The Ouachita Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 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.

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 Comeaux called the meeting to order as he welcomed visitors and guests, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bobby Jones and the Invocation offered by West Monroe High School student Ainsley Markou.

Jerry Hicks made the motion, seconded by Shere May, to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2023 as written. After much discussion, motion carried 6 to 1; with the understanding they would revisit the wording of the policy of graduation venue options at a later date.

Greg Manley motioned to amend the Agenda to include item # 9 under Permission to Bid, seconded by Mike Batey, motion carried without opposition. Upon motion made by Shere May, seconded by Greg Manley, the board approved the amended agenda. Motion carried by all members.

During the Personnel Report made by Superintendent Guice, the following newly appointed positions were reported; Highland Principal, Julie Norris, Acting Principal at Riverbend Elementary, Veleka Gray, Assistant Principal at OPHS, Allison Davis and WMHS Assistant Principal, Jared Peters.

Additionally, Mr. Guice announced the following position would be opened at the conclusion of this meeting: Title II Professional Development Coordinator

President Comeaux introduced the first item of business – Consider Annual Operating Budget Amendment No. 1 for the Fiscal Period ending June 30, 2023 presented by Regina Mekus. This was presented to the Finance Committee on July 10, 2023 and to the full Board before the Board Meeting. Mike Batey made a motion to accept the budget, with Reverend Harold McCoy seconding. The motion carried unanimously.

The 2nd item of business was introduced by Shere May making a motion to select TBA as the architect for Roof Replacement at Drew Elementary, seconded by Reverend McCoy, motion carried unanimously.

Dabo Graves presented the 3rd item of business by making a motion to appoint Brian McGuire with Architect Alliance, for the Roof Replacement at OPJH. Motion was seconded by Jerry Hicks, and carried without opposition.

The 4th item of business was introduced by Jerry Hicks making the motion to select TBA to do a cost analysis for Lenwil Elementary for a new library, remodel restrooms, remodel old library and computer lab into classrooms and adds a parking lot; motion was seconded by Shere May. The motion carried unanimously.

President Comeaux introduced the 5th item of business with Regina Mekus presenting the Finance Committee report in the absence of Jason Thompson. There were several items to be reviewed with the first being the student fee for Chromebooks, which is $5 per student. They reviewed the finding of the 2021 Audit, which was presented to the Board last month, we considered the budget amendment, which was adopted earlier, and we had the finance report for the period ending May 31, 2023. Shere May made a motion to accept this report seconded Reverend McCoy, motion passed unanimously.

Steven Hemphill introduced item # 7, by requesting a motion be made to select TBA as the architect for Outdoor Elementary Classrooms. Shere May made the motion to appoint TBA, seconded by Reverand McCoy, motion carried without opposition.

President Comeaux went back to Item # 6, the Financial Report for the period ending May 31, 2023, presented by Regina Mekus. We are ending the period with a fund balance of 36.9 million, 92% of where we were last year. District 1 M & O ending with 30.2 Million, 114% of where it was last year. Sales Tax collections went up 14% but we will still be conservative going forward. See the report for more details. Greg Manley, seconded by Shere May, made motion to accept the Financial Report for May 31, 2023, Motion passed unanimously.

Steven Hemphill presented the next Agenda item, Construction and Renovation Projects Report. The Board discussed and accepted the report as presented.

Purchasing Agent, Bobby Jones, presented the two Evaluation of Bid items. The first was Additions to Sterlington Elementary School; the recommendation is to accept the low-based bid by Gentry Construction, INC. of $4,261,000 to be paid out of East Side Bonds. Greg Manley, seconded by Dabo Graves, made the motion to accept this bid, motion carried by the Board. Next item, the School Bus A/C units with installation, Mr. Jones recommended accepting the Bid from Ross Bus Sales on Item 1 and 2, there was no bid on item 3 and the bid by Curry's Truck was non-responsive. This in contingent on the approval by the Federal Government for the change we have to make in the budget line item. Motion made by Jerry Hicks, seconded by Greg Manley to approve items 1 and 2, motion carried without opposition.

Bobby Jones asked permission to Bid on 9 line items; School Bus A/c with installation, Wireless Points, Desktop PC's & Accessories, RMS Multipurpose Building, Drew Elementary Roof Replacement, OJHS Rood Replacement, Benches & Tables, Air Filters, and Fresh Produce & Eggs. A Motion for permission Bid these items was made by Greg Manley, seconded by Dabo Graves, motion carried without opposition.

In his report, President Comeaux called for the next Board Meeting to be Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 12:00 noon in the Board Room at the Central Office.

In the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Guice stated SOAR was a success, wrapping up on Thursday, June 29th serving 2,145 students, 1576 elementary and 569 middle school students, thanks to the Instructional Team and their Leadership. Preparing for back to school with Principal's Summit, New Principal Orientation and for the first time we will have a New Assistant Principal Orientation. TIP Academy will kick off on July 25, 2023 and run for 6 days. JoLynne Correro and her team are continuing with 6 summer feeding programs through July.

There being no further business, Greg Manley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dabo Graves. Motion carried and adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Tommy Comeaux, President

ATTEST:

Todd Guice, Secretary

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