

The Bienville Parish School Board met in regular session Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 4:00 p.m., at the Bienville Parish School Board Annex, 1956 First Street, Arcadia, Louisiana. Due to social distancing restrictions in regards to Governor John Bel Edwards' "Stay-at-Home Order", the meeting was held remotely via the video conferencing app Zoom. Members attending remotely were: Ms. Sharolyn Boston, Ms. Bonita Reliford, Ms. Martha Grigg and Dr. Larry Knotts. Mr. Mickey Hampton, Ms. Freddie Blow and Mr. Donald Calloway were in attendance at the School Board Office. A roll call was taken and all members were present.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mickey Hampton and the invocation was given by Ms. Bonita Reliford, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Superintendent William Wysinger.

Before the meeting proceeded Superintendent Wysinger requested to add an item to the board agenda: Item#11 - Consider a resolution from LSBA on State Superintendent of Education Qualifications. Following a brief overview of the item by Superintendent Wysinger motion was made by Mr. Donald Calloway, seconded by Ms. Sharolyn Boston, passed unanimously, adding item #11 to the board agenda.

Motion by Mr. Donald Calloway, seconded by Ms. Martha Grigg, passed, approving the agenda posted April 24, 2020 for the April 28, 2020 regular meeting of the Bienville Parish School Board.

Motion by Mr. Donald Calloway, seconded by Ms. Sharolyn Boston, passed, approving the minutes of the regular meeting on March 5, 2020 as distributed.

Motion by Ms. Freddie Blow, seconded by Ms. Bonita Reliford, passed, accepting the update given by Superintendent Wysinger on Covid-19 and the implementations Bienville Parish School Board was making regarding students and the remaining school year.

Motion by Ms. Bonita Reliford, seconded by Dr. Larry Knotts, passed, approving Bienville Parish School System's calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. (Calendar Option A)

Motion by Ms. Bonita Reliford, seconded by Ms. Martha Grigg, passed, authorizing the Superintendent to advertise for bids for milk for School Food Service for 2020-2021 school year.

Motion by Ms. Freddie Blow, seconded by Ms. Bonita Reliford, passed, accepting the recommendation made by Superintendent Wysinger to defer board action on item#6 – Authorizing the State Mineral Board to advertise and receive sealed bids for an oil, gas and mineral lease until a later date.

Motion by Mr. Donald Calloway, seconded by Dr. Larry Knotts, passed, authorizing the Superintendent to send letters of assurance to employees.

Motion by Ms. Freddie Blow, seconded by Ms. Bonita Reliford, passed, changing the May School Board Meeting from May 7, 2020 to May 21, 2020.

Motion by Ms. Freddie Blow, seconded by Dr. Larry Knotts, passed, accepting the following LSBA Resolution on the State Superintendent of Education:

BIENVILLE PARISH RESOLUTION
STATE SUPERINTENDENT FOR EDUCATION

WHEREAS, for the first time in almost decade, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will be electing a new State Superintendent of Education (BESE);

WHEREAS, the election of a State Superintendent is one of the three primary functions of BESE;

WHEREAS, making the best choice of a new State Superintendent is critically important to the approximately 700,000 public school children in Louisiana;

WHEREAS, LRS 17:21 provides that the State Superintendent, at a minimum, should possess the qualifications established by BESE for a local school superintendent;

WHEREAS, LAC 28:I.309 provides that the State Superintendent shall possess the following qualifications:

- Advanced degree in public administration, education or related area;
- Background in the formulation and implementation of public policy;
- Strong academic background; and
- Qualifications for the position of superintendent of a city, parish, or other local public school board;

And provides that a candidate should have the following experience:

- Proven record of success in administration;
- Demonstrated ability to achieve positive results
- Credibility in his/her current profession; and
- Proven record of team building.

WHEREAS, LAC 28:747 provides that the qualifications for a superintendent of a city, parish or other school superintendent:

- Valid Type A or Level 3 Louisiana teaching certificate
- 5 years of experience as a superintendent, asst. superintendent, supervisor of instruction, principal, or assistant principal, or equivalent experience.
- Master's degree
- 48 hours of graduate credit, including at least 30 hours in education administration and supervision of instruction, along with specific requirements in various educational administration content areas.

WHEREAS, while BESE has the authority, by a two-thirds vote, to waive the requirements to be the State Superintendent of Education, those adopted qualifications are vitally important to ensuring that the leader of public education in Louisiana has the appropriate educational background and experience, and a waiver should only be considered in extraordinary circumstances, such as when there are no viable qualified applicants;

WHEREAS, BESE has established a process for vetting all applicants for State Superintendent;

WHEREAS, the first step in the process should be to separate the applicants into two categories, those that meet the established qualifications and those that do not;

WHEREAS, the next step in the process should be to review more closely the applicants that meet the established qualifications;

WHEREAS, the second step in the process should focus on those qualified candidates that have displayed the most student success in their prior experience in public school administration, with a focus on success that spans across diverse communities, rural, urban and suburban, and communities with diverse student populations that most closely mirror the student populations across Louisiana, and evidence of an understanding of the challenges of educating students in the varied public school districts across Louisiana;

WHEREAS, only upon a determination by BESE, acting in an open meeting, that none of the candidates that meet the qualifications are suitable to serve as the State Superintendent of Education, should BESE consider waiving the established minimum qualifications and further evaluating the non-qualified candidates.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bienville Parish School Board, urges BESE, in the process of selecting the next State Superintendent of Education, to uphold the establish minimum qualifications adopted by BESE and existing in current Louisiana law and regulation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bienville Parish School Board urges BESE to refuse to waive the minimum qualifications set forth in existing Louisiana law and regulation without a public determination, as a body, that none of the candidates meeting those qualifications is a suitable candidate for State Superintendent of Education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bienville Parish School Board urges BESE to select a new State Superintendent who:

- Meets the established minimum qualifications set forth in Louisiana law and regulation;
- Has displayed student success in public school administration in Louisiana;
- Has displayed student success in public school administration in both rural and suburban/urban communities;
- Has displayed student success in communities with diverse student populations;
- Has an understanding of the challenges of educating students in the varied public school districts across Louisiana;

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bienville Parish School Board directs the Superintendent to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and to each BESE member whose district incorporates a portion of the Bienville School District.

By Motion of Board Member Ms. Freddie Blow, duly seconded by Board Member Dr. Larry Knotts, the above Resolution was adopted by the following vote on this 28th day of April 2020.

YEAS: Sharolyn Boston, Mickey Hampton, Freddie Blow, Bonita Reliford, Martha Grigg, Larry Knotts, Donald Calloway

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand officially on this 28th day of April 2020.

MICKY HAMPTON, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

WILLIAM WYSINGER
SUPERINTENDENT

SECRETARY-TREASURER

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion by Ms. Bonita Reliford, seconded by Dr. Larry Knotts adjourning the meeting.

/s/ William Wysinger

William Wysinger, Secretary
Bienville Parish School Board

/s/Mickey Hampton

Mickey Hampton, President
Bienville Parish School Board

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, William Wysinger, Secretary of Bienville Parish School Board, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of proceedings of the regular meeting of the Board, April 28, 2020.

/s/ William Wysinger

William Wysinger, Secretary
Bienville Parish School Board