Centerville, Louisiana

April 20, 2023

The Regular S**chool Board Meeting was called to order by President Black.**

## **Administer Oath of Office** to School Board Member:

 Judge Curtis Sigur administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Debra R. Jones, District IV School Board Member of the St. Mary Parish School Board.

# Regular Session:

 The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, April 20, 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.

# Introduction of Students and Employees of the Month

## Centerville Elementary/High School:

 AssistantPrincipal Tara Fabre introduced 5th grader Javier Jimenez as “Student of the Month” at Centerville Elementary/High School. He is accompanied this evening by family members. Javier is a shining example of academic excellence. He has a perfect 4.0 grade point average (GPA), and he never missed a day of school. Javier is also bilingual, and he recently put it to use by assisting a new ESL student by translating for her when she first arrived. Javier is a hardworking student, responsible, respectful, and well behaved. When Javier is not busy excelling academically, he enjoys spending time playing outside. When he grows up, Javier would like to be a paleontologist, a scientist who studies the history of life on Earth through fossil records.

Assistant Principal Tara Fabre introduced 8th grader Clara Steiner as “Student of the Month” at Centerville Elementary School. Clara is an eighth grader at Centerville High School and has maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average (GPA) throughout her academic career. In addition to her academic achievements, Clara was also an active member of the cheerleading team where she demonstrates her dedication and commitment to the school community. Her passion for dance has led her to train at Cara's Dance Studio in Franklin for the past 12 years. She has a friendly positive attitude and works well with others. She holds herself to a higher standard and works forward to achieve her goals. In her free time, Clara loves to hang out with her friends and engage in fun activities. She has a clear vision for her future and aspires to be a hairstylist. Clara's excellence in academics, extracurricular activities, and personal interests, makes her a role model for other students at Centerville High School.

 Assistant Principal Tara Fabre introduced Secretary Angela Brightwell as “Employee of the Month” at Centerville High School. Mrs. Angela Brightwell graduated from Centerville High School in 1984. She started working at Centerville High School in 2009 as a Special Education paraprofessional and became a pre-K paraprofessional in 2016. She was promoted to the role of school secretary where she continues to go beyond the call of duty every day. Her dedication and hard work have not gone unnoticed, and she is a valued member of the Centerville High School staff. She loves to read, fish, hunt, and spend time with her two grandchildren. Overall, Mrs. Brightwell is an exemplary employee who embodies the spirit of Centerville High School. Her commitment to her work, her community, and her family is truly inspiring.

## Patterson Junior High School:

 Principal Lauren Rentrop introduced 8th grader Sophia Lovell, as “Student of the Month” at Patterson Junior High School. Sophia has shown exceptional leadership qualities as a Lumberjack. She is very proud of the added responsibility of being named the dance team captain this school year. Her love of dance and theater has been influential on the school's dance team and in the talented theater program. When not dancing or performing, Sophia's nose is often found in a great book, where she enjoys viewing the world through someone else's eyes. After graduating from Patterson Junior High School, she does plan to attend Louisiana State University to pursue her dreams of becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon or pediatric nurse. Principal Rentrop proudly presented Sophia as “Student of the Month” at Patterson Junior High School.

 Principal Lauren Rentrop introduced ELA teacher Loraine Sinitiere as “Employee of the Month’ at Patterson Junior High School. Ms. Sinitiere began her journey as an educator as a long-term substitute. Finding the new love and passion for teaching kids, she went back to college and earned a degree in education. Her career began at LaGrange Elementary School, where she poured her passion into her fourth-grade classes for nine years. She transferred to Patterson Junior High School where she has been for the past 11 years. The highlight of her career was being named the 2015 Patterson Junior High School “Teacher of the Year,” and then went on to be the 2015-16 Middle School “Teacher of the Year” for St. Mary Parish. Principal Rentrop wished Ms. Sinitiere a well-deserved happy retirement with her family, friends, and lots of fun traveling.

## West St. Mary High School:

 Principal Ashley Clark introduced 12th grader Anyrie Weber as “Student of the Month” at West St. Mary High School. Anyrie Weber also represents West St. Mary as “Student of the Year.” She is accompanied on this evening by her mother. Anyrie is a bright young lady who is involved in many activities. Throughout high school she has participated in quiz bowl, volleyball, track, 4H, Upward Bound Talent Search, and Jobs for American graduates. Anyrie has always valued her grades. She maintains a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) since the first grade. Currently, she is a Dual Enrollment student. She is earning credits through Southern University at this time, and in the fall, she earned credits through Louisiana State University. After high school she will attend Xavier University where she plans on majoring in biology with a pre-med focus. She wants to return to St. Mary Parish to open her own OBGYN practice. Principal Clark proudly presented Anyrie Weber as “Student of the Month” at West St. Mary High School.

 Assistant Principal Suzette Charpentier introduced Secretary Tekesha Davis-Austin as “Employee of the Month” at West St. Mary High School. She is accompanied on this evening by family members. Outside of school, she enjoys traveling, cooking, decorating, and whatever else she can put her hands on. She does not miss any of her children's events. She travels across the state and across the country. She makes sure that they can take part in every sporting event, every band event, and every academic event. In addition to her immediate family, she claims to have 331 students that she calls her own. Mrs. Davis-Austin is an employee who cares for students daily, making sure that their needs are all met. She assists with events such as ring ceremony, Homecoming, prom, and any other activities that benefits the school or students. Mrs. Davis-Austin has given 17 years of service to the parish. She served as a paraprofessional, a migrant advocate, a mindful moments coordinator, a school secretary, and a cheerleader sponsor. Mrs. Davis-Austin interacts with students, parents and teachers and other faculty members on a daily basis. She is the first line to building relationships and effective communication. She handles concerns before they become problems. She is one of West St. Mary's greatest assets. Assistant Principal Charpentier proudly presented Mrs. Tekesha Davis-Austin as “Employee of the Month” at West St. Mary High School.

# Appearances:

## Recognition of the Best in Show and first place winners of the Student Art Show.

 Ms. Hoffpauir recognized the Best in Show, and first place winners of the Student Art Show. Participates artwork along with over 300 pieces from other students’ artists were displayed in the Artist’s Guild Gallery in Morgan City throughout the month of March. Winners are as follows:

* Cherish Lewis, 11th grade, Berwick High School
* Aubrey Loupe, 1st grade, Wyandotte Elementary School
* Timothy Truong, 2nd grade, Centerville Elementary School
* Emma Falgout, 7th grade, Berwick Junior High School
* Kailey Partain, 12th grade, Morgan City High School
* Alayna Tran, 8th grade, Morgan City Junior High School
* Ryan Picou, 11th grade, Morgan City High School
* Jaidyn Partain, 12th grade, Morgan City High School
* Corynn Soprano, 7th grade, Berwick Junior High School
* Kynley Dekerland, 10th grade Morgan City High School

## Recognition of Outstanding Support Personnel.

 Ms. Estay recognized outstanding support personnel as follows:

* Holly Manuel, Secretary, Morgan City High School
* Khoa Tran, Head Custodian, M. E. Norman Elementary School
* Faith Smith, Paraprofessional, Berwick Junior High School

## Recognition of Patterson High School Teacher, Chasity Toups for advancing to the semifinals

**of the Louisiana State Teacher of the Year selection process.**

 Ms. Estay recognized Ms. Chasity Toups for advancing to the semifinals of the Louisiana State Teacher of the Year Selection Process. She was accompanied on this evening by her family members and principal. In January, Ms. Toups was presented as St. Mary’s District High School Teacher of the Year. She was one of 24 that qualified as a semifinalist, and she is now part of the state level network known as excellent educators. In May, the finalists will be announced and narrowed down to nine teachers. In June, the finalists will be interviewed, and those announcements will be made in July.

# Approval of Amended Agenda.

 President Black indicated that the amended agenda included Item number 18 and 19.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and Mr. Mancuso made a second to approve the amended agenda, as presented by President Black. All in favor and the motion carried.

# Approval of Official School Board Minutes.

 Ms. Moore offered the motion and Mr. Foulcard offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the regular school board meeting held on March 9, 2023, and the minutes from the special school board meeting held on March 27, 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. Sanders read aloud the items on the consent agenda as follows:

## Item 8. \*Approve modified summer work schedule

## Item 9. \*Field Trip(s):

 A. \* Morgan City High School JROTC travel to National Navy Flight/STEM Camp at

 Pensacola Naval Air Station in Pensacola, FL (June 25-30, 2023)

 B. \*Morgan City High School JROTC travel to Mississippi State STEM Camp at

 Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS (June 26-30, 2023)

 C. \* Morgan City High School Football travel to Florida State 7-on-7 Team Camp at

 Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL (June 7, 2023)

## Item 10. \*Advertise for Bids:

 A. \*Permission to advertise bids for eggs

## Item 11. \*Request permission to obtain proposals for a newspaper to serve as the official journal

**for the school board for the year commencing July 1, 2023****.**

## Item 12. \*Approve banking resolutions authorizing signatories at various schools as a result of recent appointments.

## Item 14. \*Permission to bid roofing projects at Berwick High, Berwick Jr. High, and Patterson High using Essers funds.

 Ms. LaSalle requested to pull Agenda Item 7 for further discussion.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and Mrs. Dennis made a second to approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented by Dr. Sanders, with the exclusion of Agenda Item 7. All in favor and the motion carried.

# Business Affairs:

## Item 1. Approve Job Description for:

 A. Title I Instructional Specialist

 Ms. Estay stated after discussion with Ms. McClarity, the job description for Title I Instructional Specialist has been pulled from the agenda until a later date, to allow the new superintendent to be a part of the discussions.

## Item 2. Approve Proclamation

1. School Lunch Hero Day (May 5, 2023)

 Ms. Chaisson read aloud the proclamation as follows:

OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, nutritious meals at school are an essential part of the school day; and

WHEREAS, the staff, of the St. Mary Parish Child Nutrition Program, is committed to providing healthful, nutritious meals to the children of St. Mary parish; and

WHEREAS, the men and women who prepare and serve school meals help nurture our children through daily interaction and support; and

WHEREAS, the St. Mary Parish School District expresses its deep appreciation to these valuable employees and commends their exceptional work on behalf of the district’s children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the St. Mary Parish School Board
 does hereby proclaim May 5, 2023, as **SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY**.

**SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY**

**May 5, 2023**

I, undersigned President and Secretary of St. Mary Parish School Board, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of a proclamation adopted at its regular Board Meeting on April 20, 2023, at which time a quorum was present and that same is in full force and effect.

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Alaina L. Black, President Dr. Rachael C. Sanders, Secretary

 Ms. LaSalle made a motion to approve the School Lunch Hero Day for May 5, 2023. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 3. Approve of revisions to St. Mary Parish School Policy AE-SCHOOL YEAR.

 Dr. Sanders indicated that the St. Mary Parish School Board Policy AE—SCHOOL YEAR, which was last revised in 2013, currently reads:

The St. Mary Parish School Board shall annually adopt a school calendar calling for a minimum session of 182 days, of which at least 177 days shall be scheduled to provide the required instructional time. However, the School Board may authorize some or all of its schools to modify the number of instructional days per year provided the minimum total number of instructional minutes per year is no less than 63,720 instructional minutes. Revised: June 13, 2013; Board minutes. 6-13-13 Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:154.17:154.1.17:154.3.17:154.4 Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators. Bulletin 741. LDOE

 Dr. Sanders asked the board to approve the following revision to the policy:

The St. Mary Parish School Board shall annually adopt a district school calendar that provides for a total number of instructional minutes no less than 63,720 minutes per year when the minimum number of instructional minutes per day (all minutes excluding recess, lunch, and transition) is multiplied by the minimum number of instructional days. The calendar shall also provide for no less than 7,965 minutes per Carnegie unit when the minimum number of instructional minutes per course is multiplied by the minimum number of instructional days as required by La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:154.17:154.1.17:154.3.17:154.4 Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators. Bulletin 741. LDOE

Ms. LaSalle made a motion to approve revisions to the St. Mary Parish School Policy AE-SCHOOL YEAR, as presented by Dr. Sanders. Mr. Foulcard made a second, all in favor and motion carried.

## Item 4. Revise Students’ Last Full Day of School for 2022-23 school year.

Dr. Sanders stated at the beginning of this school year, Dr. Bagwell added 10 additional instructional minutes for every day of the school year for named storms that could possibly hit the Gulf of Mexico. Due to the ten additional instructional minutes being added to the school day at all grade levels this school year, St. Mary Parish schools will have met the required instructional minutes and Carnegie minute minimums before the designated last full day of school, May 25, 2023, on the current district calendar. Dr. Sanders asked that the Board consider approving her request to move the last full day of school for students to May 22, 2023, which would also be report card day.

 Ms. Moore made a motion and Ms. LaSalle made a motion to approve students’ last full day of school to May 22, 2023, for 2022-23 school year.

 Board discussion followed, where Mr. Paradee requested to amend the main motion to include setting a revised date for teachers last day of school to be May 24th.

 Dr. Sanders replied that teachers work on a 182-day work calendar, which is determined by the Board.

 Attorney Evan Alvarez stated that the item can be deferred until the next meeting to verify there would not be a problem from a legal standpoint and operational standpoint.

 Mr. Paradee withdrew his motion and will add the item on the next month’s regular school board meeting.

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

## Item 5. Approval of School Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year.

 Dr. Sanders provided the Board with two proposed school calendars for the 2023-2024 school year. One proposal for high schools with seven-period days and one for high schools on four-by-four block scheduling. Dr. Sanders asked the Board to approve two possible calendars.

 Ms. LaSalle made a motion and Ms. Moore made a second to approve the St. Mary Parish School Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year for the seven-period day.

 After discussions, the Board decided not to approve the four-by-four block calendar until after the Public Forum regarding block scheduling on May 1st from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Centerville High School. Depending on the Board’s decision regarding block scheduling, the seven-period day calendar adopted tonight could possibly get replaced with a slightly modified calendar at next month’s regular school board meeting.

 All in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 6. Approve 180, 182, 200, 202, 212, 220, 240, 242 Employee Calendars for 2023-2024 school year.

 Ms. Estay provided the Board with a spreadsheet with employee calendars for the 2023-2024 school year and asked for Board approval.

 Mr. Paradee made a motion to approve 180, 182, 200, 202, 212, 220, 240, 242 Employee Calendars for the 2023-2024 school year, as presented by Ms. Estay. Mrs. Anslem made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 7. Approve Revised Fees for Public Records Requests.

 Ms. LaSalle stated that she requested to pull the item from the Consent Agenda to be on the record so the public would be aware of the charges.

 Dr. Sanders indicated that the Louisiana Revised Statute 44:32(C), regarding public records requests, the school system’s designated custodian of record can “collect reasonable fees for making copies of public records” and “charge for time spent by employees for after-hours inspection” or preparation of the request. She asked for the Board’s approval to raise the current fee of .25 cents per copy to $1.25 per copy, and $25.00 per hour for any public records requests that require an employee to work after-hours handling inspection time and/or time for preparing the request.

 After discussion, the item was pulled from the agenda and will be presented at a later date.

## Item 13. Partial Substantial Completion for the Front Door Security Project at Berwick High, Patterson High, St. Mary Alternative and LaGrange.

 On behalf of Architect Carl Blum in his absence, Mr. Wiese asked the Board to approve the Substantial Completion for the Front Door Security Project at Berwick High, Patterson High, St. Mary Alternative and LaGrange.

 Mrs. Griffin made a motion and Ms. LaSalle made a second to approve the substantial completion, as presented by Mr. Wiese. All in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 15. Request funds to survey parcel of land in which the Berwick softall field resides due to an act of property donation.

 Mr. Wiese asked the Board to approve $7,500 from the Maintenance District II funds to survey parcel of land in which the Berwick softall field resides due to an act of property donation.

 Mr. Paradee made a motion to approve funds to survey parcel of land in which in Berwick softwall field resides due to an act of property donation. Mrs. Anslem made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 16. Consider and take action regarding officially naming Patterson High School football stadium “Cypress Stadium”

 Mrs. Griffin stated that in the early 20th century, Patterson, Louisiana was home to the largest Cypress Mill in the world. The operation was fed by the giant cypress trees located nearby in the Louisiana Atchafalaya Basin.  The mill achieved a production rate of 250,000 board feet per day. Remnants of the mill can still be found on Mill Road and Bridge Road in Patterson.

 Recently, she and Ms. LaSalle were approached by community members and asked to consider coming before the Board to request naming the stadium of Patterson High School, “Cypress Stadium.”

 Mrs. Griffin made a motion and Ms. LaSalle made a second to approve naming Patterson High School football stadium “Cyress Stadium.” All in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 17. Discuss and take appropriate action on the superintendent search.

 Attorney Evan Alvarez stated that Item 18 and 19 was added to the agenda to provide clarification regarding on the superintendent search. Item 18 the legistature allows boards and public entities to go into Executive Session. After the Board comes out of Executive Session, Item 19 will then be addressed where the Board will have to made a decision on how they want to proceed with the Superintendent Selection Process.

## Item 18. Discussion of character, professional competence, or pyhsical or metal health of applicants for superintendent.

 Ms. LaSalle made a motion and Ms. Moore made a second to enter into Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken was follows:

 **Yes:** 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.

 The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote of 11 yes to enter Executive Session.

# Return to Regular Session:

 Ms. LaSalle made a motion and Ms. Moore made a second to return to regular session. A roll vote was taken as follows:

 **Yes:** 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.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote of 11 yes to return to regular session.

## Item 19. Selection of Superintendent or, in the alternative, discussion and/or action concerning next steps in Superintendent Selection Process.

 Ms. Moore made a motion and Mr. Mancuso made a second to vote on electing a superintendent.

 With there being no discussion from the Board or audience, a roll call vote was taken as follows:

 **Yes:** 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.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote of 11 yes to vote on electing a superintendent.

Attorney Alvarez indicated that the Board must first set procedures as to how to proceed with the superintendent selection process.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and Mr. Pontiff made a second to vote on electing a superintendent and if no candidate receives six votes in the first round, then take the top two candidates and vote again in a second round.

After further discussion and clarafication, Ms. LaSalle stated that she did not like her motion and the motion was withdrawn leaving no pending motion on the floor.

Mr. Paradee made a motion and Ms. Moore made a second to proceed with voting for a superintendent and in the event six votes are not accomplished, then proceed with round two with the top two candidates.

With there being no discussion from the Board or audience, a roll call vote was taken as follows:

 **Yes:** 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.

 **No:** Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle

The motion carried by a roll call vote of 10 yes and 1 no.

The Board was provided a ballot with a list of all candidates for round one. Votes were read aloud by President Black, verified by each board member, and tallied by Interim Superintent Sanders. Votes were recorded as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Board Member | Hamilton Brock | Margaret Cage | Dr. Buffy Fegenbush | Dr. Curt Green | J Ina | Dr. C. Michael Robinson, Jr.  |
| Joseph C. Foulcard, Jr. |  |  |  |  |  X |  |
| Tammie L. Moore |  |  |  |  |  X |  |
| Lindsey T. Anslem |  |  |  X |  |  |  |
| Debra R. Jones |  |  |  |  |  X |  |
| Ginger S. Griffin |  |  |  X |  |  |  |
| Marilyn P. LaSalle |  |  |  |  |  X |  |
| Murphy J. Pontiff, Jr. |  |  |  |  |  X |  |
| Chad M. Paradee |  |  |  X |  |  |  |
| Alaina L. Black |  |  |  X |  |  |  |
| Andrew V. Mancuso |  |  |  X |  |  |  |
| Rhonda R. Dennis |  |  |  X |  |  |  |

 Dr. Buffy Fegenbush received six votes, and Mr. J Ina received five votes in the first round. With the majority vote of the entire membership of the Board, Dr. Buffy Fegenbush was announced as Superintendent-elect.

 Attorney Alvarez recommended that the Board authorize the board president, board vice-president, and legal counsel to have a meeting to begin negotiating the superintendent-elect contract. Once that process is completed, the contract will then be brought back to the Board for full approval and ratification.

 Mr. Paradee made a motion and Mr. Mancuso made a second to approve the board president, vice-president, and legal counsel to proceed forward with the superintendent-elect contract.

With there being no discussion from the Board or audience, a roll call vote was taken as follows:

 **Yes:** 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.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote of 11 yes.

Dr. Buffy Fegenbush thanked the Board for the time and effort that they put into the consideration of all the candidates. She is truly honored, and deeply humbled by the opportunity to serve St. Mary Parish School Board and school families. She looks forward to working with everyone and making sure that together we are St. Mary Parish proud.

# Committee Meetings:

##  1. The Special Education Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana.

On behalf of Ms. McClarity in her absence, Dr. Sanders stated that Ms. McClarity had not received any parent requests for cameras in the classrooms for special education students. The funds that were designated for that purpose in each district was also discussed that it is earmarked for that should the time come. The Special Olympics will be held at Franklin High School on Friday, March 31, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Jennifer Collins-Lanceslin with Community of Friends briefly explained how the organization operates, and how they are involved with the community in St. Mary Parish.

##  2. The Discipline Committee Meeting met on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room.

Mrs. Griffin stated that recently the Board was advised that they needed to review the makeup and structure of the Discipline Committee. Therefore, Mrs. Griffin made a motion to table the item. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

 The committee will reconvene at a later date.

##  3. The School Uniform Committee met on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room.

 Ms. LaSalle asked for the full Board’s approval for recommendations of the School Uniform Committee as follows:

**Uniform Committee Proposed Changes**

## 1. Clear plastic or mesh backpacks

    If approved students would be able to use ONLY clear plastic or mesh backpacks/bookbags.

    The committee discussed the additional safety that this provides and the fact that morning searches upon take-in would be expedited if each book bag would not have to be unzipped and searched for contents.

    The committee recommends that the board approve this item.

 Ms. LaSalle made a motion to approve the clear plastic or mesh backpacks/bookbags for the 2023-2024 school year, as recommended by the School Uniform Committee. Mrs. Griffin made a second, all of favor and the motion carried.

## 2. Black Pants Option

    If approved, all students would continue to wear khaki pants and would also have the option to wear black pants (shorts, skirts, skorts, etc.) according to uniform specifications.

    The committee is recommending this revision to the uniform policy.

 Ms. LaSalle made a motion to continue to wear khaki pants and would also have the option to wear black pants (shorts, skirts, skorts, etc.) according to uniform specifications. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## 3. Hoodies

    The committee revisited the hoodie policy which currently says that students can have a hood on a light jacket or overcoat, each with closures down the front (zips, snaps, buttons, etc.).

    The policy disallows students from wearing sweatshirts with hoods, “hoodies.”

    After much discussion, the committee voted to leave the policy as is.

    No action or recommendations at this time.

 Ms. LaSalle made a motion to left the policy as is for hoodies. Ms. Jones made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## 4. Spirit Shirt Option

    If approved, this would have allowed students to wear spirit shirts with uniform bottoms daily.

    The committee voted against adding this option to the uniform policy.

    No changes are recommended.

 Ms. LaSalle made a motion to keep the policy as is in regard to spirt shirts. Ms. Jones made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## 5. Boundaries on Dress Down Days

    If approved, the policy would have placed constraints on principals’ discretion on giving students dress down days.

    No changes to the policy are recommended.

 Ms. LaSalle made a motion to keep dress down days as currently stated in the policy which is designated by the school administrator. Ms. Jones made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

 **4. Set time and date for District Maintenance Committee’s I, II, and III Special Projects Meeting**

* District Maintenance I Committee will meet on May 11, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana.
* District Maintenance II Committee will meet on May 9, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana.
* District Maintenance III Committee will meet on May 11, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana.

# Staff Report:

## Chief Financial Officer’s Report:

## Sale Tax Update

 On behalf of Mr. Perry in his absence, Dr. Sanders reported that the sales tax collections for nine months into the fiscal year according to the March report, taxes budgeted was $1,445,833 and taxes collected was $1,459,034, currently favorable at $13,200.

## 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. Sanders reported that the St. Mary Parish school systems and the Child Nutrition Department was awarded funding as part of a 2022 National School Lunch Program Equipment assistance grant for school food authorities. Meeting the parameters set by that grant, are Morgan City High, Berwick High, and Berwick Junior High School. Each school will receive a new piece of equipment to be used to prepare healthy from scratch meals for students to help build school community relationships. The Department of Student Services has invited Law Enforcement departments across St. Mary Parish district to eat lunch in our school cafeterias. The hope is that by interacting with students more often, they will build relationships, develop trust and make connections to the communities which they serve. Ms. McClarity and her staff would like to thank all board members and community members who attended the Special Olympics at Franklin High School and the Gifted and Talented Arts Jam that was held at the Teche theater. Both events were well attended and having our board members present showed a great deal of support for all of our students with exceptionalities. On May 1, 2023, in the Centerville High School cafeteria, a public forum will be held to discuss the possibility of block scheduling. Forms to submit any concerns or questions for the public can be assessed on the St. Mary Parish School Board website. On Saturday, April 22, 2023, the St. Mary Parish School Board will be hosting the first Annual Job Fair at Centerville High School from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m., to provide applications for all opened positions within the school system. In closing, Dr. Sanders stated that it has been a great learning experience for her as interim superintendent that she will always cherish. She congratulated Dr. Fegenbush as the new superintendent-elect and welcomed her back to St. Mary Parish.

# Any other Business as Allowed by Act 131

 None

# Closing

## Resolutions of Respect

Ms. Estay read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Virgie Vivian Aucoin (retired cafeteria technician), Paul Charles Bonnee, Sr. (retired band teacher), Donald Loupe (retired school bus driver), and Willie Peters (former board school member).

## Adjournment:

 With there being no further business to address, Ms. Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Ms. Jones made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.