” She also added, “With that being said, we have used TBA for many years. The quality of their work is beyond question.” The motion passed unanimously with the remainder of the board voting yes.

Carrie Ferguson and Jennifer Nichols presented the seventh item of business. Policy GAMB, Employee Dress Code and Policy JCDB, Student Dress Code, and KFA, Public Conduct on School Property, for approval. Harold McCoy made a motion to

approve these three policies, seconded by Jerry Hicks. Motion carried without opposition.

Jason Thompson presented items #8, Consideration and approval to change the title of Assistive Technology Facilitator to Assistive Technology Coordinator and the job description requirements. Harold McCoy made the motion to approve this change, seconded by Mike Batey. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #9, Consideration and approval to add "Professionalism/Performance/Competency" section to all previously approved job descriptions for all certified employees was presented by Jason Thompson. Jerry Hicks made the motion to approve the change, seconded by Harold McCoy. Motion passed without opposition.

Regina Mekus presented Item #10, Financial Report for period ending March 31, 2024. The report includes 3 years of data for comparison. She stated we are in the 9th month of the year with a current general fund balance of $45,600,000, which is 113% of last year, and District 1 M & O is at 97% from last year. Ms. Mekus informed the board we will begin spending down the fund balance from where it grew during the pandemic and there will be a budget revision in June.

Jared Peters presented Item # 11, Consider approval of change order to Bid #30-23 Security Access Points-Highland Elementary Canopy. Jerry Hicks made a motion to approve the change order, seconded by Mike Batey. Motion carried unanimously.

Steven Hemphill presented the next agenda Item #12, Construction/Renovation Projects Report. The Board discussed and accepted the report as presented.

Purchasing Agent, Jared Peters, presented the Evaluation of Bids beginning with item #1, 45-24, Woodlawn Elementary/Woodlawn Jr. Parking Lot and Item #2 47-24, Lakeshore Elementary Parking Lot. He requested the board's permission to accept the lowest responsive bidder on May 21st (date of bid openings) as they were delayed due to an issue with advertising. Dabo Graves made a motion to grant permission to accept the lowest bid, seconded by Greg Manley, motion carried without opposition.

For Item #3, Scoreboards, Jared Peters is recommending Rainey Electronics as the lowest responsive bidder. Harold McCoy made the motion to accept this bid, seconded by Greg Manley. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #4, Drew, Kiroli, Robinson Parking Lots was tabled for more information.

Mr. Peters recommended approving the lowest responsive bidder, Cart Pros, for Item # 5, Mini-Gold Ambulances for High Schools. Dabo Graves made a motion to approve this bid, seconded by Greg Manley. Motion carried without opposition.

Jared Peters asked permission to Bid on three line items:

1. WOHS Baseball/Softball Field Replacement

2. Copy Paper
3. GHMS Additions and Improvements

Jerry Hicks made the motion to grant permission to bid on these items, seconded by Mike Batey. Motion carried without opposition.

In the President's Report, Mr. Comeaux encouraged everyone that did not attend the Talented Art exhibit on April 30, 2024 at Student Support to go by and see the artwork.

In the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Guice thanked Jason Thompson and his staff in Personnel for an outstanding Job Fair with over 300 attendees. He also gave the Board an update on classroom camera installations and the School Bus ac installations.

There being no further business, Jerry Hicks made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dabo Graves. Motion carried and adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Tommy Comeaux, President

ATTEST:

Todd Guice, Secretary

/sl