



**City of Baker School Board Meeting
April 4, 2023**

MINUTES

The City of Baker School Board held a public meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

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

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

President Burges announced there was a quorum.

A prayer was led by President Burges, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mrs. Perkins.

President Burges welcomed all visitors to the meeting.

On motion of Ms. Butler seconded by Mrs. Burges, the Board voted to amend the agenda to add “Approval of Agenda” to the agenda. Voting yes: Perkins, Butler, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None. Absent: Profit.

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

Dr. Lisa Smothers, Supervisor of Assessment, Accountability and Evaluation, recognized the hard work of the Baker High School staff, under the leadership of Principal Candance Russell in assisting Baker High School seniors and parents in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Not only is completion of the FAFSA a requirement for graduation, but it will also qualify graduates for federal financial assistance. Dr. Smothers presented Dr. Russell with a Certificate of Excellence for Baker High School’s recognition on the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) website for making the most progress in FAFSA completion during the months of February and March.

Information Items:

1. Superintendent’s Report on Personnel – Mr. Stroder informed the Board that this month’s report also included personnel actions taken during the month of March, as they were not presented at the March meeting.
2. Baker High School Construction Updates – Mr. Stroder informed the Board that he had met with Mr. Ryan Bertucci with Manning Architects, and Mr. Jason Catlin, Project Manager with Stewart & Company Construction, on March 13th to receive an update on the status of the Baker High School Project. At that meeting, it was learned that several

items were not included or were value engineered out: intercom system, phone system, technology infrastructure, and security updates. The District will need to look at putting these items back in. Mr. Bertucci and Mr. Catlin provided an update on the project and informed the Board that as of now, they are looking at a completion date of April 2024. President Burges reminded Board Members that a walk-thru of the construction site was scheduled for April 13th.

3. Campus Security Improvements – The District has submitted a grant proposal to the Louisiana Department of Education. The “Stronger Connections” grant is in the amount of \$500,000 and is to be used to “harden” our school facilities. We are looking at remodeling Park Ridge Academic Magnet School and Baker High School (currently located at 5903 Groom Road) to create a single point of entry. Metal detectors have been installed on all campuses. Sixteen new cameras have been installed at Baker High School, and 5 more will be installed over spring break. We’d also like to install a notification system so that if an entrance/exit door is breached, a notification is sent to the front office that a door has been opened. We are also looking at getting quotes to install cameras at Baker Heights Elementary School and at the renovated Baker High School.
4. Comparison of Surrounding Districts’ Pay Schedules – Out of the 12 surrounding school districts, Baker comes in second to last in salaries. I am working with the business manager, and the human resources supervisor and looking at how we can make Baker more competitive with our surrounding districts. There is a shortage of qualified/certified teachers in our state, so all districts are competing for those teachers. We work hard here to get our teachers certified and once they are, they leave for districts with higher salaries.
5. Re-structuring of Campuses - We are looking to see if we re-shuffle/re-structure some of our campuses and combine and use same facilities, what kind of recurring savings that would create on a yearly basis. If we could close a campus, that would provide some savings that we could apply to improving our salary schedule. Another savings would be not filling vacant positions.
6. Student Handbook – We are trying to get a jump-start on our student handbook for next year. We are recommending some changes to the handbook regarding: student attendance, school safety, discipline, student fighting, suspensions and expulsions, behavior modification center, and cell phones on campus. Once finalized, the handbook will come to the Board for approval.
7. Policy Review – Mr. Stroder provided the Board with copies of the first three policies in the City of Baker School Board Policy Manual for their review:
 1. SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
 - A-1, School Board Legal Status
 - A-2, School District Legal Status
 - A-3, Authority

He suggested they may want to review their policies on a monthly basis. He requested they look over these three policies, and if they would like to change anything that can be changed, get back with him so this could be placed on the agenda of the May meeting for discussion.

Action Items:

1. Consideration and Approval of Minutes from the School Board Meeting of March 14, 2023

A motion was made by Ms. Butler to approve the minutes from the School Board Meeting of March 14, 2023. The motion failed for lack of a second.

2. Consideration and Acceptance of Monthly Financial Report including Budget to Actual Comparisons for the Period Ending February 28, 2023

A motion was made by Ms. Butler to accept the monthly financial report including budget to actual comparisons for the period ending February 28, 2023. The motion failed for lack of a second.

3. Consideration and Approval of the City of Baker School System Calendar for the 2023-2024 School Year.

On motion of Mrs. Joseph seconded by Ms. Butler, the Board voted to approve the City of Baker School System calendar for the 2023-2024 school year with changes. Voting yes: Joseph, Butler, and Burges. Voting no: Perkins. Absent: Profit.

4. Consideration and Approval of a Request for Bids on Food Service Large Equipment using ESSER Funds

On motion of Mrs. Joseph seconded by Mrs. Perkins, the Board voted to approve a request for bids on food service large equipment using ESSER Funds. Voting yes: Perkins, Joseph, Butler, and Burges. Voting no: None. Absent: Profit.

5. Consideration and Approval of an Out-of-State Field Trip to Houston, Texas by Baker Middle School Students

On motion of Mrs. Joseph seconded by Mrs. Perkins, the Board voted to approve the out-of-state field trip to Houston, Texas by Baker Middle School students. Voting yes: Perkins, Joseph, Butler, and Burges. Voting no: None. Absent: Profit.

6. Consideration and Approval of Donation of Printers by ExxonMobil

On motion of Ms. Butler seconded by Mrs. Joseph, the Board voted to approve the donation of two printers by ExxonMobil to the City of Baker School System. One printer will be going to Baker Heights Elementary School and one printer will go to Baker High School. Voting yes: Perkins, Joseph, Butler, and Burges. Voting no: None. Absent: Profit.

Announcements:

1. Date of Next Meeting -- May 2, 2023
2. Baker High School Construction Site Walk-through for School Board Members -- April 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Superintendent's Report:

1. **JROTC Programs** – We met with the Marine JROTC representative last week. It was a very good meeting. I would like to bring JROTC to Baker High School. He recommended that we send applications out to all branches of the military. Principal Candance Russell is in the process now of conducting a survey of Baker High School students to determine how many students would be interested. We will keep you updated.

Board Member Linda Perkins read a list of questions regarding student literacy to Acting Superintendent J. T. Stroder and requested a response by the next board meeting:

1. Provide the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) performance scores by school, grade level, and performance band.
2. Include the plan for progress monitoring and intervention for each of the elementary schools where a large number of students are functioning below, and real below on DIBELS.
3. What intervention program are you using to support these students?
4. What is the total number of students in grades 4 through 12 who are not reading on grade level?
5. What diagnostic data do you have on these students, and what is the district currently doing to address the students who are not reading on grade level?
6. What interventions are used to support these students?
7. What additional professional development are teachers and principals receiving to support literacy in the classrooms of their respective schools?

There being no further business, on motion of Ms. Butler seconded by Mrs. Perkins, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. Voting yes: Perkins, Joseph, Butler, and Burges. Voting no: None. Absent: Profit.

Submitted by J.T. Stroder, Acting Secretary.