Centerville, Louisiana

January 12, 2023

# Administer Oath of Office to School Board Members

On behalf of Honorable Judge Anthony Saleme in his absence, Honorable Judge Curtis Sigur administered Oath of Office to the St. Mary Parish School Board Members as follows:

Mr. Joseph C. Foulcard, Jr. (District 1)

Ms. Tammie L. Moore (District 2)

Mrs. Lindsey T. Anslem (District 3)

Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin (District 5)

Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle (District 6)

Mr. Murphy J. Pontiff, Jr. (District 7)

Mr. Chad M. Paradee (District 8)

Mrs. Alaina L. Black (District 9)

Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso (District 10)

Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis (District 11)

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 5:00 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 (added after Oath of Office for District IV), 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 and the Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Estay gave the Invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

# Nominations and vote to determine School Board Member for District IV

Ms. Debra R. Jones has served as acting school board member for District IV from September 8, 2022 through December 31, 2022, due to the resignation of Mrs. Pearl B. Rack on August 12, 2022. The Board must determine acting school board member for District IV for the new term seated through the special election, which will be held, Saturday, March 25, 2023. Dr. Sanders opened the floor for District IV, School Board Member nominations.

Ms. Tammie L. Moore nominated Ms. Debra R. Jones for District IV, School Board Member.

With there being no other nominations, Mrs. Black made a motion and Ms. Moore made a second to close nominations for District IV, School Board Member.

Ms. Moore made a motion to reappoint representative Ms. Debra R. Jones, 304 Trainor Street, Franklin, Louisiana 70538, to temporarily fill the seat of District IV, School Board Member until the special election held Saturday, March 25, 2023. Mrs. Black made a second to the motion. All in favor and Ms. Debra R. Jones was reappointed by acclamation for interim school board member of District IV.

# Administer Oath of Office to School Board Member of District 4

Judge Curtis Sigur administered Oath of Office to Ms. Debra R. Jones as interim school board member for District IV.

# Election of School Board President

Dr. Sandersopened the floor up to nominations for the office of school board president for a two-year term.

Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin and Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso nominated Mrs. Alaina L. Black for school board president.

Hearing no other nominations, Mrs. Alaina L. Black accepted the nomination for school board president.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion, and Ms. Moore made a second to close nominations for school board president. All in favor and Mrs. Alaina L. Black was appointed by acclamation as school board president.

# Election of School Board Vice-President

President Black then called for nominations for the office of school board vice-president for a two-year term. Ms. Tammie L. Moore was nominated for school board vice-president by Mr. Murphy J Pontiff, Jr.

Hearing no other nominations, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle moved to close nominations for school board vice-president. Ms. Tammie L. Moore was appointed by acclamation as school board vice-president.

# Introduction of Students and Employees of the Month

## B. Edward Boudreaux Middle School:

Principal Alexis Rack introduced 8th grader Lianna Tardy as “Student of the Month” at B. Edward Boudreaux Middle School. This is Lianna’s second time being student of the month. Her favorite subjects are math and ELA. She is hard working, smart, creative, and always on the honor roll. When she is not in school, she likes to draw and dance. When Lianna is done with her work, she loves to play games on her phone. Lianna said, she is very grateful to be chosen to represent B. Edward Boudreaux Middle School as “Student of the Month.”

Principal Alexis Rack introduced 8th grade teacher Anita Morgel as “Employee of the Month” at B. Edward Boudreaux Middle School. Ms. Morgel began her career in education in 2001 and began teaching in Terrebonne Parish. She came to St. Mary Parish 8 years ago.  She taught at Morgan City Junior High for two years; then moved on to B. Edward Boudreaux for 6 years. Besides teaching, she writes grants. One year, she wrote a Samsung grant for a school, and they received $60,000 in technology and software. Ms. Morgel is finishing up her certification in Middle School English. She has been trained as an Intervention Content Leader, and have been a Teacher Leader Advisor for the state for 2 years. When relaxing after school hours, she enjoys watching her favorite show NCIS as well as catching up on movies.  She loves doing DIY projects such as painting. She was blessed to have painted a mural in her classroom.

## Hattie Watts Elementary School:

Principal Brianna Comeaux introduced 4th grader Aiden Nguyen as “Student of the Month” at Hattie Watts Elementary School. He is accompanied by his mother and his brother. Unfortunately, Aiden’s dad is visiting family in Vietnam at the moment and could not be in attendance, but he is super proud of him. Aidan has maintained straight A's his entire elementary school career and made all advances on his LEAP test last year. His favorite subject is Math. He enjoys playing the piano and helping at the nail shop that his parents own. When Aidan grows up, he is thinking about becoming a doctor. He speaks Vietnamese and English and another interesting fact about Aidan is that he can sing the ABCs backwards. On behalf of the Wee Jacks, Principal Comeaux proudly presented Aidan Nguyen as “Student of the Month” at Hattie Watts Elementary School.

Principal Brianna Comeaux introduced Kindergarten teacher Tammy Gros as “Employee of the Month” at Hattie Watts Elementary School. Mrs. Tammy Gros has been teaching kindergarten at Hattie Watts for 27 years. She is the definition of dedication and a true Wee Jack. She has seen lots of changes in education over the years, but she continues to see the joy in being a teacher. To see Mrs. Gros in action is truly something special. She is compassionate and kind. Her students are excited about learning and can lead the lesson. Principal Comeaux said, “Yes, you heard me correctly kindergarten students lead the math lesson and do a great job.” Hattie Watts Elementary is very fortunate to have Mrs. Gros on their staff. Principal Comeaux proudly presented Mrs. Tammy Gros as ‘Employee of the Month” at Hattie Watts Elementary School.

## Raintree Elementary School:

Principal Marie Cole introduced 5th grader Malerie Myers as “Student of the Month” at Raintree Elementary School. She is accompanied by her parents, her grandparents, and her brother. Malerie has been an honor roll student since kindergarten. She loves to dance, draw, and most of all, spend time with her family. She is a member of Raintree’s Eaglets club, BETA club, and 4-H club. She is an active member of St. John Evangelist Catholic Church. She is a dancer at Gail Freese School of Dance. Malerie says school is important to her because she is gaining knowledge to ensure a successful future. After high school, she plans on attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette to become a veterinarian. Teachers at Raintree say that Malerie is kind, smart, and a great role model to others. She is willing to help and has just the right amount of confidence to make a difference in people’s lives. Her playful, energetic side has surfaced, and they absolutely love it.

Principal Marie Cole introduced 2nd grade ELA teacher Tandraer Crosby as “Employee of the Month” at Raintree Elementary School. She is accompanied by her son, family members, and members of the Raintree family. Ms. Crosby is a product of the St. Mary Parish School System after graduating from West St. Mary High School as class valedictorian and Student of the Year. She was always determined to give back and serve the students in her own community. She student taught at Raintree and decided to join the faculty upon graduation. She has been teaching for nine years. She taught art and fourth grade before finding her place in second grade. Ms. Crosby earned her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2014. She is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. She also serves as the President of the St. Mary Association of Educators.  In her free time, Ms. Crosby likes to travel, spend time with her family, and write stories and poems. Becoming a teacher was her lifelong dream and she considers herself blessed to do something she loves.

# Approval of Amended Agenda

None

# Approval of Official School Board Minutes

Ms. Moore offered the motion, Ms. Jones offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the regular meeting held on December 8, 2022. 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 3:** \*Permission to Advertise for Bids:

A\*. Child Nutrition Department Items: Produce, milk, juice, small equipment, frozen foods,

dry and canned foods, paper, and cleaning supplies.

## **Item 5.** \*Approve banking resolutions authorizing signatories at various schools as a result of recent appointments.

## **Item 8.** \* Approve resolution authorizing signatories on checks and other related financial documents.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented by Dr. Sanders. Mr. Mancuso made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

# Business Affairs:

## **Item 1:** Set day, time, and place for Regular Monthly School Board Meeting

Mrs. Griffin moved that the regular monthly school board meetings of the St. Mary Parish School Board be held on the second Thursday of each month, at 5:00 p.m., with the exception of moving Thursday, March 9, 2023 meeting to Thursday, March 16, 2023, due to board members attending the LSBA Annual conference in Lake Charles, LA and moving Thursday, April 13, 2023 meeting to Thursday, April 20, 2023, due to Spring break. All meetings will be held in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex, in Centerville, Louisiana. Ms. Moore gave a second.

Discussion followed, where Mr. Mancuso requested that the Board consider moving the regular school board meetings to 6:00 p.m.

With no further discussion, Mr. Mancuso made a motion and Mrs. Anslem made a second to amend the motion on the floor to move the regular school board meetings from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., with the exception moving the March and April meeting to the third Thursday of the month. All in favor and the motion carried with Mrs. Griffin and Ms. LaSalle voting nay.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yay: Mr. Chad M. Paradee, Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso, Mr. Murphy J. Pontiff Jr., Mrs. Lindsey T. Anslem, Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis, Ms. Debra R. Jones, Ms. Tammie L. Moore.

Nay: Mr. Joseph C. Foulcard Jr., Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle.

The motion passed with 7 yay votes to 4 nay votes to amend the motion of moving the regular board meetings to 6:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex, with the exception of moving the March and April meeting to the third Thursday of the month. All in favor and the motion carried.

## **Item 2:** Proclamations:

### A. Louisiana School Board Member Recognition Month (January 2023):

Dr. Sanders read aloud the Louisiana School Board Member Recognition Month Proclamation for January 2023 as follows:

Proclamation

Louisiana School Board Member Recognition Month

WHEREAS, the mission of public schools is to meet the diverse educational needs of all children and to empower them to become competent, productive contributors to a democratic society and an ever-changing world; and

WHEREAS, local school board members are committed to children and believe that all children can be successful learners and that the best education is tailored to the individual needs of the child; and

WHEREAS, local school board members work closely with parents, educational professionals, and other community members to create the educational vision we want for our students; and

WHEREAS, local school board members are responsible for ensuring the structure that provides a solid foundation for our school system; and

WHEREAS, local school board members are strong advocates for public education and are responsible for communicating the needs of the school district to the public and the public’s expectations to the district;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rachael Sanders, Interim Superintendent do hereby declare my appreciation to the members of the St. Mary Parish School Board and proclaim January 2023 as

School Board Recognition Month in St. Mary Parish. I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the dedication and hard work of local school board members and in working with them to mold an education system that meets the needs of both today’s and tomorrow’s children.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this 12th day of January, 2023.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion to approve the Louisiana School Board Recognition Month for January 2023, as presented by Dr. Sanders. Mr. Pontiff made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

### B. National African American History Month (February 2023).

Dr. Sanders read aloud the National African American History Month Proclamation for February 2023 as follows:

Proclamation

African American History Month

WHEREAS, the month of February has officially been declared as African American History Month; and

WHEREAS, the St. Mary Parish School Board recognizes the significant contributions that African Americans have made to this great nation; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that as an educational institution we acknowledge the pivotal role African Americans have played in our nation’s history along with their many contributions to present and future generations of Americans.

NOW, LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED that the St. Mary Parish School Board acknowledges and fully supports observance of African American History Month by St. Mary Parish educators and students. The Board advocates that observances develop an appreciation and awareness of the historical role of America’s ethnic groups and their unique contribution to its history.

Signed this day of January 12, 2023.

Ms. Moore made a motion and Mrs. Anslem made a second to approve the National African American History Month Proclamation for February 2023, as presented by Dr. Sanders. All in favor and the motion carried with Mr. Foulcard abstaining to vote.

### C. National School Counseling Week (February 6-10, 2023).

Ms. Percle read aloud the National School Counseling Week for February 6-10,2023 as follows:

Proclamation

WHEREAS, school counselors are employed in public and private schools to help students reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, school counselors are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents as these traits relate to career awareness and development; and

WHEREAS, school counselors help parents focus on ways to further the educational, personal, and social growth of their children; and

WHEREAS, school counselors work with teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set realistic goals for themselves; and

WHEREAS, school counselors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can enhance and complement comprehensive school counseling programs and help students become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive developmental school counseling programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in school;

Therefore, St. Mary Parish School Board hereby proclaims February 6-10, 2023, as National School Counseling Week.

Ms. Percle asked that St. Mary Parish join the nation and recognize the professional school counselors, and proclaim February 6-10, 2023, as National School Counseling Week.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion to approve the proclamation declaring the week of February 6-10, 2023, as National School Counseling Week, as presented by Ms. Percle.  Ms. Jones gave a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 4. Approval for immediate change to 2022-2023 Pupil Progression Plan

Dr. Sanders reported that BESE approved an update to Bulletin 1566 at the October 2022 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education meeting. The update will mandate third and fourth grade students to summer school for 30 hours of intense literacy instruction during the summer. The assurance to update the current Pupil Progression Plan to include this change should be approved, signed, and submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education by January 31, 2023. Dr. Sanders asked that the Board approve immediate change to 2022-2023 Pupil Progression Plan.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion to approve immediate change to 2022-2023 Pupil Progression Plan, as presented by Dr. Sanders. Ms. Jones made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 6. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding an Industrial Tax Exemption application for LAPCO Manufacturing Inc.

The Board was provided three non-compliance notices from the Louisiana Economic Development regarding LAPCO Manufacturing, Inc., ITEP Contract# 20180075-ITE-$596,258.00 for project year 2019 (due to missed deadline only), 2020 (due to jobs/payroll and missed deadline), and 2021 (due to payroll only and missed deadline).

The annual Certification of Compliance for projected year 2019, required 7 jobs and required $175,000 for payroll, was received past the deadline set forth in Section 7.02, and upon review, the Company’s actual annual jobs and payroll was 11 jobs with payroll of $302,130.61; therefore, LAPCO Manufacturing, Inc was in compliance with company objectives for projected year 2019 and 100 percent of the requirements have been satisfied.

The annual Certification of Compliance for projected year 2020, required 7 jobs and required $175,000 for payroll, was received past the deadline, and upon review, the company’s actual annual jobs and payroll was 2 jobs with payroll of $75,934.41; therefore, LAPCO Manufacturing, Inc was not in compliance with company objectives for the projected year 2020.

The annual Certification of Compliance for projected year 2021, also required 7 jobs and required $175,000 for payroll, was received past the deadline, and upon review, the company actual annual jobs and payroll was 7 jobs with payroll of $116,685.48; therefore, LAPCO Manufacturing, Inc was not in compliance with company objectives for the projected year 2021, due to the payroll requirement and late filing only.

The Board may defer any decision or action on the Company’s non-compliance to the Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry, or in accordance with Section 6.01 (B)(4) of the Exhibit A, make a recommendation to the Board on the consequence for non-compliance. The local Governmental entities and the Company may agree on a default payment that the company can make to each of the local Governmental entities in the agreed amount, in which case, the current terms of the Exemption Contract shall remain the same without further consideration by the Board. If notice is not received from the St. Mary Parish School Board, it will be noted as such upon presentation to the Board, which Louisiana Economic Development anticipates will occur at the next available meeting when submitted for final consideration and/or action.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion to defer any decision or action on LAPCO Manufacturing, Inc. non-compliance to the Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Mancuso made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## **Item 7.** Discuss and take appropriate action regarding an Industrial Tax Exemption application for Gravois Aluminum Boats.

The Board was provided with a non-compliance notice from the Louisiana Economic Development regarding Gravois Aluminum Boats Industrial Tax Exemption Program Contract# 20200220-ITE - $1,057,275.745 for project year 2021. The company failed to satisfy the requirements of Exhibit A as referenced in the Exemption Contract.

The annual Certification of Compliance for projected year 2021 required 2 jobs and required $72,800 for payroll, was received past the deadline set forth in Section 7.02 and upon review, the company’s actual annual jobs and payroll was 0 jobs with payroll of $0; therefore, company is not in compliance with company objectives for the project year 2021.

The Board may defer any decision or action on the Company’s non-compliance to the Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry, or in accordance with Section 6.01 (B)(4) of the Exhibit A, make a recommendation to the Board on the consequence for non-compliance. The local Governmental entities and the Company may agree on a default payment that the company can make to each of the local Governmental entities in the agreed amount, in which case, the current terms of the Exemption Contract shall remain the same without further consideration by the Board. If notice is not received from the St. Mary Parish School Board, it will be noted as such upon presentation to the Board, which Louisiana Economic Development anticipates will occur at the next available meeting when submitted for final consideration and/or action.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion to defer any decision or action on Gravois Aluminum Boats, LLC non-compliance to the Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

# Staff Reports:

Mr. Wiese recommended that the Board schedule a District III Maintenance Committee Meeting as soon as possible to discuss the Morgan City High School Stadium Renovations.

The District III Maintenance Committee members scheduled a meeting for Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 2 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room, at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana.

# Chief Financial Officer’s Report:

## **Sales Tax Update**

Mr. Perry reported that sales tax collections had a little dip this month, collecting about 40,000 less than budgeted. Although, this was the first time this happened, the budget is still good year to date.

## **Financial Statements (Major Funds Only)**

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

## **Other Significant Items:**

Mr. Perry provided the Board with a final audit report that was adopted at the December’s regular board meeting. He also reported that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has released its mileage reimbursement rate for business travel for the calendar year 2023. The new rate of 65.5 cents per mile is effective January 1, 2023. The Board does not need to take action.

Mr. James Perez, consultant of DJW Insurance will present the Group Health Insurance Premium to Claims Summary Report at the February regular school board meeting.

## Superintendent’s Report:

Dr. Sanders reported that the St. Mary Parish School Board annual Drug Free Red Ribbon slogan contest is officially underway. Slogans will be accepted through February 10, 2023. The winning slogan is used on official Red Ribbon Week T-shirts, calendars and use in media campaigns. This past Tuesday, January 10th report cards for the second nine weeks grading period went home. This signals the beginning of the third nine weeks. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers to discuss grades or any other concerns about the first semester of the school year, so that students are all set to perform at their very best for this new grading period. The St. Mary Parish District Honor Band will be performing on Saturday, January 14th at noon in the auditorium at Franklin Senior High School. It is a great commendation for students selected to perform in the Honor Band. Four additional school resource officers have been selected to serve our schools. New School Resource Officers will attend training January 17th through February 3rd and officially begin serving our schools on Monday February 6, 2023. The St. Mary Parish School Board looks forward to working with the St. Mary Parish mayors, police departments, and the sheriff’s office on this project. We are especially appreciative of the added measure of security that this will provide to all St. Mary Parish Schools. On Monday, January 16th, there will be no school for students and all district offices will be closed in observance and reverence of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his legacy of equality, justice, and human rights. Finally, January 25th is officially St. Mary Schools 100th day of school. Elementary students across the district will participate in celebrations and activities.

## **Comments from the Board:**

Mr. Mancuso asked the Board to consider setting up a special meeting to discuss the superintendent selection process and to meet with the legal counsel to get an update on the desegregation case.

The Board scheduled a special session meeting on February 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room, at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana.

# Other Business as Allowed by Act 131.

None

# Closing:

## **Resolution of Respect:**

None

## **Adjournment:**

With there being no further business to address, Mrs. Griffin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Anslem made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.