



# Board Briefs

A report of the Beauregard Parish School Board meeting

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The Beauregard Parish School Board met Thursday, September 13, 2018, with David Vidrine, president, District 3C, Darrin Manuel, vice-president, District 4A, Martha Jackson, District 1, Timothy Hudson, District 2, Kathy Bruner, District 3A, 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.

**Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Timothy Cooley announced that the Partners in Education Program is celebrating 25 years in Beauregard Parish schools. Currently there are 67 businesses and 13 parish schools totaling 90 partnerships.

There will be a Bus Certification Class on October 16-19 from 8am-4pm each day at the Bus Barn. The Transportation Department is in need of bus drivers who will serve as both regular and substitute drivers. There is no cost for the course, but there is a cost related to certification. Those interested are asked to contact the transportation department to sign up for the class.

Superintendent Cooley introduced Col. Jarrett A. Thomas, II, Garrison Commander at Fort Polk who shared that the golf course at Fort Polk has recently been renovated and the public is invited to use the course. He also said that on November 8 at 10:00 am, Fort Polk will be honoring Vietnam Veterans. He stated that Fort Polk trained more soldiers during that era than any other installation in the country. All Vietnam Veterans in the area are invited to participate.

Margie Hieronymus, Title I Director and Accountability Coordinator, shared data released by the DOE related to Top Growth for schools and districts. The DOE has set a goal of all students in the state achieving Mastery or Advanced on state testing by the year 2025. To reach that goal, each student in the state is provided a growth target to move toward the 2025 goal. Two schools in the parish earned the distinction "Top Growth" schools – East Beauregard Elementary with 62% and Pine Wood Elementary with 59 % of their students meeting their growth target or achieving in the top 40<sup>th</sup> percentile among their peers across the state. She pointed out that across the parish fourth and fifth grade students were significantly outperforming the state average for growth rates and that high school students were strong on Geometry, English I, and English II tests. Beauregard Parish was among the top seven scores statewide with 53 percent of English Language Learners showing growth. Overall in Beauregard Parish, 46 percent of students earned "Top Growth" for ELA testing while 42 percent earned "Top Growth" for math.

Superintendent Cooley announced that Shawn Baggett has been named principal at Merryville High School, Cassady Hickingbottom has been named Assistant Principal at DeRidder High School, and that the contract for Shawn Demeritt, Assistant Principal of Singer High School, has been renewed for 2-22-2019 through 2-21-2021.

**Beauregard Parish Principals of the Year:** The 2018-2019 Beauregard Parish Middle School Principal of the Year, Mr. David Wentzel of DeRidder Junior High School, was recognized by the board and presented a plaque in commemoration of his selection. The Principal of the Year program is sponsored annually by the State Department of Education to recognize outstanding administrators in schools throughout the state.

**Beauregard Parish Teachers of the Year:** Three Beauregard educators were honored at the school board meeting as the 2018-2019 Beauregard Parish Teachers of the Year. They were introduced by their principals and received a plaque in recognition of their selection. Ms. Lisa

Benoit of South Beauregard Upper Elementary is the Beauregard Parish Elementary Teacher of the Year. Ms. Jennifer Galloway of DeRidder Junior High School is the Beauregard Parish Middle School Teacher of the Year. Mr. Joshua Beard of DeRidder High School is the Beauregard Parish High School Teacher of the Year. Mr. Beard was also selected as a state semi-finalist. The Teacher of the Year program is sponsored annually by the State Department of Education to recognize excellent educators from across Louisiana.

**Budget Revision #2:** The board approved Budget Revision #2 for FYE 18.

**BPSB School Safety Committee Report:** Assistant Superintendent Marlin Ramsey reported that a new Safety Committee has been convened to review the Safety Manual, safety codes and procedures, and address issues of safety at each school. The committee met on August 23 at the Central Office with administrators, assistant principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, a school nurse, and a school resource officer present. Subsequent meetings will be held at school campuses so that the committee can address issues unique to each school. The next meeting will be held at DJHS on September 26 where a representative of the Louisiana State Troopers will present information collected on school safety from the Governor's office. Col. Thomas also agreed to send personnel with expertise in safety to a meeting. Ramsey also reported that schools have participated in fire drills and code blue drills and that two more sets of buzz-in barriers have been installed at PWE and SHS with two more at SBE and SBUE in process.

**Head Start Building Repairs:** The board approved a motion to proceed with repairs to the BeauCARE Head Start building using grant funds not to exceed \$70,000.

**SBHS Chiller:** The board approved a motion to issue Request for Proposals for chiller software and controls at South Beauregard High School

**PACE Program:** The board approved a motion to engage in a three year contract with Tyler Technologies for the Planned Annual Continuing Education (PACE) program at the rate of \$5,775 per year for training personnel to best utilize software in the MUNIS program to help improve efficiency in data reporting and continuity across departments. The program includes an investment assessment every three years, five days of annual training in new features of the program, and conference passes.

**Policy Changes:** The board approved adoption of the following policies for final adoption:

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.

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

File: JGCF, Behavioral Health Services for Students, a new policy that provides for behavioral health services to be permitted during school hours at school facilities under specified conditions including with a written request from the parent or guardian, an evaluation by a certified professional stating services are needed during the school day to assist students with behavioral health impairments that the evaluator deems are interfering with the student's ability to thrive in the educational setting, and that are paid for by the parent or guardian of the student.