



Board Briefs

A report of the Beauregard Parish School Board meeting

The Beauregard Parish School Board met Thursday, February 8, 2018, with David Vidrine, president, District 3C, Darrin Manuel, vice-president, District 4A, Martha Jackson, District 1, Timothy Hudson, District 2, L.D. Spears, District 3B, Cassie Henry, District 3D, Wesley Taylor, District 3E, Ray Bowman, District 4B, Don Gray, District 5, and student representative Maili Bartz present.

2018 School Board committees: The 2018 Committees for the Beauregard Parish School Board are: Finance Committee – Vice President is chair and all members serve; Advisory Committee – President is chair and all members serve; Policy Committee – Cassie Henry is chair, with Ray Bowman, Martha Jackson, Darrin Manuel, L.D. Spears, and David Vidrine as alternate; Building and Grounds Committee – Wesley Taylor is chair with Darrin Manuel, Kathy Bruner, Don Gray, Timothy Hudson, and David Vidrine as alternate; Calendar Committee – Darrin Manuel and Martha Jackson; and Discipline Policy Review Committee – Cassie Henry.

Superintendent's Report: Student Representative Maili Bartz reported that school sports programs were strong with many teams in or anticipating play-off bids. The State Beta Convention and FBLA Conferences are underway with great representation from the parish schools.

Superintendent Timothy Cooley reported that all board members had exceeded the required six hours of Continuing Learning Units (CLUs) required by state law with a total of 118 hours earned collectively. He announced that February 5-9 is National School Counselors Week and February 17-24 will be National FFA Week. He thanked the school counselors and FFA sponsors who are integral parts of the educational program in the parish.

He told the board the all schools have added five minutes to the instructional day that will continue to the end of the school year to make up time missed due to weather-related school closings. He also said that the Discipline Policy Review Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 20, at 1:00 p.m. at the Title I Center.

He announced the Cord Ensminger has been named the permanent Director of Transportation with a contract from February 7, 2018, to February 6, 2020. He also announced that Pamela March, principal of Carver Elementary, P.J. Crowe, assistant principal of Carver Elementary, and Donnie Love, principal of Merryville High School, have contract renewals from August 2018-August 2020.

Personnel Evaluation Plan: Personnel Director James Herrington presented changes to the Personnel Evaluation plan based on BESE approved rules. Teachers who receive a Value Added Model (VAM) score on the COMPASS evaluation will now be evaluated at 35% VAM (student accountability scores) and 15% Student Learning Targets instead of the previous 50% VAM scores. In addition, BESE eliminated the principals ability to adjust VAM scores +1 or -1 based on evaluations. All teachers will continue to have 50% of their COMPASS score based on professional practice and non-VAM teachers will continue to have 50% of their score based on Student Learning Targets.

Financial Statements and Audit Findings: Aaron Cooper, CPA, reported an “Unqualified Opinion” for the FYE 2017 Beauregard Parish School Board audit, the best outcome for an audit.

He announced a positive balance overall in the budget to actual comparison, no issues with the professional measures he is required to check, and a positive report on the new statewide best practices procedure checks he is required to review. He reported an overall positive balance in each of the funds except the Sales Tax Fund, and reported three findings, all of which had been resolved before the audit took place. The findings included a duplicate payment that was resolved, a discrepancy in the Title I Personnel Activity Report that had been corrected, and a dip in the Sales Tax Fund below the \$300,000 required reserves which had been appropriately addressed.

Policy Changes: Revisions: File DJE, Purchasing, deleted previous wording and added that purchasing for the board will be in compliance with existing regulations and procedures of the board and in compliance with state and federal laws. The policy provides sections dealing with vendors, financing purchases, state contracts, competitive online solicitation, and credit card use, with final adoption in March 2018.

File: EE, Food Service Management, deleted the reference to NCLB and added current code information, with final adoption in March 2018.

New: File: IDDH, English-Learner Program provides for students whose primary language is other than English to have assistance with instruction and resources to support the program for the student's academic achievement, with final adoption in March 2018.

Pupil Progression Plan: The board approved a motion to adopt the suggested changes to the Pupil Progression Plan with modifications. After an informational meeting with board members, administrators, teachers, counselors, parents, and community members where the proposed changes were presented and discussed, the Pupil Progression Plan was presented to the board for final approval with changes to Pupil Progression Sheets in certain grades, Individual Academic Improvement Plans (IAIP) for struggling fourth grade students, the addition of a 5-point scale for certain DE/AP courses, and the naming of honor graduates. Implementation of a SuperSTART program will begin in August for students whose progress after fourth grade shows a need for additional academic support. A transitional ninth grade program for struggling eighth graders will be implemented. Changes to the Pupil Progression records for certain grades will reflect the use of report card grades as the major indicator for retention or promotion with the School Building Level Committee making the final decision.

Beginning with freshman entering high school in the 2018-2019 school year and thereafter, certain designated Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment (DE) courses will be weighted on a five point scale. To qualify, courses must be AP or DE and listed on the *TOPS Core Courses Approved by BESE and the Board of Regents for Calculation on 5.00 Point Scale* document. The courses must be taken on a Beauregard Parish high school campus or be taught/proctored by BP instructors during the regular school year. For these courses, five quality points will be assigned a letter grade of A, four quality points for a letter grade of B, three quality points for a letter grade of C, two quality points for a letter grade of D, and zero quality points for a letter grade of F.

In addition, beginning with the freshman class of 2018-2019 and thereafter, the designation of Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and honor graduates will be determined by quality points based on the weighted grades earned for each course. This change accommodates the courses weighted on the 5.0 scale. Students designated as *Summa Cum Laude* (with highest honors) will be those with a 4.0 GPA or higher. Students with the designation *Magna Cum Laude* (with high honors) will be those with a 3.7500-3.999 GPA. Students with a *Cum Laude* (with honors) designation, will be those with a 3.5000-3.7499 GPA.