Close votes decide Acadia School Board leadership

By Steve Bandy
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CROWLEY — By the hardest, the Acadia Parish School Board elected officers for the next two years here Tuesday night.

Board members voted eight times — four times for president and four for vice president — before breaking an 8-8 deadlock in each race and selecting Charles F. Daigle of Church Point as president and Myron "Clark" Hoffpaur of Crowley vice president.

Daigle and Hoffpaur were originally pitted against other in the nominations for the position of president. However, a roll call vote ended in an 8-8 tie.

Voting in the first balloting of the night was as follows:

For Daigle: Lyle Johnson, Kitty Valdetero, John Quebodeaux, Roland Boudreaux, Rodney Trahan, Robert McManus, Lynn Miller and Daigle.


The board then voted to move to the election of a vice president. Johnson and Hoffpaur were nominated for the position and, again, a roll call vote ended in an 8-8 tie.

Hoffpaur supporters remained true and Daigle supporters voted for Johnson.

Back to president: same results.

Back to vice president: same results.

In an effort to break the stalemate, Quebodeaux suggested that the candidates for president give their plans for the board's future.

Hoffpaur cited his expertise in the area of maintenance.

"This is one of our priorities," he said.

"I think we're heading in the right direction educationally," Daigle stated that he felt his strength was in management, adding, "I think the school board as a whole needs a better image in the eyes of the public."

The vote was again the same.

At the recommendation of attorney Ken Privat, the board then tabled the election until the end of the agenda and moved on with the regular business.

Returning to the matter, the vote for president again ended in an 8-8 tie — none of the members changing his vote.

Bias attempted to put the vote off for a month by offering a motion to adjourn. Her motion failed for lack of second.

When the vote for vice president came up, Marceaux changed his vote from Hoffpaur to Johnson; but Miller also changed his, from Johnson to Hoffpaur. The result was another 8-8 tie.

Bias again attempted to put the vote off and this time her motion was seconded by Shamsie. It was defeated 13-3 (Senegal also voted yes).

Miller asked Privat if Hoffpaur's election as vice president would automatically name Daigle president since his (Daigle's) only competition had been removed.

Privat affirmed that, in his opinion, since nominations could not be re-opened, the election of Hoffpaur to either of the positions would automatically place his competitor in the remaining race in office.

Miller called for a re-vote for the office of vice president.

Marceaux again voted for Johnson. Miller again voted for Hoffpaur. But McManus also changed his vote from Johnson to Hoffpaur, giving Hoffpaur a 9-7 advantage, thus moving Daigle into the president's seat.

In related business, Johnson and Trahan were named to two-year terms on the executive committee, on which the vice president serves as chairman.