



Board Briefs

A report of the Beauregard Parish School Board meeting

The Beauregard Parish School Board met Thursday, August 9, 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, Ray Bowman, District 4B, and Don Gray, District 5, present.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Timothy Cooley announced that four-day schools are off to a great start and five-day schools will begin next week on Tuesday. He anticipates a successful start to the 2018-2019 school year.

Superintendent Cooley welcomed guests Col. and Mrs. Jarrett A. Thomas, II, Garrison Commander at Fort Polk and Mike Reese of Fort Polk Progress to the meeting then introduced DHS Principal Harry Hooker and Assistant Principals Shawn Baggett and Jason Thibodeaux. Ms. Baggett presented information concerning the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) College Readiness Program at DHS. The program, funded through a Department of Defense grant and matching funds from Fort Polk Progress, has a goal of improving opportunities and achievement for students by advancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and English language arts courses. The program includes a three-year partnership with high schools to increase the number of students taking AP courses and passing the courses with a 3 or above, which are qualifying scores for college credit. The program includes training for AP teachers as well as teachers from feeder schools and other courses which help lay the foundation for success. Students receive extra training in Saturday study sessions throughout the year, and the grant provides funds for equipment and supplies as well as incentives for students. DHS offered more AP courses last year, has a larger group of students taking AP classes, and saw over 150% jump in qualifying scores from the previous year. For the second year of the program, DHS has added an AP course and has increased the number of students taking AP classes.

Pupil Progression Plan 2018-2019: The board voted to approve changes to the PPP which moves second grade out of the promotional requirements for third - fifth grade to group it with first grade. This means that second grade students will now have the same promotional criteria as first grade students. The change will be submitted to the Department of Education for final approval.

Budget Revision #2 FYE 18: Finance Director Lesia Casanovas presented budget revision #2 to the board. No action was taken by the board. The board has one month to consider the information before voting to adopt the changes at the September meeting.

Resolution 2018005 and 2018006 – Industrial Tax Exemption: The board voted 6 to 3 to approved a 50% Industrial Tax Exemption for Packaging Corporation of America for a five year period for on-site maintenance projects completed at the facility.

Policy Changes: The board approved adoption of the following policies:

Final adoption of File: BC, School Board Meetings and the deletion of File: BCBFA, Quorum, after completion of the waiting period. The policy added that written notice shall be given stating the time and purpose for any special meeting and provide at least two days notification for members except in the case of an extraordinary emergency in which case members must be notified in an appropriate manner. An addition of a section entitled “Quorum” was added stating that a quorum of a simple majority of the total membership of the board is needed to convene an official meeting and to transact official business. If the president or vice president is not present, the quorum shall elect a chairperson for that meeting.

The board approved revisions to the following policies pending completion of the waiting period:

File: JCAB, Interrogations and Searches, deleted a sentence that stated that periodic searches shall be made for health and safety consideration.

File: JCDB, Student Dress Code, added that parents shall be notified of the school dress code and its effective date. It also provides for the dress code to be distributed in written form or posted on the school website. It added that the prohibition of body armor shall exclude backpacks that have bullet-resistant metal or other material intended to provide protection from weapons or bodily injury.