Centerville, Louisiana

May 11, 2023

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 5:30 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, Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis.

# 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.

# Appearances:

## Berwick Elementary School:

Principal Debbie Domingue introduced 5th grader Scarlett St. Romain as “Student of the Month” at Berwick Elementary School. Scarlett was accompanied by her parents and siblings. She has earned a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) through all her years spent at Berwick Elementary School. Her favorite subject is math, and she has scored only mastery and advanced on her LEAP tests. She is in the BETA club. For fun, she likes to hang out with her friends and play softball. Outside of school, she also does gymnastics, softball, basketball, and swim. When asked what motivates her to do so well in school, she said she would like a successful job as a doctor in the future.

Principal Debbie Domingue introduced P. E. teacher Cathy Vaughn as “Employee of the Month” at Berwick Elementary School. She was accompanied by her husband, daughter, son, daughter-in-law, and grandson. In six days from now, Mrs. Vaughn will have completed 35 years in education, and she will be retiring. Of those 35 years, 24 years have been at Berwick Elementary School. Besides teaching P.E., she teaches character, patience, kindness, and teaches children how to accept one another. She is also a national board-certified teacher. Mrs. Vaughn enjoys coordinating extracurricular activities. She was always the head of Louisiana Week and Quarter Fest. She said her biggest challenge working for Berwick Elementary was raising money for the walking path located on the backfield, which is used on wet days where kids go out for P.E.

## M. E. Norman Elementary School:

Principal Ronica LaPoint introduced 5th grader Ryann Caruso as “Student of the Month” at M. E. Norman Elementary School. She is accompanied by her mom and grandmother. Ryann is a true leader at M. E. Norman Elementary where she demonstrates a positive attitude. She has maintained the honor roll and principal’s list and scored above average on all standardized tests in third and fourth grade. She is a BETA member, a member of 4-H Club and Talented Art. Outside of school she enjoys playing travel softball. In a few days, Ryann will conclude her years at M. E. Norman Elementary and begin the exciting world of junior high school. Starting junior high she looks forward to playing multiple sports at one time, supporting fellow classmates by attending their games as well. After graduating high school, Ryann plans to attend Oklahoma State University where she will study and eventually become a pediatrician.

Principal Ronica LaPoint introduced 2nd grade math teacher Brittany Longman as   
“Employee of the Month” at M. E. Norman Elementary School. She was accompanied by her parents, grandmother, brother, and sister-in-law. Ms. Longman has been teaching for three years. Before becoming a St. Mary Parish teacher, she earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Nichols State University. She states the best part of teaching is the impact she gets to make on students each and every day. Her love for students and the field of education shows through her hard work and dedication. Her students are actively engaged and excited with each lesson she brings. Ms. Longman is a team player and is always willing to help in any way she can. Even though she is a second-grade teacher, in a time of need, she stepped up this year and became a testing administrator. When Ms. Longman is not busy inspiring the minds in the classroom, she loves spending time with her family and friends. She loves traveling and bringing those experiences to her classroom to help her students thrive on materials. She plans to continue her educational career and pursue her master's degree in Educational Leadership and mentor others to find their way and passion into the world of education.

# Recognition of Red Ribbon 2023 Slogan and Drawing Contest Winners.

Ms. Fallon Mitchell recognized winnings as follows:

**2023 - 2024 Red Ribbon Slogan Contest Winner**

Logan Collins – 6th grade- Morgan City Junior High School

**2023 - 2024 Red Ribbon Overall Art Contest Winner**

Grace Faucheaux -12th grade- Hanson Memorial High School

**2023 – 2024 Red Ribbon Calendar Placement Winners:**

AUGUST:     Stanley Aucoin IV – 7th Grade – Berwick Jr. High

SEPTEMBER:   Genesis Franco – 7th Grade – Morgan City Jr. High

OCTOBER: Gracie Grizzaffi – 5th Grade – Wyandotte Elementary

NOVEMBER:  Astrid Sanchez – 8th Grade – Morgan City Jr. High

DECEMBER: Anya Alfred – 7th Grade – Centerville School

JANUARY:  Silas Hastings – 9th Grade – Morgan City High

FEBRUARY:      Geraldine Robles – 8th Grade – Morgan City Jr. High

MARCH:           Jayla Joseph – 11th Grade – West St. Mary High

APRIL:               Wyatt Aucoin – Kindergarten – Berwick Elementary

MAY:                 De’ Netra Schannette – 10th – West. St. Mary High

JUNE:                Jaiden Partain – 12th – Morgan City High

JULY:                 Addie Aucoin – 6th – Berwick Jr. High

# Recognition of 2023 Top Word-Millionaires in St. Mary Parish.

On behalf of Ms. Sarah Broussard in her absence, Ms. Rose Hale recognized the 2023 Top Word-Millionaires as follows:

**Elementary:** Ashley Tenorio, 4th grader at Bayou Vista Elementary School read 1,285,037 words. She is accompanied by her mom, sister, brother, and her principal and librarian. Ashley loves to read and enjoys mythical books about dragons.

**Secondary:** Stanley Aucoin, 7th grader at Berwick Junior High School read 4,886,819 words. This is Stanley’s fifth time receiving the Top Word-Millionaires award. Over the past five years, he has read almost 300 million words. One of the highlights of this school year for Stanley was competing in the south Louisiana Quiz Bowl Championship, where he and his teammates walked away as runners up. WhenStanley is not enjoying the outdoors, he is usually reading.

# Presentation of Louisiana Comeback Campuses.

Ms. Hoffpauir reported that the Louisiana Department of Education is recognizing the impact that educators have made with students despite obstacles over the past two years with the pandemic and an active hurricane season. The Louisiana Department of Education has recognized 41 schools in the state of Louisiana as Comeback Campuses. These schools increase the percentage of students scoring mastery and above and decreased the percentage of students scoring unsatisfactory in both ELA and math on the 2022 statewide assessments when compared to 2019. Louisiana is also fortunate to have 155 schools meet the Comeback Campus honor in either ELA or math. She recognized two elementary school that showed progress in math as follows:

**Aucoin Elementary School**

Principal Shantell Toups

**Foster Elementary School**

Principal Dr. Angela Steward

Ms. Hoffpauir stated thatthe State Department visited a junior high school and conducted a learning walk to see specific efforts that led to student growth to better understand how they could be used to benefit students across Louisiana was recognized for student progress in both math and ELA. She recognized the junior high school as follows:

**Patterson Junior High School**

Principal Lauren Rentrop

# Recognition of Molly Jo Doiron in honor of being the Louisiana High School Athletic Association state champion in gymnastics.

Principal Timmy Hymel recognized 11th grader Molly Jo Doiron at Morgan City High for her accomplishment in the Louisiana High School Athletic Association State Champion in gymnastics held at the Louisiana State University. Molly placed first in the balance beam and also first place for floor exercises. She was fourth place on the vault, and also earned best all around. Molly is the first State Champion gymnast in St. Mary Parish.

# Recognition of Berwick High School Senior Evan White named as 2023 National Merit Finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Evan White was currently traveling to Sulphur to compete in the baseball finals for Berwick’s High School baseball team and was unable to attend the meeting this evening. He will be recognized at the June 8, 2023, regular school board meeting.

# Approval of Amended Agenda.

None

# Approval of Official School Board Minutes.

Mr. Mancuso offered the motion and Ms. Jones offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the special school board meeting held on April 18, 2023, special school board meeting held on April 19, 2023, regular school board meeting held on April 20, 2023, and special school board meeting held on May 1, 2023. All in favor and the motion carried.

# Approval of Consent Agenda.

President Black stated that Board Members can remove any of the items on the consent agenda for further discussion in the regular proceedings. Dr. Fegenbush read aloud the items on the consent agenda as follows:

# Business Affairs:

## Item 1. Advertise for Bids:

A. \* Permission to advertise for custodial supplies.

## Item 4. \*Approve banking resolutions authorizing signatories at various schools as a result of recent appointments.

## Item 6. \*Field Trip(s):

A. \*Berwick High School Band travel for Parade Performance with Universal Orlando Resort STARS Performances at Universal Studios Orlando Resort in Orlando, Florida for February 13-17, 2024.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion to approve the consent agenda, as presented by Dr. Fegenbush. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor the motion carried.

## Item 2. Adopt tax millage rates for the year 2023 and allow for a public comment period.

Mrs. Becky Voisin briefly explained the process of the tax millage to board members. She read aloud the resolution for the tax millage rates for the year 2023 as follows:

**RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2023 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by St. Mary Parish School Board:

MILLAGE

**GENERAL FUND:**

1. Constitutional School Tax (1068051) 8.83

2. Consolidated School District No. 5 (1068061) 11.82

**SPECIAL FUNDS (MAINTENANCE TAXES):**

1. Consolidated School District No. 3 (1068055) 12.42

2. Consolidated School District No. 2 (1068054) 12.73

3. Sixth Ward School District No. 3 (1068057) 12.53

**BOND RETIREMENT FUNDS:**

1. Consolidated School District No. 1 (1068093) 10.00

2. Special School District No. 4 (1068092) 6.00

3. Fifth Ward Special School District No. 1 (1068106) 20.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2023, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS: 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, Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso, Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis, Mrs. Alaina L. Black.

NAYS: none

ABSTAINED: Mr. Joseph C. Foulcard, Jr.

ABSENT: none

**CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the board meeting held on May 11, 2023, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Centerville, Louisiana, this 11th day of May, 2023.

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(Secretary/Treasurer

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF LOUISIANA PARISH OF ST. MARY

**BEFORE ME**, the undersigned notary public, duly commissioned and qualified within and for the aforesaid parish and state, personally came and appeared:

Mrs. Buffy S. Fegenbush, Ed. D.

(Authorized person to represent the taxing district)

who, after first being duly sworn, did depose and state that:

She is the duly authorized Secretary/Treasurer of the St. Mary Parish School Board .

(Title or position) (Taxing district)

**(Mark the appropriate box below to show how you complied with the Open Meetings Law.)**

Affiant, Mrs. Buffy S. Fegenbush, Ed. D., who did depose and hereby states: **“A public meeting was held in accordance with the Open Meetings Law at R.S. 42:11, *et seq*., including allowing a public comment period before taking a vote, R.S. 42:14(D), to adopt** the millage rates for the 2023 tax year. Public written notice of the agenda, date, time, and place of the meeting X was posted on the building where the meetings of this taxing authority are usually held no less than 24 hours before the meeting, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays and/or was as published in the official journal no less than 24 hours before the meeting, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays.

A quorum or simple majority of the total membership of the taxing authority was physically present and voting at the public meeting, which was held on the 11th day of May, 2023, at 5:30 p. m. at the Central Office Complex of the St. Mary Parish School Board, 474 Hwy 317, Centerville, LA 70522 (Complete address) The meeting was conducted in accord with the prior noticed agenda. Matters not included on the agenda were not discussed without the unanimous approval of the members present after complying with all provisions of R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(b)(ii)(cc)”.

*[If applicable and as required by R.S. 42:23(A) and R.S. 44:36(F) as a* ***non-elected board*** *we have video or audio recorded, filmed or broadcast live all proceedings of our public meeting and ensure the recording will be maintained for at least 2 years.]*

Copies of all required notices and agenda are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

(Signature of affiant)

Buffy S. Fegenbush, Ed. D.

(Printed name)

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED Before Me, this 11th 20 23 , at Centerville , Louisiana.

Notary Public

Printed or Typed Name (as commissioned): Ms. Alicia Morris

Notary ID or Bar Roll No.: 163268

The floor was opened to receive public comments and there was no response. Mrs. Becky Voisin asked the Board to consider approving the tax millage resolution for the year 2023.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion to approve the resolution and affidavit adopting the tax millage rates for the year 2023, as present by Mrs. Becky Voisin. Mr. Paradee gave a second to the motion.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 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, Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis.

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: Mr. Joseph C. Foulcard, Jr.

ABSENT: none

The motion carried with 10 yays and 1 abstain.

## Item 3. Permission to name Centerville High School’s athletic fields “Young’s Stadium” in honor of Karl Young, Sr. and his family’s contributions.

Mr. Karl Young, Sr. 92, of Centerville was recognized by board member, Mr. Murphy Pontiff for his tremendous efforts in supporting the Centerville community and the school system.

Mr. Craig Pellerin also recognized Mr. Karl Young, Sr. and his family members. Mr. Young’s grandfather, Mr. W. J. Young, and their ancestors saw a need to keep a school open in Centreville and made a generous donation of land to build a school. It only came with one stipulation and that it would always have an Agriculture department. Mr. Pellerin stated that over 30 years, Mr. Young delivered food at Thanksgiving and Christmas to the Centerville and Verdunville community for people in need of a meal. Mr. Pellerin thanked everyone who helped make this dream a reality in honoring Mr. Karl Young, Sr. for his contribution and dedication to this community.

Mr. David Hanagriff stated that he knew Mr. Karl Young, Sr. as “Uncle Karl” who was actually the uncle to his wife Angie. Mr. Hanagriff said Mr. Karl is a great man that he has known for a very long time.

Mr. Karl Young, Sr. thanked everyone for the great honor. He also thanked God for taking care of him for 92 years.

Mr. Pontiff made a motion to name Centerville High School’s athletic fields “Young’s Stadium” in honor of Karl Young, Sr. and his family’s contributions. Mr. Foulcard made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 5. Discuss and take necessary action on bids received for Centerville Phase II roofing project using ESSERS Funds.

On behalf of Architect Firmin, Mr. Wiese provided the Board with bids received on May 9, 2023 for the Phase II Reroofing Project at Centerville School. Bids were received from four of seven contractors who took out plans. Mr. Wiese recommended that the Board award the project for the Phase II Reroofing at Centerville School to Roofs Restored USA LLC of Hammond, with a base bid of $572,700, and a bid for alternate bid #1 of $220,300 for a total amount of $793,000.

Mr. Pontiff made a motion and Mr. Mancuso made a second to award bid to Roofs Restored USA LLC of Hammond for a total amount of $793,000 including the alternate bid #1, as presented. All in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 7. Approve renewal of Lease Agreement between the St. Mary Parish School Board and the State of Louisiana, through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries a tract of sixteenth section land located in Township 16 South, Range 12 East, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, generally known as Texaco’s Bateman Lake Dock Facility.

Mr. Wiese asked the Board to approve the 10-year renewal lease agreement between the St. Mary Parish School Board and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion to approve the lease agreement between the St. Mary Parish School Board and the State of Louisiana, through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as presented. Mr. Paradee made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 8. Permission to sale surplus vehicles and buses to highest bidders.

Mr. Wiese reported the Maintenance Department received bids on May 3, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. for nine buses, one technology van and one maintenance truck. A $500.00 minimum bid was set for each vehicle. He asked the Board to accept bids and sell to the highest bidder as follows:

**Bus 75** 2000 VIN 1GDG7T1F9WJ515169 NO BID

Needs turbo GMC Mileage 66838

**Bus 76** 2000 VIN 1GDG7T1F9WJ515125 NO BID

GMC Mileage 68861

**Bus 73**

Bad Injector 1998 VIN 1GDG7T1F4 WJ515130 NO BID

Pump GMC Mileage 51313

**Bus 70** 1997 VIN 1GDL7T1J5TJ516849 David Jones Franklin

GMC Mileage 108000 $500.00

**Bus 65** 2002 VIN 1GBL7TIC81J513404 David Jones Franklin

CHEVY Mileage 119303 $500.00

**Bus 63** 2002 VIN 1GBL7TIC81J513662 David Jones Franklin

CHEVY Mileage 104813 $500.00

**Bus 61** 2002 VIN IGBL7TIC61J513501 David Jones Franklin

CHEVY Mileage 137490 $500.00

**Bus 60** 2002 VIN 1GBL7TIC61J513367 NO BID

CHEVY Mileage 110204

**Bus 228**

Bad Motor Not 2007 VIN 1BAKGCKH47F241778 NO BID

working BLUE BIRD Mileage 153121

**T 548** 2005 VIN 1GFG15XX51166979 NO BID

Bad Motor Chevy Cargo Van Mileage 273800

**M 551** 2005 VIN 1FTWW30525EB40129 NO BID

Bad Motor Ford 1 Ton Pickup Mileage 206015

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and Ms. Jones made a second to accept bids received for four buses at $500 per bus and sell to the highest bidder, Mr. Davis Jones Franklin.

Mr. Wiese indicated that he would return to the Board at a later date asking for permission to rebid the remaining vehicles that did not sell.

With no further discussion, all in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 9. Approval of the revised 4 X 4 block schedule calendar for the 2023-2024 school year.

Dr. Sanders stated she asked the Board to approve a revision to the 2023-2024 school calendar adopted at the April regular school board meeting. The calendar required one revision to reflect the change to 4 X 4 block scheduling. The one revision to be noted is the beginning of the spring semester for high schools, which is also the beginning of the third nine-weeks grading period for k-8. This day would now be on December 21, 2023, rather than January 10, 2024.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion to approve the revisions to the 4 X 4 block schedule calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

**Approve moving Committee reports before Item 10 (Student Expulsion Appeal)**

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and Ms. LaSalle made a second to move Committee/Staff reports before Item 10. All in favor and the motion carried.

# Reports

# Committees:

## 1. Special Education Advisory Committee (May 9, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.)

Ms. McClarity stated that testing was going very well. Surveys received from the Louisiana Department of Education were sent via JCampus to parents with students receiving special education services. The purpose of the survey is to seek feedback on how well schools help to involve parents in the education of their children. The Committee recognized March as Autism Awareness Month. Ms. McClarity reported that the Special Olympics was a great success this year. She commended the board members who attended the event.

## 2. District II Maintenance Committee (May 9, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.)

Mrs. Griffin reported that the Maintenance District II Committee members met on May 9th to consider special projects for the fiscal year 2023-2024, presented by Mr. Wiese the maintenance supervisor. The projects were reviewed on a school-by-school basis, approved by the Maintenance District II Committee and now being recommended for the full Board’s approval. These approved projects will be presented at a later date as part of the St. Mary Parish School Board consolidated budget.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and Ms. LaSalle made a second to approve recommendations of the District II Maintenance Committee, as presented by Mr. Wiese. All in favor and the motion carried.

## 3. District III Maintenance Committee (May 11, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.)

Mr. Mancuso reported that the Maintenance District III Committee members met today 3:30 p.m. to consider the special projects for the fiscal year 2023-2024, presented by Mr. Wiese the maintenance supervisor. The projects were reviewed on a school-by-school basis, amended in some instances, approved by the Maintenance District III Committee, and now being recommended for the full Board’s approval. These approved projects will be presented at a later date as part of the St. Mary Parish School Board consolidated budget.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and Mrs. Anslem made a second to approve recommendations of the District III Maintenance Committee, as presented by Mr. Wiese. All in favor and the motion carried.

## 4. District I Maintenance Committee (May 11, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.)

The District I Maintenance Committee met at 4:30 p.m. today prior to the regular school board meeting. Due to a conflict with time, the meeting adjourned and will resume after the regular school board meeting. Committee report will be presented at the Thursday, June 8, 2023 regular school board meeting for the full Board’s approval.

# Staff Report:

# Chief Financial Officer’s Report:

## Sale Tax Update:

Mr. Perry reported that the sales tax collections for ten months into the fiscal year collected $1,826,619 versus a budget of $1,445,833.

## Financial Statements (Major Funds Only):

The Board was provided financial statements for major funds only to review at their leisure.

## Other Significant Items:

None

# Superintendent’s Report:

Dr. Fegenbush reported that this week has been nationally recognized as National Teacher and School Nurse Appreciation Week. Morgan City High School graduation is scheduled for Friday, May 12th. Graduation at Berwick High, Centerville High, and West St. Mary High School will be held on Thursday, May 18th and Franklin High and Patterson High School will be held on Friday, May 19th. In closing, Dr. Fegenbush thanked the school nurses and teachers for dedicating themselves to help students be the best that they can be. She extended gratitude to the Board and stated it has been a pleasure working with them so far and she is looking forward to the work that they have together.

# Any other Business as Allowed by Act 131.

None

## Item 10. Student Expulsion Appeal.

Go into Executive Session to receive oral report from counsel regarding litigation

related to Student Expulsion Appeal, pursuant to the provisions or La. R.S. 42:17 (A)(7)

that, in pertinent part, reads as follows:

1. A public body may hold an executive session pursuant to R.S. 42:16 for one or more of the following reasons:

(7) Discussions between a city or parish school board and individual students or the parents or tutors of such students, or both, who are within the jurisdiction of the respective school system, regarding problems of such students or their parents or tutors; provided however that any such parent, tutor, or student may require that such discussion be held in an open meeting.

Agenda item: Discuss and take any needed action regarding the above noted executive session.

Attorney Evan Alvarez stated thatthe law allows you to go into Executive Session for Item 10 as described above. He asked the representatives of the family their preference of holding a public or private meeting. Attorney Alvarez noted that a public meeting will be recorded and streamed for public viewing.

Attorney C. E. Bourq, representative of the student and family, stated that he prefers a public meeting and requested that the student be referenced by her initials C. L.

Mr. Holmes, Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance presented a PowerPoint to the Board to help enlighten them about the issues school administrators are having with students bringing illegal vaping devices on to their school campuses.

Mr. Holmes stated that this was the second time student C. L. was caught with vaping devices on the school campus. When student C. L. was originally found in violation of a vaping policy, she was found to have a vaping device with the word “Cake” on it, which is an illegal vaping device that is specifically designed for THC or other illegal substances. Back in January, School Resource Officers didn't exactly know how to process that particular vaping device at the time. Therefore, it was processed as a nicotine vaping device and the student was given in accordance with the school board’s policy with two days of school suspension and required to complete a mandatory health related video. Later, at the end of the month of March, the student was found to be in possession of another cake vape. By this time, the School Resource Officers were aware that anytime a student was in possession of a cake vape, it possessed the active ingredient THC found in marijuana, which changes the punitive consequences. The student was then arrested, drug tested and required to come to the school board office for a disciplinary hearing. During the disciplinary hearing, the student admitted that she had violated the vaping policy and that she did possess a cake type of illegal substance vaping device. As a result, she was punished in accordance with the state laws.

On April 5, 2023, the student was assigned to the St. Mary Alternative Program for two semesters and that that would end on April 5 2024. If student enrolls and completes a recognized drug rehabilitation program, the time can be considered for a shortened time at the Alternative Program site. Such documentation may be used to initiate reopening the student's case. The school board shall take into consideration a student's agreement to receive treatment as part of the factor in the following decision relative to any final disciplinary action.

Attorney C. E. Bourq of Morgan City, Louisiana provided the Board with a handout for RS 40:966, which states the penalty for distribution or possession with intent to distribute narcotic drugs listed in Schedule I; possession of marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, and heroin. He stated that on a first conviction or any subsequent conviction, wherein the offender possesses fourteen grams or less, the offender shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars. He also provided handout CHC 726 for families in need of services. He deems that the student is being punished by the St. Mary Parish School Board and by the juvenile department. On Tuesday, the student will be able to sign up for a pretrial diversion or juvenile drug court offered by the District Attorney's Office. He asked the Board to set a more appropriate punishment or meted out the one-year suspension for the student.

Attorney Alvarez asked if the student and parents are willing to participate in any other treatment program recommended by the school board.

Attorney Bourq replied they would agree with the District Attorney’s Office to participate in a medical treatment program if recommended.

Mr. Holmes stated that Attorney C. E. Bourq was incorrect in stating that the Pretrial Diversion Program is tantamount to rehabilitation court. According to the administrator over the Pretrial Diversion Program, it was clearly stated that it had nothing to do with medical treatment.

Dr. Fegenbush indicated that she sees no reason to change the policy that the St. Mary Parish School Board has in place because it is legal, and also follows rules and policies consistent with state law. However, once a student has enrolled in a program that is deemed valid, and has completed that program, then the student can return with the completion of their program and the school board can consider removal of some of the time that has been allotted to the student.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and Ms. Moore made a second to affirm the decision and recommendation of staff and subject to the parents and the student completing the satisfactory conditions that staff will place on them they will be readmitted back to the home school. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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, Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso, Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis, and Mrs. Alaina L. Black.

The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote of 11 yays.

# Closing:

## Resolutions of Respect:

Ms. Estay read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Ruby Beadle (retired adult education paraprofessional), Francis Colletta (retired supervisor of adult education and vocational education), Bertha Glynn (retired school cafeteria technician), Raylene L. James (retired school bus driver), and James Vidos (former school board member).

# Adjournment:

With there being no further business to address, Mrs. Griffin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Ms. Jones made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.