

CITY OF BAKER SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.
CITY OF BAKER SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

Superintendent: JT Stroder, Ed.S.

Board Members:

Monique Butler – President, District 4
Joyce Burges – Vice President, District 3
Linda B. Perkins – District 1
Alteen Profit – District 2
Clara J. W. Joseph – District 5

A. Meeting Commencement

1. Call to Order

President Monique Butler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and reviewed public comment procedures (two minutes per speaker on agenda items).

2. Roll Call

Board members present: Perkins, Profit, Burges, Joseph, Butler. A quorum was declared.

3. Silent Meditation

Mrs. Profit led a moment of silent meditation/prayer.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Burges led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Welcome of Visitors

President Butler welcomed visitors and thanked the community for their attendance and engagement.

C. Recognitions

Mrs. Burges recognized Walmart Store Manager Mr. Edward Sharpe for agreeing to stock Baker High School (Baker Buffaloes) red and black gear in the local Walmart and presented a Certificate of Gratitude on behalf of the Board.

D. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Motion by Burges, second by Profit, to approve the agenda with Item E-5 (City of Baker School Board v. BESE and GEO Academies) moved to follow Information Items. Vote: Perkins – Yes; Profit – Yes; Burges – Yes; Joseph – Yes; Butler – Yes. Motion carried.

E. Action Items (The public may comment on Action Items. Public comment is limited to two minutes per individual.)

1. Consideration and Approval of Minutes from the School Board Meeting of October 7, 2025

Motion by Burges, second by Profit, to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2025 school board meeting. Vote: Perkins – Yes; Profit – Yes; Joseph – Yes; Butler – Yes; Burges – Yes. Motion carried.

2. Consideration and Acceptance of Monthly Financial Reports including Budget-to-Actual Comparisons for the Period Ending September 30, 2025

Ms. Sidney Stewart presented the monthly financial report, including Budget-to-Actual comparisons for the period ending September 30, 2025, and summarized general fund and special revenue activity. She reported that the district is currently in audit, that the audit is behind schedule due to limited finance staffing, but that the district remains “safe.” She noted that this report covers City of Baker expenditures only and that a report on Helix expenditures is expected by the December meeting.

Motion by Burges, second by Profit, to accept the monthly financial reports, including Budget-to-Actual comparisons for the period ending September 30, 2025. Vote: Perkins – No; Profit – Yes; Burges – Yes; Joseph – No; Butler – Yes. Motion carried (3–2).

3. LDOE Certificated and Support Staff Stipends (2025–2026 Fiscal Year)

The Board considered distribution of Louisiana Department of Education certificated and support staff stipends for the 2025–2026 fiscal year to City of Baker School Board employees and transfer of remaining funds to Helix Community Schools. Stipend amounts are \$2,000 for certificated staff and \$1,000 for support staff, with payments and transfers to be made on or before November 25, 2025. Helix Community Schools agreed to disseminate stipends to Baker High and Park Ridge Academic staff according to LDOE guidelines.

Motion by Joseph, second by Profit, to approve the distribution of LDOE certificated and support staff stipends for the 2025–2026 fiscal year to City of Baker School Board

employees and the transfer of remaining funds to Helix Community Schools as presented. Vote: Perkins – Yes; Burges – Yes; Profit – Yes; Joseph – Yes; Butler – Yes. Motion carried.

4. LDOE Differentiated Compensation Allocation (2025–2026)

Ms. Stewart explained that differentiated compensation funds are a separate LDOE allocation intended to recruit and retain teachers, particularly in high-need areas. Because the City of Baker does not directly employ the teachers at Baker High or Park Ridge Academic, the full differentiated compensation allocation will be transferred to Helix Community Schools for distribution to eligible teachers based on LDOE differentiated compensation guidance.

Motion by Burges, second by Joseph, to transfer the 2025–2026 LDOE Differentiated Compensation Allocation funds to Helix Community Schools to be disseminated to Baker High and Park Ridge Academic eligible teachers in accordance with LDOE differentiated compensation guidance. Vote: Perkins – Yes; Profit – Yes; Burges – Yes; Joseph – Yes; Butler – Yes. Motion carried.

F. Information Items

1. Report from Helix

Superintendent Stroder noted that a written report from Ms. Sellars had been emailed to Board members. Mr. Preston Castille thanked the Board for its support and highlighted a positive front-page article in The Advocate on the Baker–Helix partnership, evidence of cultural shift in the schools, successful homecoming events with strong community participation, and ongoing operational improvements and future initiatives, including an indoor training facility and workforce development programs.

2. Act 354 of the 2025 Regular Session

Superintendent Stroder reported on Act 354, which allows school boards to move elections to coincide with gubernatorial election years, and asked Board members to notify him if they wish to consider this option so planning can begin.

3. Policy Review – B-2.2 Duties of Board Members

Superintendent Stroder recommended a wording change to Policy B-2.2, Duties of Board Members, item #4, removing the word “district” so that the phrase reads “not just a particular school,” to reflect that the City of Baker has a single district.

G. Announcements

Date of Next Meeting – The next regular meeting of the City of Baker School Board was announced for December 2, 2025.

H. City of Baker School Board v. Board of Elementary & Secondary Education and GEO Academies; Docket 761,785, Sect. 23; 19th JDC, Parish of East Baton Rouge, LA (Action – Executive Session)

Motion by Burges, second by Profit, to enter Executive Session to discuss City of Baker School Board v. Board of Elementary & Secondary Education and GEO Academies, Docket No. 761,785, Section 23, 19th JDC, Parish of East Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and receive related information pertaining to the litigation. Vote: Perkins – Yes; Profit – Yes; Joseph – Yes; Burges – Yes; Butler – Yes. Motion carried. The Board entered Executive Session.

Following Executive Session, motion by Burges, second by Profit, to reconvene in regular session. Vote: Perkins – Yes; Profit – Yes; Joseph – Yes; Burges – Yes; Butler – Yes. Motion carried. No action from Executive Session was reported in open session.

I. Adjournment (Action)

There being no further business, motion by Burges, second by Profit, to adjourn. Vote: Perkins – Yes; Profit – Yes; Joseph – Yes; Burges – Yes; Butler – Yes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.