Centerville, Louisiana

November 10, 2022

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, November 10, 2022, 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, Ms. Debra R. Jones, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Mr. Michael E. Taylor, Mr. Dwight D. Barbier, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Mr. Roland H. Verret, and Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred.

**Absent:** Mr. Wayne J. Deslatte, and Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle.

# Invocation

Ms. Estay gave the Invocation.

# Pledge of Allegiance

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

# Introduction of Students and Employees of the Month:

Berwick High School**:**

Principal Paul Broussard introduced 12th grade student Evan White, as student of the month at Berwick High School. He was accompanied this evening by his parents, two brothers, and his grandparents. Evan is an ambassador of the first Berwick High School Hope Squad, serving as vice-president, and is a member of Beta Club, Key Club, ARK Club, and FFA Club. He has been a student in the St. Mary Parish Gifted Program since kindergarten. He is a four-year member of the baseball team, lettering for the past two years. He is a third degree Wisecat and maintains a 4.0 GPA. He is also a sixth degree Powercat. He was selected to participate in the literary rally for physical science, where he placed second at regionals and participated in the state round for chemistry as a junior. He has earned the highest GPA awards in biology, physical science, English III, U.S. history, and geometry.

This past summer, Evan attended the Tulane University Pre-College Program, where he took the "Medical Mysteries" course. Through this course he reviewed case studies, listened to guest speakers, and made field observations to develop a better understanding about what it means to "be a doctor."

He gives back to the community by participating in an annual cookie bake that distributes Christmas cookies to the elderly in the community. He has volunteered at various community events, most recently the Kiwanis Trunk-or-Treat candy distribution. He currently works part-time refereeing boys' flag football and umpiring baseball.

His most outstanding academic accomplishment is being intrinsically motivated to learn despite a pandemic that started during his freshman year of high school and continued to impact schools through his junior year. Evan continued to learn by watching videos on his own and by reading from textbooks to make sure he mastered the content. In doing so, he scored a composite of 35 on the ACT and has been nationally recognized as a National Merit Semifinalist by the College Board. He was also distinguished by the College Board with the National Rural and Small-Town Recognition Program. He plans to attend Louisiana State University, where he will major in biological engineering and further his studies by attending medical school, where he plans to specialize in radiology.

Principal Paul Broussard introduced Librarian, Kimberly Vasquez as employee of the month at Berwick High School. She was accompanied this evening by her husband. She has been an educator in St. Mary Parish for 26 years and has taught English, family and consumer sciences, yearbook, fine arts, and speech. Currently, Mrs. Vasquez is the Berwick High librarian, and teaches English III and IV dual enrollment. She volunteered to take on the dual enrollment task in the early summer to make sure the school had someone qualified on campus to teach the class. Aside from keeping the library fun and educational using innovative strategies, she is going above and beyond for her DE classes. Mrs. Vasquez is someone who Berwick High can always count on. She volunteers for just about everything, serves as a Hope Squad faculty advisor and is the technology guru. That is full-time job by itself. Mrs. Vasquez always makes sure the students and staff of Berwick High have everything they need to function at school, regardless of how much extra time it takes. She is truly appreciated by her peers at Berwick High School.

## Centerville High School:

Principal Jared Ross introduced 11th grade student Maci Pellerin, as student of the month at Centerville High School. She was accompanied this evening by family members. Maci maintains a 4.0 and still finds time to be involved in the Beta Club, 4H, national society of high school scholars, quiz bowl, honor elite, cheerleading, the gifted program, and the school leadership team. She made a 24 on her ACT in 10th grade. Her hobbies include cheering, baking, cooking, drawing, and shopping. Maci is a very hard-working responsible student, who has high expectations for herself. Principal Ross proudly announced Maci Pellerin as student of the month at Centerville High School.

Principal Jared Ross introduced high school math teacher Robbie Leblanc, as employee of the month at Centerville High School. She was accompanied by family members. Mrs. Leblanc is in her 34th year of teaching, all 34 years have been at Centerville High School. Mrs. Leblanc has taught every math class taught from 6th - 12th grade. She has taught many of her students' parents and even some grandparents throughout her 34 years. She has touched the lives of many throughout her years as a teacher. Many students come back after attending college thanking her for how she taught them because it prepared them for college. Others say, "I wish I would have listened to Mrs. LeBlanc."

Mrs. Leblanc can always be found at Centerville High School events with a camera taking professional grade photos that she makes available for students and their parents out of the goodness of her heart. In her free time, she serves as a religion teacher, and she loves to cook.

When Mrs. LeBlanc retires, she plans to continue educating children, spending more time with her family, puppies, and friends, and last but not least “RELAXING.” Principal Ross proudly announced Mrs. Robbie Leblanc as employee of the month at Centerville High School.

# Approval of Amended Agenda.

There was no amended agenda to approve.

# Approval of Official School Board Minutes.

Mr. Taylor offered the motion and Mrs. Griffin offered the second to approve the official school board minutes for the regular meeting held on October 13, 2022. All in favor and the motion carried.

# Approval of Consent Agenda.

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

# New Business

## Personnel:

### Item 1. \*Approval of policies from Forethought Consulting as revised by Hammonds and Sills.

B. Dismissal of Employees (GBN)

C. Sick Leave (GBRIB)

D. Military Leave (GBRID)

E. Special Education Advisory Council (IDDFA)

G. Public School Choice (JBCE)

H. Child Abuse (JGCE)

I. Patriotic Organizations (LEH) **NEW POLICY**

### Item 3. \*Field Trips

A. Berwick High School Close-Up Foundation travel to Washington, D.C. (January 8-13, 2023).

Mr. Taylor requested to have Item 1 A\* removed from the Consent Agenda to Business Affairs for further discussion.

Mrs. Black requested to have Item 1 F\* removed from the Consent Agenda to Business Affairs for further discussion.

President Alfred requested to have Item 2\* removed from the Consent Agenda to Business Affairs for further discussion.

Mr. Barbier offered a motion and Ms. Moore offered a second to approve remaining items on the Consent Agenda, as presented by Dr. Bagwell. All in favor and the motion carried.

# Business Affairs:

## Approval of policies from Forethought Consulting as revised by Hammonds and Sills.

### Item 1 A. Employment of Retired Personnel (GBDA)

Ms. Estay explained that the employment of retired personnel regarding the recent return to work policy, falls under two different categories. Certified personnel who are members of the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) and who are retired may be rehired to return to work.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the Employment of Retired Personnel (GBDA) Policy. Mr. Barbier made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

### Item 1 F. Cameras in Special Education Classrooms (IDDFC) NEW POLICY

Ms. Estay indicated that the Cameras in Special Education Classrooms (IDDFC) new policy is required by state law. For purposes of this policy, classroom shall mean a self-contained classroom or other special education setting in which a majority of students in regular attendance are provided special education and related services. The School Board shall ensure/provide proper location and written notice of the placement of the cameras, training concerning the provisions, procedures for proper retention, and protection of student privacy.

Mrs. Black made a motion to approve Cameras in Special Education Classrooms (IDDFC) new policy. Ms. Jones made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

### Item 2. \*Review and approve revisions to the St. Mary Parish School Board Comprehensive Salary and Classification 2022-2023 (Goldbook) to update short-term minimum wage for secretaries, paraprofessionals, custodians, and cafeteria substitutes.

Ms. Estay stated at the September 2022 regular board meeting, the board voted to approve an increase in the daily pay rate for substitute teachers. The board in now being asked to approve a proposed increase to the daily pay rate from minimum was of $7.25 to $10.00 per hour for substitute secretaries, substitute paraprofessional, substitute custodians, and substitute cafeteria technicians. If approved, this change would be effective November 11, 2022.

Ms. Moore made a motion to approve revisions to the St. Mary Parish School Board Comprehensive Salary and Classification 2022-2023 (Goldbook) to update short-term minimum wage from $7.25 to $10.00 per hour for secretaries, paraprofessionals, custodians, and cafeteria substitutes. Mr. Foulcard made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

### Item 4. Discuss and take necessary action on bids received for the West St. Mary High School chiller replacement (ESSER Funds).

Mr. Wiese reported that bids for the West St. Mary High School Chiller Replacement were received on November 1, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Wiese recommended that the Board accept the lowest bid from Bernhard MCC, LLC for a total bid of $2,200,000, for the base bid and alternate #1 (controls upgrades). The total project cost including Engineering fees totaled $2,365,000, which will be funded with ESSER Funds.

Ms. Moore made a motion and Mr. Foulcard made a second to accept the lowest bid of $2,200,000 from Bernhard MCC, LLC and a total project cost of $2,365,000 including Engineering fees funded with ESSER Funds. All in favor and the motion carried.

### Item 5. Receive report regarding revenue collections of the .45 percent sales tax and take appropriate action relative to recommendation of a one-time stipend payment for employees.

Mr. Perry stated he thinks it would be appropriate at this time to consider a one-time stipend of $1,000, paid to all full-time, active employees with the excess collections of the newly passed .45 sales tax, which was dedicated for employees’ salaries and benefits.

After reviewing the budget, President Alfred recommended that the Board approve a one-time stipend of $1,500 to all full-time, active employees.

Mr. Taylor made a motion and Mrs. Griffin made a second to approve a one-time stipend to all full-time active employees in the amount $1,500, which will be paid on Friday, November 18, 2022. All in favor and the motion carried.

### Item 6. Approve St. Mary Parish School Board Procedures for implementation of cameras in special education classrooms/settings.

Attorney Hammonds indicated that the Board has already approved the policy for cameras in special education classrooms under Item 1 F. The procedures for implementation of cameras in special education classrooms/settings is informational only, which does not require action from the Board.

### Item 7. Evaluation of the Superintendent

President Alfred indicated that the Superintendent Bagwell has requested to have the Superintendent’s Evaluation discussed in Executive Session.

# Board Enters Closed Session:

            With a motion from Mrs. Griffin and a second from Mr. Taylor, the Board went into closed session to discuss the Superintendent’s Evaluation. All in favor and the motion carried.

# Board Returns to Regular Session:

            Ms. Moore moved that the Board return to regular session. Mr. Barbier gave a second and the meeting resumed. All in favor and the motion carried.

# Statement from Executive Session:

President Alfred reported that the Superintendent Evaluation instrument was based on a scale from one to four. Dr. Bagwell was graded by 11 board members and scored a 3.21 on her evaluation, which is .21 above proficient. During Executive Session, Dr. Bagwell announced to the Board that she will not be seeking a contract extension. Therefore, agenda Item 8 becomes a moot item.

### Item 8. Discussion and/or action concerning the Superintendent’s contract.

As a result of Dr. Bagwell not seeking to extend her contract, there will be no public comments or action to discuss on this item.

# Reports

## Chief Financial Officer’s Report

### Sales Tax Update:

Mr. Perry reported that the sales tax collections for four months into the fiscal year estimated at 8 percent favorable. He stated that the .45 percent sales tax collections are also over budget.

### 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. Bagwell reported on this eve of Veterans Day and on behalf of the St. Mary's Parish school system, Dr. Bagwell conveyed deepest appreciation for the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans. The United States was founded on the willingness of average citizens to volunteer their lives to establish and protect the rights and freedom instilled in the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution and that commitment of a voluntary military remains true today. Dr. Bagwell firmly believes that a nation who honors its veterans is one that will prevail through the test of our resolve and remain a free and independent country. School and district performance scores will be released to systems on November 16th. St. Mary's awaiting confirmation of predictive results and will convey those to the public immediately upon the official release. In closing, Dr. Bagwell wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and asked that everyone to take a moment to recognize the many blessings that they have been given.

# Any other Business as Allowed by Act 131

None

# Closing

## Resolutions of Respect

Ms. Estay read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Charlene Madison Bell (special education paraprofessional).

## Adjournment

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