School Board Sheds Light On Overall Good Financial Condition

Through budget action earlier this month, the Vermilion Parish School Board was able to state that the Parish's financial condition is 'good financial condition.'

That was the overall picture given board members at last Thursday's meeting by Superintendent of Public Schools Eason Hortner. The state Department of Education requires an opinion on the financial condition of public schools.

Horton enjoyed a reduction in the state-mandated Foundation Program, which allows that part of the school budget to be fully funded. He further said that the Board, in a sense, would not likely be a vote over the next 10 years.

Some steps taken to reduce the budget were the elimination of all out-of-state travel of all personnel as well as all supplies or materials needed most through the year, and the maintenance of the buildings before being purchased.

Superintendent said that he has not discussed the situation with the Board, the directors and supervisors asking for suggestions or advice.

"I want to involve as many personnel as possible, and hope to come together, not at the same time of meeting with something substantial," the Boardmember stated.

Boardmembers then approved resolutions to be sent to the government and members of the legislature asking them to "spend the time on school district and secondary education." These resolutions asked the state leaders to not cut the cuts to education, and are being sent from school boards throughout the state.

In other business transacted by the board, it was agreed to delay the hiring of the firm of Poche Associates for the coming year for the purpose of monitoring utilities. The firm was asked to advise the board on energy-saving measures. However, due to the latest budget cut, it was voted by the board to delay the hiring of the firm for one year.

The board did approve the purchase of the second floor of the building as well as the construction of a new school building. The Louisiana State Engineering Corporation will do the work at a cost of $1,295,000 for the school. The board also recognized a former employee from Kaplan during National School Action Week.

PERSONNEL ACTION

The board approved the following personnel actions:

- Appointed Lawrence C. Martin, Abbeville High, additional duties as a head football coach.
- Transferred Mary Jean P. Collins, permanent substitute for compensatory essential program.
- Accepted the resignation of Arthur J. Melvin Jr., Abbeville High, head football coach. 
- Granted maternity leave to Jocelyn Lamillais, Abbeville High.
- Accepted the resignation of Mary Ann Gallet, North Vermilion.
- Granted a leave of absence to Reginald L. Long, Kaplan High, for two years of service.

- Accepted the resignations of Ruby L. Beaudry, Kaplan High,unchronced for five years of service.

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