Board makes kindergarten attendance mandatory

By JO CART
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CROWLEY — Kindergarten attendance in Acadia Parish will now be mandatory following action of the School Board on Monday.

The board was told that about 98 percent of the children in the parish already are attending kindergarten voluntarily, and as a result those who do not have that advantage are having difficulty keeping up in first-grade classes.

The new ruling will become effective in September.

A motion by Lyle Johnson that outstanding students in the five parish high schools be honored at a parishwide banquet in late spring hosted by the School Board received preliminary approval and then was referred for Superintendent Jim Griffin to handle the final details.

The proposal calls for students having no less than a B in the first five six-weeks periods of the 1984-85 school year to be those honored.

Johnson said in his proposal that while individual schools do hold various award programs, the School Board is concerned primarily with the academic excellence of parish students and therefore should honor those who have outstanding achievements in this area.

At the start of the meeting, outstanding band students and their directors were recognized by the board.

Those honored come from Church Point, Crowley and Rayne high schools.

The board received two bids on the purchase of two tractors with mowers and three bids on band instruments. All five bids were referred to the Executive Committee for study.

The 1985-86 Budget Committee was appointed by President John Sitig and will include Wadie Breaux, chairman, along with Louis Girouard, Carlton McParlin and Johnnie Smith.

In other action, the board:

• Adopted a resolution asking the state Department of Transportation and Development to erect a four-way stop sign at the Mire Elementary School.

• Authorized holding summer-school classes at $75 for elementary students and $125 per class for high school students. The classes will be conducted at Crowley High School.

• Changed the date of the April 1 School Board meeting to April 3 because of the School Board convention and learned that the three area legislators will be in the board room at 3:30 that afternoon at the request of parish school administrators to answer questions and discuss educational programs.

• Approved a request from Delta US to waive the penalty of $1,850.37 on delinquent sales tax. The board's attorney advised that the company had paid $8,500, which included $1,062.50 in interest.

• Learned from its accountant that the coming budget will need to provide between $20,000 and $30,000 for the annual audit since the state legislative auditor has said his office cannot handle the job this year.