Basile school workers hit salary cutbacks

By BERNICE ARDON
News Editor

Basile’s school employees listed their objections and offered their alternative to recent salary cuts approved by the Evangeline School Board in a letter mailed to Hampton Dupre, board president.

The Basile staff criticized the board for making "no sincere effort to examine in depth other alternatives for savings, such as the four-day work week."

The letter, read by board member Dr. Bobby Deshotel during Wednesday’s meeting, criticized board members for failing to cut their own salaries.

The letter pointed out, "That employees were hired with the understanding that salaries were to remain uniform throughout the 1986-87 school year and that the board knew the state of the economy at the time of the sales tax projection."

The Basile employees requested three fewer workdays this school year to compensate for the salary cuts. Deshotel said he was “hurt” by the letter and blamed Gov. Edwin Edwards for his decision to cut MFP funding.

"Teachers in this state have always supported Governor Edwin Edwards and his programs, and now they’ve gotten the shaft,” Deshotel noted.

The Basile board member defended the board’s recent action. “Last year we fought to give raises to our teachers and now we’re the ones to get chewed out. We’re limited to what we can do.”

President Dupre noted the board’s newly formed Ways and Means Committee is presently looking at various ways to reduce spending. Committee chairman James Berthelot said the committee will meet Tuesday night, Jan. 27.

A response to the letter will be sent to the Basile schools, said Superintendent Larry Broussard.

Bayou Chicot High School, Broussard said, requested for the remainder of this fiscal year. In July, the board anticipates reinstating full allocation for the coming year.

Current allocations range from $20 to $29, based on grade levels. The new formula, which will become effective July 1, will include: $20 for lower elementary students, $27 for upper elementary students, $36 for each high school student, and Mamou High School will receive $39 per student. Mamou High receives more money per student because it is the only 9-12 school with a small enrollment, Broussard said.

Passed a resolution requesting Louisiana School Boards Association to file suit against the state to restore $90 million to the state Minimum Foundation Program.

Agreed to drop land rent on rice acreage for the board’s 16th Section land from $30 to $20 per acre.

Voted to allow parish gyms to be used by the Little Dribblers, if proof of insurance and permission from the school principals is obtained.

Recognized four Mamou students named to the Academic All-State Football Team. They were: Mack Guillory, Jr., Steven Guillory, Derrelly Duplechin, and Kim Young. Two of these members were named to the composite team: Steven Guillory and Derrelly Duplechin.

Approved Mamou High School roof as 90 percent complete.

Appointed Gwen Deville as a new special education teacher at the Career School and Betty Brown as special education aide.

Accepted the following changes in personnel: Elaine S. Launey, school nurse at the Media Center, effective Feb. 2 instead of Jan. 19; George "Bobby" Soileau, teacher at Ville Platte High, withdrew his resignation; Margaret Frank, special ed. aide at Ville Platte High, resigned effective Jan. 23; Frances Washington, special ed. aide at Ville Platte High School, Ville Platte High, resigned effective Jan. 25; and Harold Deville, special education teacher at Ville Platte High, resigned effective Jan. 26.