

**RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION  
FOR THE PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE**  
**Regular Meeting – 5:15 p.m.**  
**or immediately following the public hearing**  
**BREC Administration Building**  
**6201 Florida Boulevard**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**  
Commission Minutes  
August 22, 2024

**Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC) was held at BREC’s Administrative Offices on August 22, 2024. The meeting was called to order, after the conclusion of the public hearing, at 5:25 p.m. by Chairman Kenneth Pointer. Commissioner Dwayne Rogers offered the invocation. Commissioner Rossie Washington, Jr. led the pledge of allegiance. Roll was taken and a quorum of Commissioners was present including Kenneth Pointer, Chair; Donna Collins Lewis, Vice Chair; Dwayne Rogers, Treasurer; Clarice Gordon; Trina Hall; Jason Hughes; Nathan Rust; Collis Temple, Jr.; and Rossie Washington, Jr. Staff members present were Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent; Reed Richard, Assistant Superintendent of System Planning; Brandon Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation; Aneatra Boykin, Chief Administrative Officer; Andrea Roberts, Chief Operating Officer; Don Johnson, Chief Financial Officer; Chad Brewer; Katrina Coots-Ward; Jim Fleshman; Angela Harms; RaHarold Lawson; Mike Raby; and Chris Marchiafava. Jim Raines, legal counsel, was also in attendance. The rest of the audience consisted of other BREC staff and the public.

**Public Comment**

The Chair announced that public comment would be allowed prior to a vote being taken on any agenda action item and explained the process to be observed.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the Recreation and Park Commission Meeting of July 25, 2024 be dispensed with, and that they be approved as written.

Motion to approve by Mr. Rust

Second by Ms. Gordon

Unanimously approved

**Consent Calendar**

Resolved, That the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge does hereby approve the Consent Calendar items.

Motion by Ms. Gordon

Second by Mr. Washington

Unanimously approved

The following item was approved as part of the Consent Calendar:

**Acceptance of Recommendations from the Human Resources Advisory Committee**

Resolved, That the Commission approve the Routine Personnel Transactions from July 10, 2024 to August 13, 2024.

**Presentations**

Chairman Pointer recognized Superintendent Wilson who gave the Commission an overview of the Late Night Hype program offered for area youth at Gus Young Park during the

summer on the second and fourth Fridays from 7:00 – 11:00 p.m. The program was made possible through BREC partnering with the Mayor’s Safe Hopeful and Healthy program, Empower 225 represented by Executive Director Susan Rogers, and Baton Rouge Police Department represented by Deputy Chief Neal Noel. Some other community partners who participated were Line4Line, The Walls Project, Fathers On A Mission (FOAM), My Community Cares, and the Langston Galloway Foundation.

A total of 2,615 from the community attended throughout the series, from April 5 - Aug 9. The statistics for crime in that area show a reduction as compared to 2023. The Superintendent recognized the following staff with Spot Awards:

Community Recreation

Brandon Smith, Asst. Superintendent  
Theresa Griffin, Program Coordinator  
Rosy Daniels, Center Supervisor  
Linda McCaleb, Program Aid  
Erica Nelson, Program Aid

Partnership and Development

Andrea Roberts, Chief Operating Officer  
Katrina Ward, Partnership and Development Director  
Dodi Falcon, Volunteer Manager  
Joy Kelly, Administrative Assistant  
Tia Edwards, Partnership and Development Coordinator

Park Operations

Dr. RaHarold Lawson, Director of Park Operations  
Steve Turner, District Manager (Farr)  
Marcus Johnson, Foreman 1  
Marlin Bob, Equipment Operator 1  
Michael Wilson, Equipment Operator 1  
Bennie Davis, District Foreman  
Albert Anderson, Equipment Operator 2  
Ricky McCray, Foreman 1  
Brad Smith, Maintenance Tech 1  
Michael Ringo, Equipment Operator 1  
Kenneth Knighten, Horticulture Foreman

BREC Athletic

Supervisor McKinley Williams, Program Coordinator of Athletics  
Darion Faust  
Michael Floyd  
Joseph Butler  
Joseph Williams  
Dondre Dobbins  
Monica Wiggins Howard

BREC Referees

Supervisor McKinley Williams, Program Coordinator of Athletics  
Brian Jackson  
Paul Servick

Mark Robinson  
Dominique Givens  
Demitrius Douglas

The Superintendent noted that Mark Robinson recently passed away and asked that everyone observe a moment of silence to think about his family and the service he provided to BREC. A moment of silence was observed.

Superintendent Wilson stated that he would be presenting a special award. He invited Mr. Lionel Singleton to come to the podium. Mr. Singleton lives next door to Gus Young Park and volunteered at every Late Night Hype event. The Superintendent presented an award to Mr. Singleton for his outstanding volunteerism and dedication to the program and the Gus Young community.

The Commission viewed a brief video highlighting various upcoming events throughout the parish during the month of September.

### **Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**

The Chairman recognized Superintendent Wilson who stated there were no Administrative Matters. Under Communications, Superintendent Wilson reviewed the July 2024 activity report. He told the Commission about the ribbon cutting on August 1 at Kolby Park, the EBR Back to School Bash, the appreciation event for BREC's Athletics Coaches, and speaking at meetings for the Zachary City Council, Kiwanis Club, Baton Rouge Area Youth Network (BRAYN) and Safe, Hopeful, Healthy EcoSystem. The Superintendent informed them about the upcoming ribbon cuttings at Greenwood Community Park.

The Superintendent told the Commission about Brandon Smith who is retiring from BREC after 23 years of service to the East Baton Rouge Community which culminated in being appointed to his current position as Assistant Superintendent of Recreation in 2019. He is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) and involved with the National Society of Park Resources, National Recreation and Park Association, and Louisiana Recreation and Park Association. Superintendent Wilson asked Brandon's family to come to the podium and thanked them for supporting him over the years. The Superintendent presented Brandon with a plaque noting his years of service and contributions to the community. Superintendent Wilson invited Brandon to say a few words. Brandon thanked the Superintendent for his guidance and support over the years and thanked the Commission for their service to BREC. He then asked the staff in attendance to stand, and he expressed his appreciation to them for everything they do. Brandon introduced his family and thanked them for their support.

Chairman Pointer recognized Treasurer Dwayne Rogers for the Finance Advisory Committee report. Mr. Rogers read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission accept the unaudited financial statements for the month ending and fiscal year-to-date period ending June 30, 2024, as presented.

Treasurer Rogers recognized Chief Financial Officer Don Johnson who gave an overview of the financial statements and updated the Commission on the progress of the Finance Department.

Mr. Temple made a motion to approve the resolution.

Seconded by Mr. Hughes

Approved by unanimous consent

Mr. Rogers read the following resolution under Contracts and Bids:

Resolved, That the Commission approve awarding SB 1838 Erie Street Park to the lowest responsive bidder, Rotolo Consultants, Inc., for the base bid amount of \$237,100.00 and one alternate for \$23,500.00, for a contract total of \$260,600.00. As per the CEA, Build BR is contributing \$75,000 and Republic Services is contributing \$125,000.

Motion by Ms. Lewis

Second by Mr. Rogers

Unanimously approved

Chairman Pointer recognized Mr. Rust for the Planning and Park Resources Advisory Committee report. Mr. Rust recognized Assistant Superintendent for System Planning Reed Richard to give a presentation on the Imagine Your Parks 3 (IYP3) System Master Plan. Mr. Richard deferred to the Superintendent to make a statement. Superintendent Wilson expressed his appreciation to Mr. Richard and his team for their work on the plan. He stated that this plan will be our guidepost for the next ten years but also has the flexibility to be able to deal with unforeseen circumstances that may come up. Then Mr. Richard introduced Jill Dixon, with Agency Landscape and Planning, to give the presentation. Ms. Dixon reviewed the most recent updates to the plan.

Mr. Richard then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the ten year "Imagine Your Parks3" System Master Plan (2025 – 2034), as submitted. Any changes to the goals and recommended actions outlined in the Strategic Plan will be brought back to the Commission for approval. Progress on each strategic goal and recommended action, will be reported in the BREC Annual Report.

Motion to approve by Mr. Rust

Second by Mr. Washington

The Chairman recognized Mr. Rogers who expressed his concern that the plan does not offer specifics. He stated that there is no community park in the northeastern area of the parish and that this area is considered a high equity zone even though residents have to drive at least 20 miles to get to a community park. He said the park (Sandy Creek) designated as a community park for that area is considered wetlands and is currently inaccessible due to the bridge being out for a year. Mr. Rogers said he can't tell residents what they will get with this plan.

Mr. Richard stated that the capital improvement plan shows what is intended for the area. Pride Neighborhood Park is starting this year, and the Sandy Creek Master Plan is getting started. He stated that all the parks in that community will be looked at during this process.

Mr. Temple asked how many of the 12 community parks had been completed. Mr. Richard stated that 11 of the 12 are complete. Mr. Richard restated that the master plan for Sandy Creek is getting started and that determining the best place is to build a new recreation center in that area will also be addressed.

Mr. Rust noted that in the future when working on plans of this magnitude that the Commission have a greater opportunity to engage in what the final product will be. He said that though the Commission has not had a lot of time to digest the plan due to time constraints. He appreciates the long-term strategies but would have liked to see the short term capital planning sooner.

Ms. Lewis stated that this plan was vetted by 12 different meetings in the community. This plan does allow flexibility due changing circumstances. If there is a need that comes up as a priority the plan can be changed, if necessary, which gives her comfort in supporting the plan.

Mr. Richard stated that previous plans have been very prescriptive which locked BREC into certain things. He noted that this is a master plan which includes a strategic plan for the first three years.

The Chairman asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he called for a roll call vote with the following results:

Yeas: 8	Ms. Gordon, Ms. Hall, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Pointer, Mr. Rust, Mr. Temple, Mr. Washington
Nays: 1	Mr. Rogers

The master plan was approved by a majority vote.

Chairman Pointer recognized Ms. Hall for the Selection of Professionals Committee report. Ms. Hall stated that there were four items for consideration. She then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve Amendment No. 3 to Contract 2023000257 with Francise Horticultural Services, Inc. increasing the contract in the amount of \$40,000 for splash pad maintenance from \$48,500 to a new contract total of \$88,500 for the contract period of January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

Motion by Ms. Gordon

Second by Mr. Washington

The Chairman recognized Phillip Lillard who spoke in opposition to the item and questioned the large increase in the contract.

Ms. Hall recognized Dr. RaHarold Lawson, Director of Park Operations, who explained the reason for the increase in the contract. Ms. Lewis asked if some of the repairs are due to the public bringing items to the splash pads that get caught in the machinery. Dr. Lawson confirmed that played a role in some of the repairs.

The Chairman recognized Patrick Farrell who spoke in opposition to the item noting that pumps should be able to be repaired instead of replaced.

Ms. Lewis asked Dr. Lawson to have a conversation with Mr. Farrell about his observations regarding the equipment.

The resolution was approved without objection.

Ms. Hall stated that the second item was related to theatre stage and technical labor. She asked Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Brandon Smith to come forward. Mr. Smith gave an overview of the contract, explained why the contract amendment was necessary, and how it is being utilized for renter productions as well as BREC productions.

The Chairman recognized Phillip Lillard who spoke in opposition to the item noting the large increase in the contract.

Ms. Hall then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve Amendment No. 2 to Contract 2024000066 with Lewis A. Rhodes dba Piper Productions LLC, increasing the contract in the amount of \$50,000 for Theatre Stage and Technical Labor, from \$75,000 to the new contract total of \$125,000 for the contract period of January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

Motion to approve by Mr. Washington

Second by Mr. Rust

Unanimously approved

Ms. Hall then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve an amendment to Contract 2023000330 with All South Consulting Engineers, LLC to add \$4,510 for additional topographic survey data for the Highland Tennis Court Improvements due to unforeseen site condition complexities. Original contract amount is \$54,629 for a new total of \$59,139.

Motion to approve by Mr. Hughes

Second by Mr. Rogers

Approved by unanimous consent

Ms. Hall then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve Amendment No. 2 to Contract 2024000011 with Frischhertz Electric Co., Inc. to add \$17,000, for providing additional electrical wiring and hardware as needed. The current contract amount is \$48,000 with the new contract total not to exceed \$65,000.

Motion to approve by Mr. Rogers

Second by Mr. Hughes

Approved by unanimous consent

### **Reports of Special Committees**

None.

### **Special Orders**

None.

### **Unfinished Business and General Orders**

For the next item under Unfinished Business and General Orders the Chairman stated that they would hold a public hearing and adopt Resolution No. 1 to levy ad valorem taxes for 2024, as adjusted after reassessment, on all property subject to ad valorem taxation by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, for the operation and maintenance and capital improvements of said Commission. Authorize the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Superintendent to execute the necessary documents.

The Chairman asked Chris Marchiafava, Business Manager, to read the resolution. Ms. Marchiafava read the following:

#### RESOLUTION NO. 1

A resolution to levy ad valorem taxes for 2024, as adjusted after reassessment, on all property subject to ad valorem taxation by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, for the operation and maintenance and capital improvements of said Commission.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on August 22, 2024, which meeting was conducted in

accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the following **adjusted** millage rates be and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within East Baton Rouge Parish for the year 2024, for the purpose of raising revenue:

	<b><u>MILLAGE</u></b>
a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted October 28, 1947, under the authority of Article 14, Section 3(b) of the 1921 Louisiana Constitution; ratified by Article 6, Section 31; for development, operations, and maintenance; and	<b><u>0.59</u></b> mills
a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted June 22, 1954, under the authority of Article 14, Section 3(b) of the 1921 Louisiana Constitution; ratified by Article 6, Section 31; for development, operations, and maintenance; and	<b><u>0.39</u></b> mills
a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted November 2, 2004, under the authority of Section 4570.4 B of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; to purchase, acquire, construct, develop, improve, operate and maintain public parks, playgrounds and recreational properties and facilities; and	<b><u>3.057</u></b> mills
a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted April 5, 2014, for operations and maintenance and capital improvements; and	<b><u>3.85</u></b> mills
a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted April 5, 2014, to provide funds for maintaining and operating its public parks, recreational properties, and facilities and making available funds for the operating budget; and	<b><u>1.97</u></b> mills
a tax authorized by the electorate in an election conducted November 8, 2016, to provide funds for maintaining and operating the public parks, recreational properties, and facilities and making available funds for the operating budget; and	<b><u>3.72</u></b> mills

the foregoing making a total tax of thirteen and five hundred seventy-seven one-thousandths (**13.577**) mills on the dollar of assessed valuation to meet the established liabilities and expenses of the Commission used in acquiring, developing, maintaining and operating the public parks and recreational properties and facilities of the Commission and in making available funds for the operating budget, all as provided for in the respective propositions approved by the voters in the special tax elections above referred to.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessor of the Parish of East Baton Rouge shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2024 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

Chairman Pointer declared the public hearing open. An interested citizen speaking in favor of this item because it does not raise taxes was Phillip Lillard.

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Chairman Pointer recognized Mr. Rogers. Mr. Rogers wanted to know if this resolution authorized the assessor to collect what the citizens have already approved for 2024. He asked if

his understanding was correct. The Superintendent stated that this resolution is the one that has to be levied every year for BREC to be able to collect taxes. He stated that this resolution would levy 13.557 mills and would be considered the roll back. He said that this is what would be levied depending on the outcome of Item B. Mr. Lillard spoke from his seat offering his support for the lower millage.

Mr. Temple noted that no voter approval was required and that the Commission makes the final decision.

Mr. Rogers restated his question and asked if the passage of this item cause the taxpayers to pay more money this year than they did last year or is it the same amount?

The Superintendent stated that they would pay the same amount and potentially less than last year. Mr. Rogers stated that was his understanding. Mr. Rogers then said that it is the next item that would increase the dollar amount. The Superintendent stated that what determines if the property tax goes up is if the value of their property goes up.

There were no more questions or comments so the public hearing ended.

The Chairman asked for a motion on the item.

Mr. Rogers made a motion to approve the resolution.

Mr. Rust seconded.

The above and foregoing resolution was moved, seconded, and submitted to a roll call vote for adoption, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS: 8	Ms. Gordon, Ms. Hall, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Pointer, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Rust, Mr. Washington
NAYS: 0	
ABSTAINED: 0	
ABSENT: 1	Mr. Temple

The Chairman then stated that the next item was to adopt Resolution No. 2 to adjust and levy ad valorem tax millage rates for 2024, back to the prior year's (2023) maximum approved millage rates, on all property subject to taxation by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC), for operation and maintenance and capital improvements of said Commission. Authorize the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Superintendent to execute the necessary documents.

The Chairman asked Ms. Marchiafava to read the Resolution 2. Ms. Marchiafava read the following:

A resolution to adjust and levy ad valorem tax millage rates for 2024, back to the prior year's (2023) maximum approved millage rates, on all property subject to taxation by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC), for operation and maintenance and capital improvements of said Commission.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge Louisiana, in a public meeting held on August 22, 2024, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(B)(C) and (D) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the taxing district voted



to increase the millage rates, but not in excess of the prior year's maximum rates, on all taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for East Baton Rouge Parish for the year 2024, and when collected, the revenues from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purposes for which said taxes have been levied. Said millage rates are:

	<u><b>Adjusted Rates</b></u>	<u><b>2024 Levy</b></u>
a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted October 28, 1947, under the authority of Article 14, Section 3(b) of the 1921 Louisiana Constitution; ratified by Article 6, Section 31; for operations and maintenance; and	<u><b>0.59</b></u> mills	<u><b>0.63</b></u> mills

Ms. Marchiafava was unable to continue, and Superintendent Wilson finished reading Resolution 2 as follows:

a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted June 22, 1954, under the authority of Article 14, Section 3(b) of the 1921 Louisiana Constitution; ratified by Article 6, Section 31; for operations and maintenance; and	<u><b>0.39</b></u> mills	<u><b>0.42</b></u> mills
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a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted November 2, 2004, under the authority of Section 4570.4 B of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; to purchase, acquire, construct, develop, improve, operate and maintain public parks, playgrounds and recreational properties and facilities; and	<u><b>3.057</b></u> mills	<u><b>3.253</b></u> mills
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a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted April 5, 2014, for operations and maintenance and capital improvements; and	<u><b>3.85</b></u> mills	<u><b>4.10</b></u> mills
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a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted April 5, 2014, to provide funds for maintaining and operating its public parks, recreational properties, and facilities and making available funds for the operating budget; and	<u><b>1.97</b></u> mills	<u><b>2.10</b></u> Mills
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a tax authorized by the electorate in an election conducted November 8, 2016, to provide funds for maintaining and operating the public parks, recreational properties, and facilities and making available funds for the operating budget; and	<u><b>3.72</b></u> Mills	<u><b>3.96</b></u> mills
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the foregoing making a total tax of fourteen and four hundred sixty three one-thousandths (**14.463**) mills on the dollar of assessed valuation to meet the established liabilities and expenses of the Commission used in acquiring, developing, maintaining and operating the public parks and recreational properties and facilities of the Commission and in making available funds for the operating budget, all as provided for in the respective propositions approved by the voters in the special tax elections above referred to.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessor of the Parish of East Baton Rouge, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2024 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

The Chairman asked for a motion on the item.  
Ms. Hall made a motion to approve the resolution.  
Mr. Hughes seconded.

The public hearing for this item was held at 5:00 p.m. prior the start of the Commission meeting, however public comment was taken on the item. The interested citizens who submitted comment cards and were speaking in opposition to Resolution 2 were Phillip Lillard, Pennie May Landry, and Patrick Farrell.

Superintendent Wilson gave a presentation to clarify the roll forward process. Mr. Johnson also provided information about the impact of the 13.577 and 14.463 millages. The Superintendent asked if the Commission had any questions. The Commission had none but an interested citizen asked to be recognized and Mr. Temple suggested that the Chairman let him speak.

Interested citizens again speaking in opposition to this item were Patrick Farrell and Pennie May Landry.

Ms. Gordon called for the question.

The above and foregoing resolution was moved, seconded, and submitted to a roll call vote for adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by no less than two-thirds of the total membership of the taxing authority voting in favor as required by Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B). The votes were:

YEAS: 7	Ms. Gordon, Ms. Hall, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Pointer, Mr. Temple, Mr. Washington
NAYS: 2	Mr. Rogers, Mr. Rust
ABSTAINED: 0	
ABSENT: 0	

The foregoing resolution was signed and approved by the Chairman, attested by the Superintendent and Ex-Officio Secretary and declared to be adopted on this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2024.

Attest:

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Kenneth Pointer, Chairman

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Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent  
and Ex-Officio Secretary

### **New Business**

The Chairman read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve a Beverage Agreement with Coca-Cola Bottling Company United – Gulf Coast, LLC d/b/a Baton Rouge Coca-Cola Bottling Company, as presented.

Superintendent Wilson explained the terms of the agreement.

Mr. Washington made a motion to approve the item

Mr. Temple seconded.

Approved by unanimous consent

Superintendent Wilson briefly explained the following item:

Resolved, That the Commission approve a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Gardere Initiative, Inc. and BREC Foundation for the installation of a Mini Pitch at Hartley/Vey Gardere Park as presented.

Motion by Ms. Lewis

Second by Mr. Washington

Approved without objection

**Adjournment**

Mr. Washington made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Hughes seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m. without objection.

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Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent  
and Ex-Officio Secretary

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Kenneth Pointer, Chairman