Centerville, Louisiana

February 2, 2023

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in special session on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana, with the following members answering to roll call:

# **Roll Call**.

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

**Absent:** Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle.

# Invocation:

Ms. Estay led the Invocation.

# Pledge of Allegiance:

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

# Business Affairs:

## **Item 1:** Discussion and/or action concerning the Superintendent Selection Process.

Board Attorney Bob Hammonds stated that the first discussion would be whether the Board would like to do the search themselves with some limited assistance or alternatively hire a search firm to handle that process for them.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and Mr. Mancuso made a second for the Board to conduct the Superintendent Selection Process themselves with the assistance of Hammonds and Sills law firm. All in favor and the motion carried.

Attorney Hammonds provided the Board with a handout that outlined a few statutorily-mandated procedures related to the Superintendent selection process as follows:

* The Board shall advertise the vacancy and solicit applications for the position on two (2) or more separate days at least one week apart in the official journal of the school board.
* The school board shall advertise the vacancy at least once in a daily newspaper published in the metropolitan area in the State having a population of excess of 100,000 persons that is nearest to the school board offices, if such newspaper is not the official journal of the school board.
* All such advertisements shall be completed at least thirty (30) days prior to action by the school board to fill the position.
* The election of a Superintendent by a school board shall require the favorable vote of a majority of the entire membership of the school board.
* The Superintendent shall be employed by a school board pursuant to a written contract, which shall contain specific performance objectives and, if the school system has received any variation of a school performance letter grade of “C”, “D”, or “F”, performance targets at the school and district level as well. LA. R.S. 17:54.

The Board must decide on the qualifications of the Superintendent before advertising for the position. Attorney Hammonds indicated that the Louisiana Law through the Louisiana Department of Education requires certain criteria to be held by a superintendent in the State of Louisiana. However, the Board has the right to supplement those requirements should they choose to do so.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and Ms. Moore made a second to follow the requirements of the Louisiana Department of Education for the superintendent qualifications. All in favor and the motion carried.

Attorney Hammonds stated that he will specify in the advertisement that applicants must be qualified to be a superintendent at the time they apply for the position. Hearing no objections from the Board, no action was required for this issue.

The Board discussed where to publish and how long to run the advertisement.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and Ms. Jones made a second to run advertisement for superintendent in newspapers that are statutorily required, forward to LSBA, LASS, AASA, and post ad on the district’s webpage. All in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Foulcard made a motion to run ads on two (2) separate days at least one week apart in the official journal of the school board and once in the Advocate, as required by law. Mr. Mancuso made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion that March 31, 2023 will be the deadline for submission of applications. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

Attorney Hammonds recommended that the Board establish a blind post office box strictly for the purpose of receiving superintendent applications. There will be only one key to the box held by the board president or executive assistant. This post office box would not be opened until after the deadline of March 31, 2023.

Mrs. Anslem made a motion and Ms. Jones made a second to establish a blind post office box strictly for receiving superintendent applications, which will not be opened until after the deadline of March 31, 2023. All in favor and the motion carried.

Attorney Hammonds asked the Board if there were any objections to him adding a paragraph in the advertisement with information about the school system. With there being no objections from the Board, no action was required on this issue.

Attorney Hammonds recommended that the Board set a proposed salary range in the advertisement, which could help prevent the possibility of applicants withdrawing after learning that the salary to be offered by the school board is less than that being received by them in their current positions.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion to set a proposed salary range from $120,000 to $140,000 in the advertisement. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

Attorney Hammonds will get the advertisement ready to start the period for submission. After applications are received in early April, Mr. Hammonds will review all applications received to make sure that applicants possess necessary qualifications. The Board will receive completed copies of the applications and redacted copies would be posted on the St. Mary Parish School Board’s webpage for public viewing. After a few days of reviewing applications, the Board should meet to determine the procedures that will follow thereafter.

President Black proposed to move the Maintenance District III Committee before the Executive Session, which would be very advantageous to the audience and anyone who does not want to wait through the Executive Session. Hearing no objections from the Board, the Maintenance District III Committee will report before the Executive Session.

# Committee Report:

# Maintenance District III Committee:

Mr. Mancuso reported that the Maintenance District III Committee met in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., to approve revised proposal and discuss bid process for the Morgan City High School Stadium Renovations Projects. The committee approved the revised proposal as presented by Architect, Carl Blum, and is now asking for the full Board approval and permission to advertise for bids.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Maintenance District III Committee regarding the revised proposal for Morgan City High School Stadium Renovations Projects and to proceed with the bid process. Mrs. Dennis made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## **Item 2**: Executive Session

Go into Executive Session regarding case styled Boudreaux, et al v. School Board of St. Mary

Parish, et al, docket number 6:65 – 11351, United Stated District Court, Western District of

Louisiana, Lafayette Division to receive oral report from counsel pursuant to the provisions or

R.S. 42:17 that, in pertinent part, reads as follows:

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

following reasons:

(2) Strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, prospective

litigation after formal written demand, or litigation when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body.

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

session.

# Enter Executive Session:

Ms. Moore moved that the Board go into executive session to receive updates on the litigation as described in Item 2. Mr. Pontiff gave a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

# Board returned from Executive Session:

Mrs. Griffin made a motion to return to regular session.  Mr. Foulcard made a second and the meeting resumed. All in favor and the motion carried.

# Statement from Executive Session:

Board Attorney shared the historical background of the St. Mary Parish School Board pending desegregation case and also discussed the factors that lead to unitary status.

# Other Business as Allowed by Act 131

None

# Closing:

# Adjournment

With there being no further business to address, Ms. Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Pontiff made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.