Acadia board OKs projects, raises

By JO CART
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CROWLEY — The Acadia Parish School Board approved a number of projects Tuesday, including a 4 percent raise for custodians, cafeteria workers and secretaries.

The board also decided to advertise for a new central office position, that of technology supervisor.

Superintendent Bobby Stringer said that, since the parish is moving into more technology programs, he believes it is necessary to have someone to coordinate all of the parish schools in order to maximize efficiency of the overall program.

Other expenditures approved included advertising for bids for reroofing Crowley Junior High School; for metal to reroof the Iota High School gym, Church Point Middle School gym and South Crowley Elementary School third-grade wing; and for repairs to the Crowley Junior High School boys gym, inside and out.

The board approved a report showing substantial completion of the replacement of lamps, ballast and light fixtures at Rayne High School, the sheet vinyl flooring at Church Point High School and the asbestos removal on the boiler at Church Point High.

The board also approved advertising for bids to purchase hardware and software to upgrade business office applications in the central office.

In other action, the board designated Francis Mouille, assistant superintendent, as a parish affirmative action officer, and Stringer read a letter from state Superintendent of Education Wayne Lai-Cody stating that Acadia has been chosen as one of four parishes in the state to receive about $67,000 to institute a new parenting program.

Stringer said it will involve 160 families with children aged from birth through 4 years in the Rayne, Church Point and Crowley areas. It’s an instructional program to help these parents learn how to prepare their children to enter school.

A detailed report on enrollment showed a total of 10,577 students as of Tuesday — compared to 10,371 on the same date a year ago. This is an increase of more than 300 students since the opening day of school.

The sales tax report showed a decrease of 6.13 percent for August compared to August last year, with a year-to-date decrease of 7.48 percent compared to last year.

At the start of the meeting the board heard detailed reports of Future Farmers of America activities from the vocational agriculture faculty and FFA officers from all of the parish high schools.

Three new presidents of parish professional groups were introduced. They were: Jan Douguet, president of the Acadia Association of Educators; Ruth Petry, president of the Association of Professional Educators of Louisiana, Acadia chapter; and Ronnie Douguet, president of Acadia Association of Administrators. Each of the three presidents outlined the goals of their particular groups for the coming year.