The Ouachita Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, December 12, 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. 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 Comeaux called the meeting to order as he welcomed the West Ridge Middle School Choir, visitors and guests, followed by the presentation of colors by Ouachita High School Navy JROTC and Pledge of Allegiance, and the Invocation offered by Ouachita High School student Wesley Dunham.

Shere May made the motion, seconded by Mike Batey, to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023 regular meeting as written. Motion carried without opposition.

President Comeaux asked for a motion to approve the agenda, stating that there was an addition under Evaluation of Bids, item # 4, Jerry Hicks made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Shere May. Motion carried without opposition. President Comeaux then asked for a motion to approve the revision to the agenda. Jerrry Hicks made the motion to add the Item to Permission to Bid, seconded by Greg Manley. Motion carried unanimously.

During the Personnel Report, Superintendent Guice stated there was nothing to report.

President Comeaux introduced the first item of business: Discussion of proposed Cooperative Endeavor Agreements between the State of Louisiana and Friends of Chenault Aviation Military Museum, Inc.

Elmer Noah presented the joint statement made by Friends of Chennault Aviation & Military Museum of Louisiana and the Ouachita Parish School Board. The statement declared that OPSB is fully aware of and fully in support of the two Cooperative Endeavors Agreements but is not a party to the Agreements with the State of Louisiana and declines personal participation. Jerry Hicks made the motion to accept the joint statement, seconded by Greg Manley. The motion carried unanimously.

Item #2, Financial Report for October 31, 2023, presented by Regina Mekus. She reported that the General Fund Balance is on target at $30.6 million. The District #1 M&O has a balance of $27,683,272, but with the supply chain issues slowly getting better there will be more activity with this funding. Ms. Mekus pointed out there was an error on the last page of the report in the last table, October 31 should have said a negative 1,074,763 instead of 5,034,635.

Item # 3, Consideration and Selection of Architect for Car pick up overhang and Bus pick up awning at Pinecrest School. Mike Batey made a motion to appoint TBA Studio, seconded by Jerry Hicks. Motion passed unanimously.

Steven Hemphill presented the next Agenda item #4, Construction and Renovation Projects Report. The Board discussed and accepted the report as presented.

Purchasing Agent, Bobby Jones, presented the Evaluation of Bids beginning with item #1, Access Control WMHS, he recommends this bid be rejected due to an issue with license. Shere May made a motion to reject this bid, seconded by Jerry Hicks. Motion carried without opposition.

Item # 2, Timber Sale. Dabo Graves made the motion to reject the Good Hope Land and Timber bid due to not meeting the minimum and accept the bid by Hunt Forest Products, seconded by Greg Manley. Motion passed unanimously.

Item # 3, Renovation/Additions, Greg Manley made the motion to accept the bid from D & L of Ouachita, seconded by Harold McCoy. Motion carried without opposition.

Item # 4 HVAC Equipment Swartz Lower, Dabo Graves made a motion to accept the bid from Trane, seconded by Greg Manley. Motion carried without opposition.

Bobby Jones asked permission to Bid on two line items, Timber Sale and Sale of Surplus Equipment and asked permission to amend the agenda to add a third line item, RFP 35-24 Access Control at WMHS. Shere May made a motion to revise the agenda adding item #3, seconded by Mike Batey. Motions passed unanimously.

Harold McCoy made the motion to grant permission to open these bids, seconded by Dabo Graves. Motion passed without opposition.

In the President's Report, Mr. Comeaux said he hoped all had a good year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He reminded us the next meeting is January 16, 2024 at noon.

In the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Guice thanked the Central Office for the success of the first inaugural Toy Drive for some of our elementary school families. He also commended the staff at Sterlington Elementary School, other school system personnel, and the community for their handling of an evacuation at the school even though it was a false alarm.

There being no further business, Harold McCoy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dabo Graves. Motion carried and adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Tommy Comeaux, President

ATTEST:

Todd Guice, Secretary

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