The Ouachita Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, July 9, 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 Monroe High School AFJROTC, Pledge of Allegiance by Mike Batey and the Invocation offered by Greg Manley.

Jerry Hicks made the motion, seconded by Shere May, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2024 regular meeting as well as the June 27, 2024 Special Called Meeting as written. Motion carried without opposition.

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

During the Personnel Report, Superintendent Guice announced the newly filled positions of Assistant Principal at Jack Hayes Elementary, Teddrick Dugano, Curriculum Coordinator at EOMS, Ashley Nix, Interim Principal at Lakeshore Elementary, Courtney Thompson and Interim Assistant Principal at Lakeshore Elementary, Alisa Graves Rockett.

Mr. Comeaux introduced Jason Thompson with the first item of business, Finance Committee Report. Mr. Thompson presented the four Agenda items and actions of the Finance Committee.

1. Consider Annual Operating Budget Revision No. 1 for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year, Regina Mekus, Chief Financial Officer.
   Dr. Gail Autrey recommended to submit to the board for approval at the next board meeting, seconded by Mike Batey; motion carried.
2. Propose Band Allocation, Regina Mekus, Chief Financial Officer.
   Clint Miller recommended to table until the next Finance meeting on July 16, 2024, seconded by Mike Batey; motion carried.
3. Propose Allocation of Timber Sales, Regina Mekus, Chief Financial Officer
   Charles Wright recommended allocation of $18,199 per school, seconded by Brent May. Greg Manley opposed; motion carried.
4. Propose updating Activity Trip rates for the District, Waylon McCormick, Director of Transportation
   Brent May recommended to submit the update of Activity Trip rates to the board for approval at the next board meeting, seconded by Greg Manley; motion carried.

After discussion of all items by the Board, #3- Propose Allocation of Timber Sales was tabled for further discussion at a later date. Dabo Graves made the motion to approve #4 – Proposed updating Activity Trip rates for the District, seconded by Greg Manley. Motion carried unanimously.

Regina Mekus presented the 2nd Item of Business, Consider and Approve Annual Operating Budget Amendment No. 1 for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. After discussion, Shere May made the motion to accept this recommendation, seconded by Mike Batey. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Mike Batey presented the third item of business, Consider and Select Architect for the WOHS Stadium renovations. Mr. Batey made a motion to select TBA & Associates for the project, seconded by Jerry Hicks, motion carried unopposed with Shere May abstaining stating "I am recusing myself out of an abundance of precautions as I have a family member employed by a related company."

Carrie Ferguson presented the fourth item of business. Policy JGCF, Behavioral Health Support for Students for approval. She explained ACT 324 passed by the Legislator requires us to adopt the changes to this policy and rename it JGCFA. Shere May made a motion to approve these changes to the policies, seconded by Jerry Hicks. Motion carried without opposition.

Regina Mekus presented Item #5, Financial Report for period ending May 31, 2024. The report includes 3 years of data for comparison. She pointed out a current general fund balance of $42,397,484, District 1 M & O with fund balance of $30,064,160, 1968 Sales Tax $10,314,700, 1995 Sales Tax $7,549,996 and West Ouachita Sales Tax $27,643,935.

Steven Hemphill presented Item # 6, Consideration and Approval to grant servitude and easement to Atmos Energy Corp. at Riser Schools. Jerry Hicks made a motion to grant approval for the servitude and easement and give Superintendent Todd Guice permission to sign the contract for this. The Motion was seconded by Dabo Graves and carried without opposition.

Steven Hemphill presented Item # 7 Consider and select Engineer to replace WW Treatment Plants at Woodlawn Elementary and Jr. High and Calhoun Middle with a recommendation to select Lazenby and Associates. Mike Batey made a motion to approve this recommendation seconded by Jerry Hicks. Motion carried unanimously.

Steven Hemphill presented the next agenda Item #8, 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, 51-24, West Ridge Multipurpose Building. The recommendation was the lowest responsive bid from Gentry Construction for $3,188,000. Jerry Hicks made a motion to approve this, seconded by Mike Batey. Motion carried without opposition.

For Item #2, 1-25, Music Instruments, He asked for permission to accept the lowest responsive bidders based upon the individual bid items outlined in the bid tab. The total amount is $61,859 utilizing funds from the General Fund and ESSER. Mike Batey made the motion to accept this bid, seconded by Dabo Graves. Motion carried without opposition.

For Item #3, FS 5-25, Food Service Large Equipment, the recommendation was to accept the lowest responsive bids from Hotel and Restaurant Supply and Associated Food Equipment for a total of $218,465. Shere May made a motion to accept these bids, seconded by Mike Batey, motion carried without opposition.

Jared Peters asked Permission to Bid on three line items:

1. 6-25 School Buses, M & O, budget amount $1,5000,000
2. 7-25 Calhoun Middle Treatment Plant, WOST, budget amount $475,000
3. 8-25 Woodlawn Elementary and Middle Treatment Plant, WOST, budget amount $525,000

Dabo Graves made a motion to grant permission to bid on these items, seconded by Mike Batey, motion carried unanimously.

In the President's Report, Mr. Comeaux announced the next meeting would be August 13, 2024 at noon.

In the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Guice it was almost time for Back to School to gear up with TIP beginning on July 23rd and the big Back to School Rally being held on August 5th , at OPHS. He also reported that cameras have been installed at all but six schools.

There being no further business, Jerry Hicks made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dabo Graves. Motion carried and adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Tommy Comeaux, President

ATTEST:

Todd Guice, Secretary

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