



City of Baker School Board Meeting November 7, 2023

MINUTES

The City of Baker School Board held a public meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 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, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." Nelson Mandela.

President Burges took roll call:

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

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

Silent Meditation/Prayer was led by Ms. Butler followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Willie Williams.

The Board recognized the following:

- The Baker High School Girls' Volleyball Team for making it to the state playoffs.
- The Park Ridge Girls' Volleyball Team
- The Baker High School Homecoming Court
- The Baker Heights/Park Ridge Homecoming Court

President Burges also recognized the Student Government Association (SGA) who had some members in attendance. The SGA is under the leadership of Mr. Stewart, Ms. Broussard, Ms. McGee, and Ms. Haynes.

On motion of Mrs. Profit seconded by Ms. Butler, the Board voted to approve the agenda as presented. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None.

Action Items:

1. 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, Butler, and Burges. Voting no: Joseph.
2. A motion was made by Mrs. Perkins and seconded by Mrs. Joseph to vote on each policy under Agenda Item #3 separately. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, and Joseph. Voting no: Burges. The motion passed.
 - a. Policy B-4 Officers of the Board
Motion made by Mrs. Perkins to approve Policy B-4.
Seconded by Mrs. Profit
Voting yes: Profit, Butler, and Burges. Voting no: Perkins, and Joseph.
The motion passed.
 - b. Policy B-11 School Board Meetings
Motion was made by Ms. Butler to approve Policy B-1.
Seconded by Mrs. Perkins.
Voting yes: Profit, Butler, and Burges. Voting no: Perkins, and Joseph.
The motion passed.
 - c. Policy B-17 Board Member Site Visits
Motion made by Ms. Butler to approve Policy B-11.
Seconded by Mrs. Profit.
Voting yes: Profit, Butler, and Burges. Voting no: Perkins, and Joseph
The motion passed.
 - d. 2023-2024 Parental and Family Engagement Policy
Motion was made by Ms. Butler to approve the 2023-2024 Family Engagement Policy. Seconded by Mrs. Profit.
Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None.
The motion passed.
 - e. 2023-2024 School-Parent Compact for:
 1. Baker Heights Elementary/Park Ridge Academic Magnet School
 2. Baker Middle/Park Ridge Academic Middle Magnet School
 3. Baker High SchoolMotion was made by Ms. Butler to approve the School-Parent Compacts for Baker Heights Elementary/Park Ridge Academic Magnet School, Baker Middle/Park Ridge Academic Middle Magnet School, and Baker High School.
Seconded by Mrs. Joseph.
Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None.
The motion passed.

4. On motion of Mrs. Profit seconded by Mrs. Joseph, the Board voted to table Item #4: “Consideration and Approval of Change Order for the Baker High School Construction Project (Single Point of Entry – Change Order #6). Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None.
5. On motion of Ms. Butler seconded by Mrs. Perkins, the Board voted to approve the authorization to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for furniture and fixtures for Baker High School Restoration and Renovation Project. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None.
6. On motion of Mrs. Profit seconded by Ms. Butler, the Board voted to approve the authorization to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Project/Program management to finish the Baker High School Construction Project and FEMA funding. Voting yes: Profit, Butler, Joseph, and Butler. Voting no: Perkins.

Information Items:

1. Superintendent’s Report on Personnel
A report on all personnel actions was provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
2. Committee of the Whole
Many school boards around the state hold a Committee of the Whole meeting, which is a workshop proceeding the board meeting. The purpose is to go over the agenda items and talk about them and ask questions. This is usually done about a week ahead of the board meeting. I just wanted to put this out there as an information item in case the Board wanted to think about doing this.
3. Superintendent’s Search
The Superintendent Search Consultant, Mrs. Renae Mitchell with Halo Solutions, provided an update on the Superintendent’s Search:
 - There were 34 applicants. In going through all of the applications, only 14 met the qualifications. Upon looking through those 14 applicants, only 4 had all of the qualifications the Board told me they were looking for, as well as the public.
 - All 4 finalists have or are eligible to receive their superintendent certification.
 - The 4 finalists will be interviewed by the Board here at the School Board Office on Saturday, November 11, 2023, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Announcements:

1. Date of Next Meeting -- December 5, 2023
2. Interviews of candidates for Superintendent -- Saturday, November 11, 2023

Superintendent's Report

1. Accountability Report

Interim Superintendent Stroder suggested that because of the lateness of the meeting Dr. Smothers present her Accountability Report at the December 5th School Board Meeting.

2. Facilities Update

- We have purchased additional cameras at Baker Heights Elementary School, Baker High School, and the Park Ridge campuses. We also have additional money to purchase additional cameras if we need to. We have identified approximately 20 camera locations at the new high school. We have funding through the Stronger Connections Grant and ESSER for that, as well as a single point of entry.
- We are looking at remodeling the current high school campus (Baker Middle School) as well as the Park Ridge facilities. Both of these remodels should be done or close to being done by the end of this year. We are looking at door replacements at all 3 campuses by Thanksgiving.
- One of the other things we are looking at purchasing with the Stronger Connections Grant is Raptor software. The State of Louisiana has required all districts in Louisiana to implement a panic button by April of 2024. The Raptor software is two-fold: (1) It's visitor management software. So, when visitors come onto the campus, they enter their information into the Raptor system, it does a quick background check, and lets us know if this is someone we should be concerned about or not. (2) It has panic button capabilities. What that means is that any staff member on that campus would have access to a panic button. So, if there is an emergency, they could hit the panic button and immediately notify emergency services to be dispatched to the campus.
- HVAC reconstruction/construction has been underway since summer. We believe we have most of them up to date and running now. We have discussed installing an HVAC unit in the gym at the current high school/middle school campus so the gym area would be cool.
- I spoke with Jason (with Stuart Construction) today and the roof on the building at the Baker High School campus should be completed by December 1st. I did receive a letter from the insurance company today, and they do believe that our policy will cover some of the roof as well as the track at the high school.

President Burges announced the Board was having a Community Meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at the School Board Office beginning at 6:00 p.m. so the community can voice any questions or concerns they have.

Adjournment:

On motion of Ms. Butler seconded by Mrs. Profit, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None.

Submitted by J. T. Stroder, Interim Secretary.