The Ouachita Parish School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at twelve (12:00) o'clock p.m. at its regular meeting place, the Ouachita Parish School Board office.

Note: There were two comment cards completed for agenda business items 2 and 7 addressed in this meeting. Additionally, there were no remote requests for any agenda business item addressed in this meeting.

The presence of the following members was verified through roll call: Tommy Comeaux, Shere May, Mike Batey, Jerry Hicks, Dabo Graves, Greg Manley, and Harold McCoy.

President Tommy Comeaux called the meeting to order as he welcomed the visitors and guests, followed by the Presentation of Colors by OPHS NJROTC, Invocation offered by Harold MCoy, and the Pledge of Allegiance by President Tommy Comeaux.

Jerry Hicks made the motion, seconded by Mike Batey, to approve the minutes of September 10, 2025, regular meeting as written. Motion carried without opposition.

Shere May made a motion to approve a revision to the agenda with the addition of #7 under Permission to Bid, seconded by Mike Batey, motion carried without opposition. Shere May made a motion to approve the revised agenda, seconded by Jerry Hicks, motion carried without opposition.

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

President Tommy Comeaux introduced Harold McCoy with the first Item of Business, Consider naming Richwood High Multi-Purpose Room in Honor of Dr. Sharilyn Loche. Harold McCoy made a motion to name the Multi-Purpose room in Honor of Dr. Loche due to her extensive resume' and exemplary dedication to the Ouachita Parish School System. He stated she began as a teacher, then Assistant Principal and finally Principal of Richwood until her retirement. The motion was seconded by Mike Batey and carried unanimously.

The second Item of Business, Policies for Consideration and Approval, EFAB, BCBB, GAAA, JAA, IDDF, IDDFC, JDA, JD, was presented by Adam Hunsucker. He explained seven of the policies were made by the Legislature and one was an in-house policy (EFAB) and informed the Board the Policy Committee met and approved all the policies as written with a wording change in IDDF. He also stated the Policy Committee would be reviewing the language of Policy JPA at the next meeting. Mr. Guice spoke on the in-house policy (EFAB) explaining it is on the use of A.I., Artificial Intelligence, and that it will be amended as needed in the future. Rice Gregory addressed the Board as requested per his comment card on the Policy and Procedure

Manual. Shere May made a motion to approve the Policies as presented, seconded by Dabo Graves. Motion carried without opposition.

The third Item of Business, Consider and Approve LA Compliance Questionnaire FYE June 30, 2025, was presented by Regina Mekus. She explained this questionnaire is a required part of a financial audit of Louisiana state and local government agencies. Mike Batey made a motion to approve the questionnaire, seconded by Dabo Graves. Motion carried without opposition.

Regina Mekus presented the Financial Report for the period ending August 31, 2025. The report includes 3 years of data for comparison. The current ending balance for the General Fund is $28,983,987; District 1 M&O balance is $25,491,904; balance of the1968 Sales Tax is $2,544,294; 1995 Sales Tax is $11,963,952; and West Ouachita Sales Tax is $19,193,422. She explained the decrease in State Revenue is due to the loss of students and sales taxes are up 5 ½ to 6 ½ % for this period. The Board accepted the report as presented.

Steven Hempjil presented Item #5, permission to grant easement to Monroe City for water system improvements. Jerry Hicks made a motion to approve the easement, seconded by Dabo Graves. Motion carried without opposition.

Steven Hemphill presented the next agenda Item #6, Construction/Renovation Projects Report. The Board discussed and accepted the report as presented.

Item # 7, The Board may enter into Executive Session to confer with counsel and to discuss prospective litigation relative to Sterlington Middle School liquidated damages (Barron Construction) pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(2),(A)(10) and la. Code of Evidence 506. Greg Manley made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Jerry Hicks, with the Board voting by Roll Call.

Shere May, Y
Mike Batey, Y
Jerry Hicks, Y
Harold McCoy, Y
Dabo Graves, Y
Greg Manley, Y
Tommy Comeaux, Y

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board entered Executive Session at 12:31 pm and returned to the Board Room at 12:46 pm with Jerry Hicks making a motion to re-enter session, seconded by Mike Batey, with the Board voting by Roll Call.

Shere May, Y
Mike Batey, Y
Jerry Hicks, Y

Harold McCoy, Y
Dabo Graves, Y
Greg Manley, Y
Tommy Comeaux, Y

Motion carried unanimously.

Upon returning from Executive Session, Greg Manley moved and seconded by Jerry Hicks, to reject the offer presented to the Board by Barron Construction to complete the contract on the construction of Sterlington Middle School. Dabo Graves made a substitute motion, seconded by Mike Batey to accept the proposed settlement made by Barron Construction to close out the contract by accepting a change order reducing the contract amount by $421,631.11 resulting in a final contract amount of $30,023,328.89. Mr. Comeaux called for a roll call vote on the substitute motion with the following members voting:

Shere May, Y
Mike Batey, Y
Jerry Hicks, N
Harold McCoy, Y
Dabo Graves, Y
Greg Manley, N
Tommy Comeaux, Y

The substitute motion passed on a vote of 5-2.

Rice Gregory withdrew his request to speak on this item.

Jared Peters presented the Evaluation of Bids:

1. FS8-25, Warehouse Cooler/Freezer Doors, no responsive bids
2. 3-26, Property Sale-3420 Gordon Ave, no responsive bids
3. 6-26, SHS Classroom Additions and Athletic Improvements. Greg Manley made a motion to approve the lowest responsive bidder, Gentry Construction in the amount of $6,199,000, seconded by Dabo Graves. Motion carried unanimously.
4. 9-26, Mineral Springs Property Sale, no responsive bids.

Jared Peters asked Permission to Bid on seven-line items:

1. 12-26 Small group classroom furniture
   Harold McCoy made a motion to grant permission to bid on this item, seconded by Greg Manley, motion carried without opposition.
2. Front Office Renovation Lakeshore Elementary
   Dabo Graves made a motion to grant permission to bid on this item, seconded by Greg Manley, motion carried without opposition.
3. 14-26 Jack Hayes Canopy
4. 15-26 EOMS Multipurpose Bldg.

5. 16-26 Property Sale 3420 Gordon Ave
6. 17-26 Property Sale Mineral Springs
7. RFP18-26 IT Equipment and Supplies (ERATE)
   Dabo Graves made a motion to grant permission to bid on items 3 – 7, seconded by Greg Manley. Motion carried without opposition.

In the President's Report, Mr. Comeaux announced the next meeting would be Wednesday, November 12, at noon, due to Veteran's Day Holiday.

In the Superintendent's Report Mr. Guice stated Report Cards for the first 9 weeks grading period would be going out this week. He also announced the Employee of Distinction Banquet on October 28, State of Education event on November 3rd, and Student of the Year luncheon on November 5th.

There being no further business, Jerry Hicks made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Greg Manley. Motion carried and adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Tommy Comeaux, President

ATTEST:

Todd Guice, Secretary

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