



Board Briefs

A report of the Beauregard Parish School Board meeting

The Beauregard Parish School Board met Thursday, January 12, 2017, 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, and Don Gray, District 5.

2017 Officers: The board elected by acclamation David Vidrine as president and Charles Hudson as vice-president for the 2017 term.

2017 Student Representative: The sponsors of the student government organizations of the parish high schools nominate one junior from each school to interview for the position as Student Representative to the School Board. A committee of sponsors selects the student representative and an alternate after a formal interview process. The student attends meetings and provides input on matters concerning students in the schools. This is the 25th year for the student bodies of the parish to have a non-voting representative on the board. Tabitha Deer of DeRidder High School will serve as the 2017 Student Representative, and Danielle Broussard of South Beauregard High School will be the alternate. Each was presented to the board, and Deer took her position after being presented her name plate by the 2016 alternate representative Alexis Sellers.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Timothy Cooley asked the board members to verify their training hours and report any issues to his office so that the hours can be finalized and reported to LSBA in February. He also announced that the LSBA convention is February 9-11, and the registration deadline is approaching. He announced that Harvey Rabbit has visited all elementary schools in the district as part of the Safe and Drug Free Schools program. The program focused on being drug-free and getting along with others/anti-bullying. Four evening classes have begun in the Jump Start program and are being taught through ABC. Students at SBHS are enrolled in Pipefitting I and Pipefitting IV. The Pipefitting IV is the only course of that level being offered in the state. Welding I is being taught at SHS and DHS. Classes are full and there is a waiting list to get in. He announced contract renewals for Elizabeth Maricle, Instructional Supervisor, Jimmy Maricle, principal PWE, and Wesley Henry, principal SBUE, for July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019.

Audit FYE 2016: Aaron Cooper, CPA, presented a draft of the FYE 2016 audit to the board. The report has been filed with the Legislative Auditor's Office but has not yet been released. A final version of the report will be available once the report is released. Cooper presented an "unqualified opinion," which is the best opinion for an audit. The FYE 2016 audit shows that the board spent \$1.5 million dollars more than revenues, but had sufficient reserves to cover the costs. The report shows an approximate \$14 million fund balance. In addition to the audit, Cooper is required to report on certain procedures including verifying reported student numbers, experience levels of

staff, class size, and test results. Both reports were explained to board members and follow up actions were discussed.

Resolution: The board heard a resolution declaring January to be “Louisiana School Board Member Recognition Month” in conjunction with Governor John Bel Edwards and the Louisiana School Boards Association. The theme for the year is “School Boards Matter!” and reflects the relevance of local school board members as they advocate for public education.

Finance Committee: The board voted to reject a motion from the Finance Committee to establish a committee to develop a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for future architectural services.

February Meetings: The board voted to move the regular school board meeting to Monday, February 6, 2017, due to the start of the Louisiana School Boards Association state conference beginning on February 9.