



# Board Briefs

A report of the Beauregard Parish School Board meeting

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The Beauregard Parish School Board met Thursday, August 11, 2016, with David Vidrine, president, District 3C, Charles Hudson, vice-president, District 2, Martha Jackson, District 1, Kathy Bruner, District 3A, L.D. Spears, District 3B, Cassie Henry, District 3D, Wesley Taylor, District 3E, Darrin Manuel, District 4A, Ray Bowman, District 4B, Don Gray, District 5, and student representative Kailey Bailey present.

**Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Timothy Cooley announced that the district has received the Principal Fellowship Grant for 2016-2017. Teresa Parmley of K.R. Hanchey Elementary, Wesley Henry of South Beauregard Upper Elementary, and Tammy Crain of South Beauregard High School, will participate in meetings with other principals throughout the state as part of the grant. He reminded board members to fill out disclosure statements concerning family members who are employed in the school system.

He announced a successful start of the new school year and thanked all personnel for their preparation and work as the school year begins. He announced the following positions have been filled: Eddie Joslin, Instructional Supervisor, Cord Ensminger, Instructional Supervisor, Debbie Maddox, Assistant Principal at DHS, David Wentzel, Principal at DJHS, Andrew Duplechin, Assistant Principal at DJHS, and Mike Greene, Principal at the BAP. The system is currently advertising to fill the Assistant Principal's position at EBHS.

He announced that the Women's Ministry of the Beauregard Baptist Association is sponsoring a "Back-to-School Safety Seminar" which will be held Saturday, August 20, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. at Carver Elementary. Superintendent Cooley along with Central Office administrators Steve Newsom, Ellis Spikes, and Cord Ensminger will be presenters and several principals will serve on a panel for a question and answer session.

Kim Hayes, Curriculum and Instructional Supervisor, informed the board about the recently released student reports on LEAP ELA and Math grades 3-8 test scores as well as ACT and EOC information. The 2016 graduating class scored a composite average of 19.8 on the ACT, the twelfth highest composite score in the state and the top composite among the five parishes in our region. The number of graduates scoring an 18 or higher, indicating college readiness, showed gains. Gains were also made on End-of-Course (EOC) tests for high school students with 76 percent of English II students scoring Excellent or Good.

LEAP elementary math scores show significant gains in all grade levels, with 80.48 percent of third grade students scoring at Basic or higher. For ELA, 80.79 percent of eighth grade student scored at Basic or higher. Overall LEAP scores for math in grades 3-8 have increased over the past three years with 32 percent of students scoring Mastery or Advanced, and ELA scores for grades 3-8 have increased over past three years with 38 percent of students scoring Mastery or Advanced. All seventh grade students took the LEAP tests online in the spring of 2016 in anticipation of all students in grades 5-8 being required to take the tests online for the spring of 2017. Compared to the same group of students from the previous year, math scores fell by 7 percent and ELA scores fell by 19 percent. Completing the test online in a timed format was a difficult transition and one which the school system will be addressing in the current school year. Keyboarding skills will be taught beginning in earlier grades, and a focus on typing in a timed setting will be addressed.

**FYE 2017 Budget:** The board adopted the FYE 2017 budget after having completed all

requirements under R.S. 36:1306, including public notice, public inspection, public hearing, and general summary. After a lengthy discussion of the projected shortfall in revenues over expenses for the FYE 17 budget, the board voted 9-1 to adopt the budget while also asking for specific recommendations to balance the budget and stating that a Long Range Plan is needed. One area of concern was personnel and related expenses like health insurance and other benefits. Superintendent Cooley stated that many positions are considered for attrition as persons retire or resign, and that student numbers dictate the number of faculty needed in any given year at each school as part of the considerations in the number of personnel in the system. Finance Director Lesia Casanovas stated that the budget at the beginning of a new fiscal year is based on projections of revenue and expenditures and is constantly changing as new revenues and/or expenditures are received. She also stated that the administration is constantly searching for new sources of revenue, like grants and other funds available to the system.

**Resolution for General Obligation School Refunding Bonds:** The board adopted a resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of General Obligation School Refunding Bonds of parishwide School District of the Parish of Beauregard, State of Louisiana, making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Bonds, and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Bonding Attorney Grant Schlueter of Foley Judell addressed the board stating that with the current market, refinancing the Series 2009A bond issue could save the tax payers approximately \$375,000 over the life of the bonds. The motion would give him authority to go before the Louisiana Bonding Commission to request refinancing at a lower rate. If approved, he would wait for market trends to be favorable to go out for bids to refinance at a lower rate. The board approved the motion unanimously.

**Millage Rate Adoption:** Board President David Vidrine announced that a meeting will be held on September 8, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at the Beauregard Parish School Board Central Office, 202 W. Third Street, DeRidder, LA, to adopt a millage rate for 2016.

**Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire:** The board approved adoption of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for audit purposes. This form is required annually to provide standard information like board member names, the current CEO, CFO, and legal counsel as well as statements of compliance with state laws regarding audits.

**Personnel Evaluation Plan:** The board approved one change to the Personnel Evaluation Plan in the job descriptions for principals and assistant principals rubric of evaluation replacing all references to Common Core State Standards (CCSS) with Louisiana Student State Standards.

**SBHS Band Room:** The board approved a motion to recommend advertising for bids on the construction of a new band room at South Beauregard Upper Elementary and South Beauregard High School by a vote of 6-4.

**Portable Building:** The board approved a motion to accept any offer of at least \$300 on the portable building, and if unsold by the September meeting, to consider placing it in a public auction.

**Hurricane Shelter:** The board approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the School Board, the Beauregard Parish Police Jury, and the Beauregard Parish Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness involving the gymnasium at Pine Wood Elementary.

**September Meetings:** Due to the Labor Day holiday, the board voted to hold committee meetings

on Thursday, September 8, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. before the regular meeting of the board at 6:00 p.m.