The Ouachita Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, March 14, 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 with the Invocation offered by audience member Darris Warren and Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike Batey.

Jerry Hicks motioned, seconded by Greg Manley, that the Board approve the Minutes of February 13 and 14, 2023 as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Upon motion by Shere May, seconded by Greg Manley, the Board approved the Agenda. Motion carried by all members. The amended Agenda as presented was approved unanimously after motion by Greg Manley with second by Harold McCoy.

During the Personnel Report, Dr. Coker reported the following newly appointed positions: Jason Thompson, Personnel Director; Steven Hemphill, Director of Construction and Maintenance; Orlando Freemont, Director of Safety and Security, Todd Lenard, Supervisor of Maintenance; Sam Johnston, Supervisor of Custodial Services; and Doll Ann Johnson, Acting Principal of Sterlington High School. Dr. Coker also conveyed opening and advertising the positions of Director of Child Welfare and Attendance, Director of High Schools, Director of Transportation, and Elementary Supervisor.

President Comeaux introduced the first item of business—Consideration and approval of Superintendent Employment Contract. All Board Members have reviewed the contract, which contains the terms and provisions as required by state statutes. Whereby, Reverend McCoy moved, seconded by Mike Batey, that the Board enter into a written agreement with Mr. Guice for a four-year term commencing on July 4, 2023, and

terminating at midnight on July 3, 2027, all in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the document, and hereby authorizing President Tommy Comeaux to execute Mr. Guice's contract on behalf of the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Area Nutrition Agent and Parish Chair Cathy Agan presented the Board Members with an update on LSU AgCenter and 4-H programs working with students, teachers and schools in the district. Ms. Agan expressed appreciation for the cooperative endeavor agreement which ensures the agency can provide support for schools and students in the areas of healthy lifestyles, including exercise and movement, gardening and growing food, active games on playgrounds, nutrition classes, and the HYPE (Healthy Young People Empowerment) for middle and high school students to garner community involvement in helping people make healthy choices. Another initiative is the Ouachita Resilience Network. The grant provides training for teachers and school faculty on supporting the mental health needs of children. The Board expressed appreciation to Ms. Agan for all they do in our district and community.

Board Member Mike Batey presented a motion to complete a cost analysis for renovations in and around the West Ouachita High School Red Sims Stadium, naming TBA as the architect. Dabo Graves seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

President Comeaux requested a motion to appoint TBA as architect for restroom renovations at Kiroli Elementary, Drew Elementary, and Riser Middle School. Jerry Hicks made the motion, seconded by Shere May, and the Board unanimously approved.

The Board discussed a house at 510 Cryer Street in West Monroe, which is nearing time to close on purchase. Shere May presented a motion granting permission for Mr. Elmer Noah to act on the Board's behalf in the closing process. Mike Batey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Harold McCoy presented a motion to name Land 3 Architect for making repairs to the press box at Richwood High School (approved in the meeting of February 14, 2023). Mike Batey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Todd Guice asked the Board to approve an updated job description for the position of Director of Transportation to be more aligned with LDOE requirements and

qualifications for the position. Upon motion by Jerry Hicks, seconded by Dabo Graves, the motion was approved unanimously.

The Board considered notices for ITEP (Industrial Tax Exempt Program) presented by Regina Mekus. Regarding notice of application from Louisiana Plastic Industries and notice of noncompliance for Neighbors, LLC., the Board discussed options for recommendation to the LED Board of Commerce and Industry approval. Through a motion by Greg Manley, seconded by Harold McCoy, the Board unanimously decided to take no action on either notice.

Business Director Regina Mekus presented her monthly 2022-23 Interim Financial Report for the period ended January 31, 2023. For the seventh month of the fiscal year, we are ending the period at 74% of budgeted fund balance in general fund ($29.5 million). District M&O balance stands at $27.8 million, or 116% of where the district was at this time in 2022. West Ouachita Sales Tax balance is $20.5 million, with ongoing projects drawing from that fund. Referring to the third page under debt service funds, Ms. Mekus recounted the East Ouachita Bond construction showing $30 million in fund balance, plus an additional $20 million will influx following last month's sale of the final bonds in that issue, with the majority of funds committed to completed and current projects. The final two pages show the 3-year history of the general fund balance for review. Ms. Mekus concluded her report and Shere May moved, seconded by Mike Batey, that the Board approve the 2022-23 Interim Financial Report for the period ended January 31, 2023 as presented. Motion unanimously carried by all members.

Supervisor Jennifer Wilhite presented the Board with three policies for consideration—JDD/Suspension, JDE/Expulsion, GAMI/Employee Use of Telephones and Other Electronic Telecommunication Devices—which will be reviewed in the upcoming March 21 meeting of the Policy Review Committee. Board Members received copies of the current policies, the suggested revisions, and the proposed final policy to review prior to approval at the April 11 Board Meeting, after considering recommendation from the Policy Review Committee.

Director of Construction and Maintenance Steven Hemphill provided the Board with the Construction/Renovation Projects Report. The Board discussed and accepted the report as presented.

Interim Purchasing Agent Waylon McCormick presented Evaluation of Bids beginning with Bid 31-23 for Hwy 165 Turn Lane, recommending the Lowest Responsive Bidder of D&J Construction at $1,950,052.20. Greg Manley motioned to accept the bid, seconded by Jerry Hicks. The motion passed unanimously. Bid RFP 29-22 Algebra I, II, and Geometry Curriculum was considered next, with recommendation of the panel-scored choice of McGraw Hill at $150,000. Harold McCoy moved to accept the recommendation, seconded by Dabo Graves, and the motion passed unanimously.

Permission to Bid was requested by Mr. McCormick for Bid No. 35-23 Copy Paper. Jerry Hicks moved, seconded by Shere May, that the Board grant permission to bid the item as presented. Motion carried unanimously by all members.

President Comeaux announced the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. in the boardroom of the Central Office.

Superintendent Coker reminded the Board Members of upcoming event dates including Focus on Education on April 12 and the Scholar's Banquet on April 17. Reminders and registration details will be emailed.

There being no further business to discuss, Jerry Hicks moved, seconded by Dabo Graves that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Tommy Comeaux, President

ATTEST:

Don Coker, Secretary

/as