Centerville, Louisiana

August 16, 2023

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in special session for a budget workshop on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana, with the following members answering to roll call:

**Present:** Mr. Joseph C. Foulcard Jr., Ms. Tammie L. Moore, Mrs. Lindsey T. Anslem, Ms. Debra R. Jones, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Mr. Murphy J. Pontiff Jr., Mr. Chad M. Paradee, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso and Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis.

**Absent:** None

**Invocation**

Ms. Estay gave the Invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.**

President Black led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Business Affairs:**

**Item 1.** Receive information relative to the upcoming group health insurance renewal.

Mr. James Perez of DJW Insurance provided the Board with a handout explaining the financial impact on the 2024 insurance renewal for the Medicare Advantage plan and Commercial plan.

The Medicare Advantage plan, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana has requested a rate adjustment from $222 to $227 per year, which would be a $42,000 increase compared to the current premium. Extra benefit enhancements for the 2024 renewal includes: the dental benefit will increase from $1,200 basic plan to $2,000 comprehensive plan with $0 out of pocket for members. The vision plan increased from $225 to $300 for glasses/contact benefit. The hearing benefit has a large increase from $500 to $1,000. The over-the-counter benefit increased from $50 a quarter to $100 a quarter.

The 2024 projected premium for the fully insured Commercial Group Health plan is $13,053,507.28, which represents a $1,713,507.28 or 15 percent increase of the current premium.

The total projected annual increase to the St. Mary Parish School Board budget is estimated at $1,755,507, which included the Medicare Advantage plan of $42,000, and the Commercial Group Health Plan estimated total of $1,713,507.

The self-funded proposal from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana will probably be available early October. If the Board decided to move to self-funded it would be an additional estimate of $3,200,000, to be allocated to the reserve account, which is 25 percent of anticipated claims.

A Health Insurance Renewal Workshop has been scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana to receive group health insurance renewal proposals.

**Item 2.** Receive information relative to the Differentiated Compensation Plan required by the Louisiana Department of Education.

Dr. Fegenbush provided the Board with a handout received at the end of July 2023 from the Louisiana Department of Education for the St. Mary Parish School Board to create a plan for the Differentiated Compensation Allocation. She briefly explained how the Differentiated Compensation funds can be used. The Board will receive the plan to review prior to the September 14th regular school board meeting.

**Item 3.** Review General Funds, Maintenance District Funds, and School Food Service Funds of the Consolidated Budget for the year ending June 30, 2023.

Chief Financial Officer Alton Perry and Chief Accountant Becky Voisin provided the Board with a Budget Workshop booklet and other supporting documents for the 2023-2024 budget projections on the General Funds, Maintenance District Funds, and School Food Service Funds.

The General Fund revenues for the proposed 2023-2024 budget estimated at $88,505,070 compared to 2022-2023 budget of $85,583,888.

The General Fund expenditures were reviewed on an account-by-account basis and amended in some instances as follows:

* Allocate $10,000 to the St. Mary Parish Alternative Program.
* Increase board members travel from $55,000 to $66,000.
* Allocate $100,000 to the Superintendent’s Discretionary Funds.
* Increase Human Resource travel from $5,000 to $10,000.

Mr. Perry briefly explained the budget summary of the Maintenance Districts for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 as follows:

* Maintenance District I projected fund balance for June 30, 2024 after revenues and expenditures estimated at $384,237.
* Maintenance District II projected fund balance for June 30, 2024 after revenues and expenditures estimated at $1,451,600.
* Maintenance District III projected fund balance for June 30, 2024 after revenues and expenditures estimated at $2,730,488.

School Food Service projected fund balance for June 30, 2024 after revenues and expenditures estimated at $3,318,757.

The formal adoption of the St. Mary Parish School Board Consolidated Budget will be approved at the Thursday, September 14, 2023 regular school board meeting at 5:30 p.m., at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana.

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 5:15 p.m., prior to the regular school board meeting of the St. Mary Parish School Board, at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana for the purpose of review and input from the general public on the Consolidated Budget (General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and all other Funds of the St. Mary Parish School Board) for the year ending June 30, 2024.

The Consolidated Budget will be available for public inspection at the Central Office Complex located at 474 Hwy 317, Centerville, Louisiana.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Anslem to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. All in favor and the motion carried.