



Board Briefs

A report of the Beauregard Parish School Board meeting

The Beauregard Parish School Board met Thursday, December 8, 2016, with David Vidrine, president, District 3C, Charles Hudson, vice-president, District 2, Martha Jackson, District 1, Kathy Bruner, District 3A, Cassie Henry, District 3D, 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 the winners of the Superintendent's Holiday Greeting Card Contest. Junior high and high school art students were invited to submit original works of art based on the theme: Celebrate the Season with Hope, Joy, and Love. There was a three-way tie for first place with the winners' cards being featured on one thousand greeting cards mailed around the state. The winners include: "Bells and Bows" by Shelby Davis of DeRidder High School, "Dove of Peace" by Sabrina Clark of South Beauregard High School, and "Christmas by the Fireside" by Madigan Daughety of DeRidder High School. Five honorable mention winners were also chosen. They include: "A Patchwork Christmas" by Amanda Johnson of South Beauregard High School, "Candy Cane and Holly" by Mikala Burkes of DeRidder High School, "Festive Train Depot" by Sarah Koss of Merryville High School, "All Aboard the Polar Express" by Rebecca Burch of Singer High School, and "The Stockings are Hung" by Sabrina Reeves of East Beauregard High School.

He stated that sales tax supplements will be out Friday with a gross of \$1,525.00 for certified staff, \$1,016.67 for support staff, and \$119.45 for retirees. Sales tax collections are down approximately \$400,000 over the same period last year. He encouraged everyone to shop locally.

He announced that a bus certification course will be held December 13-16. He said that the evening welding class at SHS has 16 students, and the course will be offered in the spring at DHS to expand the opportunities.

He congratulated Wesley Henry and South Beauregard Elementary for being named one of only two schools in the state as an Exemplary Title I School for closing the achievement gap for economically disadvantage students. The school will be presented an award at the National Title I convention in the spring.

Kim Hayes, Instructional Supervisor, gave a presentation to the board explaining the recent release of District Performance Scores. Beauregard Parish earned a B with a 1.6 point increase over last year to score an 89. Beauregard increased in four of the seven categories which make up the District Performance Score, including Grades 3-8 Index with a 3.5 point increase, the Strength of Diploma Index with a 2.4 point increase, the Graduation Rate Index with a 1.4 point increase, and the Graduation Rate Actual with a .7 increase. The district dropped by a point or less in each of two categories – the Dropout Credit Accumulation Index and the End of Course Exams assessment. The district showed a 5.9 point decrease in the ACT Assessment Index. This decrease is a result of falling from the highest overall points scored in this category by a cohort; but the current score is in line with previous year's scores. The district is addressing ACT preparation and including ACT Workkeys preparation as well this school year. Beauregard Parish increased its graduation rate for the seventh consecutive year, earning a 93.9 percent graduation rate, the fourth highest in the state.

School Refunding Bonds: The board adopted a resolution providing for the issuance and sale of General Obligation School Refunding Bonds, Series 2017. Grant Schlueter, bond counsel from Foley-Judell, was pleased to present an opportunity for the board to refinance the 2009A Bond Issue at a rate of 2.235% offered by Chase Bank and reduce payments for a total saving to taxpayers of \$425,000 over the remaining life of the bond. The resolution passed unanimously.

Change Order: The board approved a change order regarding the South Beauregard band hall project to reduce the cost by tying into the existing sewer line.

Policy Revision: The board approved revisions to File: BCB, Board Policies, and waived the waiting period. The change pertains to the election of officers and states that if a nominee does not receive a favorable vote of the majority of the total board, the voting shall continue. The addition states that if there is no incumbent nominated for the position and the vote remains tied after four rounds of voting, the board shall settle the issue by lot. If an incumbent is one of the nominees involved in the tie, after four rounds of voting, the incumbent shall remain in office until the next scheduled meeting, at which time another vote shall take place. If the tie vote persists, the incumbent shall remain in office for the remainder of the calendar year or unless removed by a majority vote of the entire board.