The Ouachita Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 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 Richwood High JROTC under the direction of Sgt. Brown, Pledge of Allegiance by An'Drianna Newman, and the Invocation offered by Mike Batey.

Jerry Hicks made the motion, seconded by Shere May, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025 regular meeting as written. Motion carried without opposition.

Shere May made the motion to approve the Agenda, seconded by Mike Batey. Motion carried by all members.

During the Personnel Report, Superintendent Guice welcomed the new Director of Elementary Education, Katy Wheeler and the new Director of Student Support Services, Angela Westerberg. He also stated that the Principal positions at East Ouachita Middle School and Lakeshore Elementary School would be open for applications today.

Mr. Comeaux introduced Aline Smead with the first item of business, Special Recognitions. Connor Reitzel, a 5th Grader at Sterlington Elementary School is being recognized for placing 1st place in the 2024 LSBA conference artwork contest and Emma Blank, a freshman at West Monroe High is being recognized for placing 3rd place. Their artwork will be displayed in the Governor's Mansion for two weeks and then on the walls of the LSBA office in Baton Rouge for a year.

Superintendent Guice presented the second special recognition, READ.LEARN.SUCCEED by bringing up his Super Reading Buddy, Aiden, a second grader at Robinson Elementary School. READ.LEARN.SUCCEED pairs trained community volunteers with 2nd grade students at 20 partner schools across our region to become one-on-one Volunteer Readers or Pen-Friends. These volunteers and their assigned students practice and sharpen reading and writing skills monthly from October through March.

The third special recognition was made by presenting a Resolution to Janet Durden for her service to the community by serving over 40 years with the United Way of Northeast Louisiana and their many programs.

Rice Gregory presented the second item of business, Discussion of the status of completion of SMS construction punch list. He stated Barron Construction Company was 235 days beyond the Substantial Completion Date with the punch list uncompleted. He recommended giving them another 30-day extension for completion. Greg Manley made a motion to have Elmer Noah draw up a letter to Barron Construction giving them a 30-day extension to complete the 43-item punch list. If not completed in 30 days, another contractor will be hired and paid using the withheld funds from Barron Construction. The motion was seconded by Dabo Graves and carried without opposition.

Tommy Comeaux introduced the third item of business, Extension of the Superintendent's Contract. Greg Manley made the motion to extend the Superintendent's Contract to December 31, 2028, the legal limit allowed by law, seconded by Mike Batey. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Hicks presented item # 4, making a motion to hire Tim Brandon from TBA Architecture to given an estimate on the cost to remodel the Lenwil Elementary Cafeteria. Mike Batey seconded the motion, motion carried with opposition, with Shere May abstaining due to a family member being employed by a related company.

Item Carrie Ferguson presented # 5, Policy for Consideration – JCDAE, Student Use of Cell Phones and Other Electronic Telecommunication Devices. The changes to this policy will be posted and voted on at the next meeting.

Regina Mekus presented the sixth item of business, Financial Report for period ending January 31, 2025. The report includes 3 years of data for comparison. The current ending balance for the General Fund is $32,911,609, District 1 M&O, $30,685,157, 1968 Sales Tax $6,647,046, 1995 Sales Tax $3,090,784 and West Ouachita Sales Tax $23,626,452. Ms. Mekus reported the Budget is on task.

Regina Mekus presented item # 7, Consider Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between State of LA and OPSB. She asked the Board to approve President Tommy Comeaux the authority to sign the Endeavor Agreements. Mike Batey made the motion to approve the authorization, seconded by Jerry Hicks. Motion carried without opposition.

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, Kitchen Cameras. He requested the board approve the RFP submittal from Videolink for $254,235. Shere May made the motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Mike Batey. Motion carried without opposition.

For Item #2, WMHS Football Field Renovation and Improvements, he requested the board approve the lowest responsive bidder after verifying all bid requirements are

met. Jerry Hicks made the motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Shere May. Motion carried unanimously.

Jared Peters asked permission to Bid on five line items:

1. FS8-25 Warehouse Cooler & Freezer Doors.
2. 23-25 Property Sale 3420 Gordon Ave
3. 24-25 Property Sale Old Burks School
4. 28-25 School buses
5. 27-25 WMHS Practice Field Renovations/Improvements

Shere May made the motion to grant permission to bid on these items, seconded by Mike Batey. Motion carried unanimously.

In the President's Report, Mr. Comeaux made a comment on the fast passing of the year and the approaching testing. He announced the next meeting was April 8, 2025 at noon.

In the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Guice stated that everyone was working on End of the Year activities as well as already getting ready for next year. He informed us Richwood High School Boys Basketball Team is in the Semi-Finals in Lake Charles tomorrow, Choir and Band Festivals are this week and Spring Break is coming up March 24-28.

There being no further business, Jerry Hicks made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Greg Manley. Motion carried and adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Tommy Comeaux, President

ATTEST:

Todd Guice, Secretary

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