



# Board Briefs

A report of the Beauregard Parish School Board meeting

The Beauregard Parish School Board met Thursday, March 9, 2017, with David Vidrine, president, District 3C, 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 Tabitha Deer present.

**Election of Vice President:** The board elected Darrin Manuel as Vice President for the remainder of the 2017 term.

**Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Timothy Cooley announced that the RealArt Gallery in downtown DeRidder is sponsoring an art exhibit of Beauregard Parish students during March, which is Youth Art Month. The gallery is open Wednesdays-Saturdays 11-3. Computer-based state testing for 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades will begin April 3 and continue through May 5. Schools determine their own testing schedules during this window of time. He announced that sales tax collections were up slightly for February, but that overall year-to-date, they were still significantly down. He congratulated the SBHS Lady K's basketball team for their 3A State Championship win and the MHS and DHS ladies basketball teams for their state tournament bids.

**Principals of the Year:** The State Department of Education sponsors the Principal of the Year program each year to recognize outstanding principals across the state. The Beauregard Parish High School Principal of the Year is Debbie Dixon. The Beauregard Parish Elementary Principal of the Year is Barbara Newman. Each was presented a plaque by Superintendent Timothy Cooley and the School Board in recognition of the honor.

**2017-2018 Calendars:** The following calendars were approved by the board for the 2017-2018 school year.

	Four-Day Schools	Five-Day Schools
Staff Development	August 1, 2, 11	August 9, 10, 11, 14
Students Report to School	August 3	August 15
Labor Day Holiday	September 4	September 4
Fair Day Holiday	October 6	October 6
Parent Conference K-5	October 20	October 20
Veterans' Day Holiday	November 10	November 10
Thanksgiving Holiday	November 20-24	November 20-24
Winter Break	December 21-January 5	December 21-January 5
Staff Development	January 5	January 5
Parent Conference K-12	January 12	January 12
MLK Holiday	January 15	January 15
Mardi Gras Holiday	February 12-14	February 12-14
Staff Development	February 14	February 14
Spring Break	March 30-April 6	March 30-April 6
Last Day for Seniors	May 10	May 11
Last day for Students	May 24	May 24
Last Day for Teachers	May 25	May 25

**Discipline Policy Review Committee Recommendations:** The Discipline Policy Review Committee met in February. Recommended changes to the Uniform Dress Code were accepted by the board. These include: Adding solid black as a uniform shirt color option for Singer High School and including no color restrictions for socks, hose, or leggings for preK-5<sup>th</sup> grades only.

Recommended changes to the Discipline Policy were approved by the board. These include: 1) Updating a “Cell Phone/Electronic Communication Device/Wearable Technology Policy” that states that all such items including, but not limited to, cellphones, smartwatches, smart glasses or “any technological device that can be worn on the body that can send or transmit any electronic communication” are not permissible during the instructional day or while riding a school bus. The recording or videoing of any staff member or student on school grounds or at any school function is prohibited. Use of such devices is prohibited during all state standardized testing. The use of such devices during the school day may result in the device being confiscated, detention, ISS, and OSS. All confiscated devices will be returned to a parent/guardian when a request had been made and a release form has been signed in person.

2) Earrings and piercings and Jewelry sections detail that girls may wear studs or small earrings in each earlobe; boys may not. No students may wear other piercing jewelry including, but not limited to, body piercings, lip piercings, nose piercings, and eyebrow piercings. No student may wear heavy chains, heavy medallions, or excessive jewelry.

3) A section entitled “Student Identification (ID) Badges (if applicable)” details that students are required to wear badges (in schools where IDs are mandatory) visibly on the upper body at all times during the instructional day and details discipline actions if they do not.

**EBHS Project:** The board approved a motion to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit prices for architectural services for the EBHS weight room project.

**Budget Revision #1:** The board tabled a motion to consider Budget Revision #1.

**Policy Revisions:** The board approved a new policy File: CEI, Evaluation of the Superintendent, with final adoption in April. The policy states that a formal evaluation of the Superintendent will be conducted annually during the October regular school board meeting by the board based on details of the Superintendent’s contract. Written evaluation forms will be mailed to board members by September 1 and returned to the Director of Personnel by the regular September board meeting. The Director of Personnel and the Board President will open and review the evaluations. Averages will be calculated for each performance area and a copy of the averages and any additional comments listed on the evaluation will be given to the board members and the Superintendent by October 1.

The board approved a revision to File: DJD, Employee Travel Regulations and File:BBBE Board Member Compensation and Expenses, including the phrase “semi-monthly” to specify that travel reimbursement payments will be issued twice each month.

The board approved final adoption of File: JBC, School Admission, and File: JQF, Married, Expectant, and Parenting Students, after completing the waiting period.

**Interim District 2 Board Members:** The board appointed Timothy Hudson as an Interim District 2 School Board Member, in accordance with state law, until a special election to fill the position for the unexpired term can be held.

**Resolution for Special Election:** The board adopted a resolution requesting a special election to fill the remainder of the unexpired term of the District 2 school board member, in accordance with state law. The election will be held October 14, 2017.