



# Board Briefs

A report of the Beauregard Parish School Board meeting

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The Beauregard Parish School Board met Tuesday, May 15, 2018, with David Vidrine, president, District 3C, Darrin Manuel, vice-president, District 4A, Martha Jackson, District 1, Kathy Bruner, District 3A, L.D. Spears, District 3B, Cassie Henry, District 3D, Wesley Taylor, District 3E, Don Gray, District 5, and student representative Maili Bartz present.

**Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Timothy Cooley announced that the LDOE released the most recent graduation rates (from 2017) which show Beauregard with a 94.7% graduation rate, an increase from the previous year. This places Beauregard 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the state for graduation rate. Beauregard has been among the top ten districts in the state each of the twelve years the data has been collected and has had a rate above 90% for five consecutive years. The overall state graduation rate is 78.1%, and the DOE has a goal of all districts at 90% by 2025.

He stated that 375 students from eight schools had participated in the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Choir Festival held on May 10. He handed board members a copy of the 2017-2018 edition of *Beauregard Students Write*, a compilation of poems and writings representative of classroom work of first through twelfth grade students from each of the parish schools.

Supervisor Terrie Smith announced the Beauregard Parish has received a Jump Start Summer Grant from the LDOE for AWS Welding in the amount of \$17,408. Students currently enrolled in welding classes submitted a resume' and application as well as participated in an interview for sixteen spots. Those selected will meet four days a week, eight hours a day for four weeks to complete the class. They will be tested by an AWS official tester at the end of the course. Those who pass will have an AWS Level I Advanced Credential, receive a Carnegie Unit credit, and get a \$600 stipend.

Director of Curriculum Kim Hayes announced professional development plans for the summer. Fifty teachers, counselors, and administrators will be attending the Teacher Leader Summit in New Orleans at the end of May and have the opportunity to participate from among 300 sessions. In addition, teachers will be training as ELA and Math Content Leaders, at the National Math and Science Summer Institute, and at the AP Summer Institute. Elementary math teachers will have the opportunity to meet with an LDOE official for planning times this summer. The District Professional Development day has been scheduled for August 10 for educators in all parish schools.

Student representative Maili Bartz announced that testing is concluding and finals are underway. She congratulated the DeRidder Softball team and Merryville Baseball teams for winning state championships and the DeRidder Baseball team as state Runners-up. She also announced that the Senior Scholars' Banquet had a record number of scholars meeting the academic requirements to be honored at the banquet.

**Beauregard Parish Outstanding Support Employees:** The Louisiana Department of Education supports the Outstanding School Support Employees program each year to recognize outstanding employees at the elementary, junior high, and high school levels in the operation of employees not required to hold a teaching certificate. The 2017-2018 Beauregard Parish Outstanding Support Employees were nominated by their school principal for displaying leadership and inspiring the best at their schools. They evidence service above and beyond what is expected of their jobs. They

exemplify professionalism and have good rapport with students, parents, and staff. The Outstanding Elementary Support Person of the Year is Della Brand of Pine Wood Elementary. The Outstanding Junior High Support Person of the Year is April Walters of DeRidder Junior High School. The Outstanding High School Support Person of the Year is Barbara Lisotta of South Beauregard High School. Each was introduced to the board by her principal.

**Google Classroom:** The board voted 7-1 to transfer approximately \$340,000 of remaining bond funds to technology to assist with the implementation of Google Classroom.

**Resolution 2018004 – Industrial Tax Exemption:** The board voted to adopt Resolution 2018004 which gives an 80% exemption of parish ad valorem taxes for five years under the Industrial Tax Exemption to Ingevity for a CTO Tank Expansion project which states it will create three new permanent jobs.