



City of Baker School Board Meeting October 3, 2023

MINUTES

The City of Baker School Board held a public meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3, 2023.

President Burges called the meeting to order and explained to visitors the process for speaking on action agenda items is to request a comment card from Mrs. Debbie Dedeaux. Write your name on the card as well as the number of the agenda item you wish to speak on and return the card to Mrs. Dedeaux. She will bring the card up to the Board President at the appropriate time. Visitors will be allowed two (2) minutes to speak.

President Burges welcomed all visitors to the meeting and referenced the quote at the top of the agenda, "It doesn't matter how strong your opinions are. If you don't use your power for positive change, you are, indeed, part of the problem." – Coretta Scott King.

President Burges took roll call:

Perkins: Present
Profit: Present
Joseph: Present
Butler: Absent
Burges: Present

President Burges announced there was a quorum and the meeting would proceed.

Silent Meditation/Prayer was led by Mrs. Joseph followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Lynette Mack.

On motion of Mrs. Profit seconded by Mrs. Perkins, the Board voted to approve the agenda as presented. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, and Burges. Voting no: Joseph. Absent: Butler.

1. A motion was made by Mrs. Joseph to vote on the approval of the minutes from the September 5, 2023 school board meeting and the minutes from the September 11, 2023 special school board meeting separately. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perkins. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, and Joseph. Voting no: Burges. Absent: Butler.

A motion was made by Mrs. Profit to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2023 school board meeting. The motion failed for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Mrs. Profit and seconded by Mrs. Perkins to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2023 special school board meeting. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, and Burges. Voting no: Joseph. Absent: Butler. The motion passed.

2. On motion of Mrs. Profit seconded by Mrs. Perkins, the Board voted to accept the monthly financial reports including budget to actual comparisons for the periods ending July 31, 2023, and August 31, 2023. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, and Burges. Voting no: Joseph. Absent: Butler.

3. President Burges recommended the Board table Agenda Item 3: Consideration and Approval of the following Policies:
 - B-4 Officers of the Board
 - 2023-2024 Parental and Family Engagement Policy
 - 2023-2024 School-Parent Compact for:
 - Baker Heights Elementary/Park Ridge Academic Magnet School
 - Baker Middle/Park Ridge Academic Magnet School
 - Baker High School

This is due to state and federal issues that have not been ironed out completely. She asked for a motion. On motion of Mrs. Profit seconded by Mrs. Joseph, the Board voted to table Agenda Item 3. Voting yes: Profit, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: Perkins. Absent: Butler.

4. On motion of Mrs. Profit seconded by Mrs. Joseph, the Board voted to approve change orders for the Baker High School Construction Project (Roof on Building A). Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None. Absent: Butler.

5. On motion of Mrs. Profit seconded by Mrs. Perkins, the Board voted to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire (For Audit Engagements of Governments). Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None. Absent: Butler.

President Burges took a moment to recognize and thank the following persons:

- Mr. Eric Lewis for the work he's doing with STEM. Our students are involved in many exciting activities.
- Dr. Lisa Smothers for her continued work with the College Level Examination Program (CLEP). A great program where our high school students can get college credit while still in high school.
- Mrs. Tammy Hill for working on determining how many school lunches we serve in a month and working with vendors to improve our lunch menus.
- Our school PTO Presidents for being so active in our schools.
- Mr. Ricky Jones for the outstanding job he is doing with our district website.

Information Items:

1. Superintendent's Report on Personnel
A report on all personnel actions was provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

2. Superintendent Search Update (via Zoom with Consultant)

Superintendent Search Consultant, Mrs. Renae Mitchell (HALO Solutions) provided an update to the Board on steps completed thus far in the search for the City of Baker School System Superintendent.

Announcements:

1. Date of Next Meeting – November 7, 2023

Superintendent's Report:

1. Mr. Stroder introduced the newest member of the Central Office staff, Dr. Kimberly Gales-Johnson, Director of Human Resources and Supervisor of K-5 Instruction.

2. Discipline

One of our goals that we set for this year was to improve student discipline. I went in and looked at data going back to 2010 on discipline referrals. I calculated the number of discipline referrals during the first month of school, and the average over the last 13 years has been 134 discipline referrals during the first month of school. This year we had 33. We feel that our strong stance on fighting, and in not allowing cell phones in the classroom has helped refocus our students on what's happening in the classroom. The district average for fights over the last 13 years in the first two months of school was 62. This year we had 24.

3. Teacher Certification

In 2021 (the year after COVID), 45% of our teachers were certified and 55% were uncertified. Last year at the beginning of school, that number had dropped to 34% certified and 66% uncertified. This year we have flipped that number. We are now at 55% certified and 45% uncertified. We believe by the end of October we will be closer to 65% certified.

4. Teacher Vacancies

We looked at teacher vacancies for the last 3 years. Two summers ago, we had 15 teacher vacancies going into the school year. Last summer we had 12 teacher vacancies going into the school year. This year, going into the school year we had 2 vacancies, and as of this date, with the exception of 1 teacher vacancy, we are fully staffed.

Adjournment:

On motion of Mrs. Profit seconded by Mrs. Perkins, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None. Absent: Butler.