

The Bienville Parish School Board met in regular session Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bienville Parish School Board Annex, 1956 First Street, Arcadia, Louisiana. The regular meeting was called to order by President Derrika Bailey. Roll call was taken by Executive Secretary, Mary Hutchinson and recorded with all members and a quorum present: Ms. Sharolyn Boston, Mr. Oswald Townsend, Ms. Derrika Bailey, Mr. Darren Iverson, Ms. Martha Grigg, Mr. Colton Guin, and Mr. Donald Calloway. The opening prayer was given by Mr. Darren Iverson, followed by the pledge led by Superintendent Leroy Hamilton, Jr.

Motion by Ms. Sharolyn Boston, seconded by Mr. Oswald Townsend, passed, approved the agenda posted April 2, 2026 (as amended on April 8) for the April 9, 2026 regular meeting of the Bienville Parish School Board. No public comments were made or questions from the Board recorded.

Motion by Mr. Oswald Townsend, seconded by Mr. Darren Iverson, passed, approving the minutes of the regular meeting on March 5, 2026, as distributed. No public comments were made or questions from the Board recorded.

Dr. Mary Riley, Director of Special Education, gave a brief presentation on her nomination for Ms. Ginger Abney, Teacher at Crawford Elementary School, who was named as a 2025-2026 National Life Group Life Changer of the Year Spirit Award Winner. Ms. Abney was presented a certificate from Superintendent Leroy Hamilton Jr. for this honor.

Mr. Shane Lee, Parish Athletic Director, recognized Gibsland Coleman High School Boys Basketball team on winning the Class C State Championship for 2025-2026. Each player on the team roster, members of the management team, School Athletic Director Scherwanda Cooper-Boston, Assistant Athletic Director Margo Malone, Assistant Principal Shakeydra Johnson, School Principal Angela Corbin and Assistant Coach Andrew Haulcy received a certificate from Superintendent Leroy Hamilton. Head Coach Roger Jones was presented a 2025-2026 State Championship plaque by Superintendent Hamilton.

Motion by Mr. Donald Calloway, seconded by Mr. Colton Guin, passed, approving the Bienville Parish School Board 2026-2027 school calendar. (Calendar Option A was chosen). No public comments were made or questions from the Board recorded.

In regards to *agenda item #6 – Review policy BCBH and consider policy revisions* (Policy is titled Minutes of School Board Meetings) – Board Member Darren Iverson expressed concern regarding actual statements or discussions between board members during school board meetings being included in the minutes. The suggestion of not using names in the recording of minutes unless a board member makes a “For the Record” request was offered by Mr. Iverson. There was no board action in regards to this matter. No policy revision was noted or voted on.

In regards to *agenda item #7 – Discuss high school graduation dates for 2025-2026 and future graduation dates* – Board Member Darren Iverson expressed concern about the date of Ringgold High School’s graduation date being on a Monday this year; past traditions have always been on a Friday. Board Member Oswald Townsend also expressed dissatisfaction with Arcadia High School’s graduation date and time.

Superintendent Leroy Hamilton explained that all principals were given the opportunity early in the year to choose a date and time for his/her graduation with no two schools choosing the exact same. The dates chosen were on a first come, first serve basis from the principals. Each high school having a different graduation date and time would allow those who wanted to attend more than one graduation the opportunity to do so and it would allow the School Superintendent to be in attendance and support all high school graduations within the Parish. Ringgold High School Principal, Mr. Marchello Gates, was in attendance at the meeting and Superintendent Hamilton called on him to address the Board on how he chose Ringgold's graduation date. Mr. Gates explained he choose a Monday instead of the Friday before due to the State Track meet being held that week and possible conflicts for students involved. Mr. Gates also stated that graduation dates were given out in September which allowed plenty of time for planning. President Derrika Bailey reminded the Board that getting into the day-to-day operations of the schools was not something the Board needed to be doing. President Bailey allowed for public comment. There was one, Ms. Nicole Ruffin, a previous graduate of Ringgold High School. Ms. Ruffin expressed the inconvenience of the Monday date for families celebrating. No other public comments were made. There was no Board action or voting on this agenda item.

Motion by Mr. Donald Calloway, seconded by Mr. Colton Guin, passed, approving the following resolution read by Superintendent Hamilton declaring May 4-8, 2026 at Employee Appreciation Week:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, May 4-8, 2026, has been designated "Employee Appreciation" week; and

WHEREAS, the employees of Bienville Parish are steadfastly dedicated to providing students with premier educational opportunities that prepare them for all future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, these professionals make a profound difference every day, serving as role models through their unwavering professionalism and commitment to excellence; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to formally recognize the vital contributions made daily by those who impact the lives of our students;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the week of May 4-8, 2026, is officially designated as "Employee Appreciation" week in Bienville Parish. On behalf of the Bienville Parish School Board, parents, and students, we express our deepest gratitude to our employees for ensuring the success of our schools through their selfless care and dedication. We truly value your extraordinary efforts.

This resolution declared adopted on this 9th day of April 2026.

/s/ Leroy Hamilton, Jr.

/s/ Derrika Bailey

Leroy Hamilton, Superintendent

Derrika Bailey, President

Motion by Ms. Martha Grigg, seconded by Mr. Donald Calloway, passed authorizing the Superintendent to send letters of assurance to employees. There was some discussion between Board Member Oswald Townsend and Superintendent Leroy Hamilton on who would be getting the letters of assurance. Superintendent Hamilton stated all certified employees.

Motion by Mr. Darren Iverson , seconded by Ms. Martha Grigg, passed, approving the following use of school facilities requests. No public comments made or questions from the Board recorded:

Arcadia High School, Gymnasium
Arcadia Kids of Excellence
AAU Basketball Practice
April 13, 2026 – June 21, 2026; Evenings 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Arcadia High School, Gymnasium
Alpha and Omega Elite
Basketball Practice
April 13, 2026 – June 30, 2026; Evenings 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Arcadia High School, Cafeteria
Crawford-Arcadia Alumni Association
Meet and Greet Fellowship with Alumni
July 3, 2026; 6: 00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Ringgold School Complex, Cafeteria
Bienville Parish Area Citizens (via Louisiana Environmental Action Network)
Education Presentation on Earthquake & Pipeline Emergency Preparedness
April 23, 2026, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion by Mr. Darren Iverson, seconded by Mr. Oswald Townsend, passed, adjourning the meeting.

/s/ Leroy Hamilton, Jr.

Leroy Hamilton, Jr., Secretary
Bienville Parish School Board

/s/ Derrika Bailey

Derrika Bailey, President
Bienville Parish School Board

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Leroy Hamilton, Jr. Secretary of Bienville Parish School Board, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of proceedings of the regular meeting of the Board, April 9, 2026.

/s/ Leroy Hamilton, Jr.

Leroy Hamilton, Jr., Secretary
Bienville Parish School Board