



**City of Baker School Board
January 12, 2021**

MINUTES

The City of Baker School Board held a public meeting via Zoom beginning at 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2021.

President Booker explained that while conducting Board Meetings via Zoom, the public can attend the meeting and also ask questions/make comments by using the email address: comments@bakerschools.org. Since the meeting is virtual, all votes will be taken by roll call.

President Booker called the meeting to order and took roll call:

BURGES:	Present
BOXIE:	Present
PARKER:	Present
DAVIS:	Present
BOOKER:	Present

A moment of silent meditation was led by Mrs. Burges, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mrs. Davis.

President Booker welcomed all persons participating in the meeting.

President Booker asked for a motion to accept and adopt the certification of the inability to conduct an in-person meeting by the City of Baker School Board on January 12, 2021, and to proceed with the meeting by electronic means.

On motion of Mrs. Davis seconded by Mrs. Burges, the Board voted to adopt the *Certification of Inability to Achieve In-person Quorum & Notice to Meet through Electronic Means*. Voting yes: Booker, Boxie, Burges and Davis. Voting no: None.

A motion was made by Mrs. Davis to consider all items on the agenda because they were critical and time sensitive (Act 42 of 2020, 2nd Ext. Session). Her motion was seconded by Mrs. Burges. Voting yes: Booker, Boxie, Burges and Davis. Voting no: None.

On motion of Mrs. Burges seconded by Mrs. Boxie, the Board voted to approve the agenda as presented. Voting yes: Booker, Boxie, Burges and Davis. Voting no: None.

An election of School Board officers was held:

A motion was made by Mrs. Boxie to elect Mrs. Vanessa Parker as President. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Burges. Voting yes: Booker, Parker, Boxie, Burges and Davis. Voting no: None.

A motion was made by Mrs. Parker to elect Mrs. Shona Boxie as Vice President. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Burges. Voting yes: Booker, Parker, Boxie, Burges and Davis. Voting no: None.

Mrs. Vanessa Parker is the new President of the City of Baker School Board and Mrs. Shona Boxie is the new Vice President.

Board Attorney Winston DeCuir swore in President Parker and Vice President Boxie.

Interim Superintendent De'Ette Perry explained that the Quest to Excellence Award was being presented for the first time. The Quest to Excellence Award is awarded to an individual who embodies the values of the City of Baker School System: committed to children, families and communities; builds respectful and caring relationships; values others; exemplifies integrity; demonstrates responsibility; works collaboratively with others; and creates equity, excellence, and empowerment in the City of Baker School System. The first Quest to Excellence Award was presented to Mrs. Jill Taylor, Attendance Clerk at Baker High School, who has been working in education since 1999.

At this time, newly-elected President Vanessa Parker took over the meeting.

On motion of Mrs. Davis seconded by Mrs. Burges, the Board voted to approve the corrected minutes from the meeting of December 8, 2020. Voting yes: Parker, Boxie, Booker, Burges and Davis. Voting no: None.

On motion of Mrs. Davis seconded by Mrs. Boxie, the Board voted to accept the certified personnel recommendations and to approve the non-certified personnel recommendations, with the correction of Item #4 on the certified personnel recommendations. Voting yes: Parker, Boxie, Booker, Burges and Davis. Voting no: None.

On motion of Mrs. Burges seconded by Ms. Booker, the Board voted to accept the monthly financial report summaries including budget to actual comparisons for the period ending November 30, 2020, as presented by Mrs. Sidney Stewart, Business Manager. Voting yes: Parker, Boxie, Booker, Burges and Davis. Voting no: None.

On motion of Mrs. Boxie seconded by Ms. Booker, the Board voted to approve the creation of the position of "Plant and Facilities Operations Technician." Voting yes: Parker, Boxie and Booker. Voting no: Davis. Abstaining: Burges.

On motion of Mrs. Boxie seconded by Ms. Booker, the Board voted to approve the job description for "Plant and Facilities Operations Technician." Voting yes: Parker, Boxie and Booker. Voting no: Davis. Abstaining: Burges.

Ms. Booker read the following statement regarding Agenda Item #18:

“The City of Baker School Board may meet in executive session to discuss a personnel matter involving the appointment and contract of Dr. De’Ette Perry as Interim Superintendent. While in executive session, the Board may meet with its attorney or other persons it deems necessary. No motions may be made or votes taken. Do I hear a motion?”

On motion of Mrs. Burges seconded by Mrs. Boxie, the Board voted to go into executive session. Voting yes: Parker, Boxie, Booker, Burges and Davis. Voting no: None.

On motion of Mrs. Burges seconded by Mrs. Boxie, the Board voted to return to regular session from executive session. Voting yes: Parker, Boxie, Booker, Burges and Davis. Voting no: None.

On motion of Mrs. Burges seconded by Ms. Booker, the Board voted to offer Dr. De’Ette Perry a contract as Interim Superintendent of the City of Baker School System, with an annual salary of \$125,000, a \$600/month car allowance, and a cell phone, laptop computer or portable device at the School Board’s expense. Voting yes: Parker, Boxie, Booker, Burges and Davis. Voting no: None.

Mr. Michael Faulk, the contractor hired to conduct the superintendent search, provided a recap of the progress he has made to date as well as some additional steps to be taken:

- Worked with board attorney to review my plans
- Prepared an advertisement for the position.
- Place advertisement on the Louisiana School Boards Association (LSBA) and Louisiana Association of School Superintendents (LASS) websites.
- Worked with Human Resources Supervisor, Mr. David Grisby, to have advertisement placed in *The Advocate* and New Orleans newspapers for January 10, and January 24, 2021.
- Advertisement placed in the *Lake Charles American Press* newspaper for January 10, and January 24, 2021. Will also be placed online.
- Listed advertisement on the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) Teach Louisiana site.
- Requested Louisiana superintendents to share the job announcement with staff members.
- Requested State President of the Human Resources Directors Association to email the job announcement to all human resources directors.
- Sent an email to all City of Baker School Board Members asking them questions pertaining to qualities, characteristics and experience they were looking for in candidates, as well as areas they would like to cover during the interview process and if there were specific they would like to ask.

- Once information is received from board members, the qualities, characteristics and experiences to review the applications will be listed.
- A series of questions will be formulated for the board to consider in planning for interviews.
- A suggested process for the board to consider in selecting persons to be interviewed, conducting interviews, questioning, and ultimately voting for a person to be selected will be formulated.
- All applications will be sent to Michael Faulk postmarked no later than February 5, 2021.
- Once it is determined that all applications have been received, they will be evaluated by Mr. Winston DeCuir, Mr. Davis Grisby and myself to determine that proper credentials are in place, all requirements have been met, make necessary contacts with references and look at background information.
- Once completed, contractor will present a list of qualified/certified candidates to board members for the board to consider interviewing. Persons who have not followed the prescribed procedure or provided all information requested, will not be presented for consideration.
- Board members will determine which applicants will be interviewed.
- Once it has been determined who will be interviewed and the dates and times interviews will be conducted, the successful applicants will be contacted and interviews scheduled.

Interim Superintendent Perry made the following announcements/remarks:

1. Congratulations to Miss Janya Delough! Janya, a 7th grade student at Baker Middle School will serve as a Jobs for Americas Graduates (JAG-LA) Representative. She competed virtually among other JAG middle schoolers across the state and was selected as JAG-LA Representative for 2020-2021. Special thanks to Ms. Keyo Johnson, JAG-LA Specialist and Mr. Roy Walker, Baker Middle School Principal, for their leadership.
2. Baker High School students Sydnee Jackson and Imani Mellion were selected to perform in the "Athena-Virtual Honor Wind Ensemble". This is a unique international performance opportunity for our students and the Baker High School Band Program. Congratulations to Sydnee and Imani, their Band Director, Dr. William Earvin, and Principal, Ms. Traci Morgan.
3. Follow our website and the latest news in the school system by signing up for our free app. Go to the App Store and key in City of Baker School System. Click on "open" and you will unlock your access to the great things happening in the City of Baker School system.
4. On Monday, January 18th, the school system will be closed for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. Each of our families are encouraged to remember Dr. King's fight for freedom, equality, and dignity of all races and peoples through non-violence.

President Parker thanked those participating in the meeting and announced the next meeting of the City of Baker School Board would be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, on motion of Mrs. Davis seconded by Mrs. Boxie, the School Board voted to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Voting yes: Parker, Boxie, Booker, Burges and Davis. Voting no: None.

Submitted by Dr. De'Ette Perry, Interim Secretary.