Centerville, Louisiana

August 23, 2022

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in special session on Tuesday, August 23, 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, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Mr. Michael E. Taylor, Mr. Dwight D. Barbier, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Mr. Roland H. Verret, Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred.

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

# Pledge of Allegiance

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

# Business Affairs:

## **Item 1.** Approve Declaration of Vacancy in Position of School Board Member, District IV, St. Mary

Parish School Board and Proclamation calling Special Election to fill such vacancy.

President Alfred read aloud the Proclamation as follows:

**DECLARATION OF VACANCY IN POSITION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, DISTRICT 4, ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD AND PROCLAMATION CALLING SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL SUCH VACANCY**

**WHEREAS,** due to the resignation of Honorable Pearl Barnes Rack on August 12, 2022, a vacancy now exists in the office of School Board Member, District 4, St. Mary Parish School Board; and

**WHEREAS,** Louisiana Revised Statute 18:583 and Louisiana Revised Statute 18:602 require that the St. Mary Parish School Board formally declare now the vacancy in its membership and appoint an individual to fill the vacancy until the end of the term of Ms. Rack on December 31, 2022 and then, on or after January 1, 2023, appoint an individual to fill the vacancy until a special election can be conducted to select a qualified individual to fill the vacancy;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, **BE IT DULY RESOLVED** that the St. Mary Parish School Board does hereby order and direct as follows:

**SECTION 1:** The School Board hereby declares that, due to the resignation of Honorable Pearl Barnes Rack, the office of School Board Member, District 4, St. Mary Parish School Board, is vacant.

**SECTION 2:** A special election shall be held for the purpose of electing a qualified individual to fill the vacancy in the office of School Board Member, District 4, St. Mary Parish School Board.

**SECTION 3:** Any qualified person desiring to become a candidate for the office shall file a notice of candidacy, accompanied by a qualifying fee or a nominating petition, as required or authorized by law, with the appropriate election official in the manner and form and under the procedures and conditions set forth in the Louisiana Election Code during the period commencing Wednesday, January 25, 2023 and ending at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 27, 2023.

**SECTION 4:** The special election shall be held and conducted under the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code.

**SECTION 5:** The primary election shall be held Saturday, March 25, 2023 and the general election, if necessary, shall be held Saturday, April 29, 2023, at the times and places and in the manner prescribed by law.

**SECTION 6:** The Secretary of State, Commissioner of Elections, Parish Board of Election Supervisors, Clerk of Court, Registrar of Voters, and all other persons charged with any power, function, right, duty or responsibility in conducting elections in the jurisdiction of the vacant position described herein are hereby authorized, requested, directed and empowered to exercise every lawful function and to do every act necessary to conduct the special election, to cause the returns to be made, to canvass and promulgate the results, and to perform all related and incidental functions.

**SECTION 7:** Superintendent Teresa T. Bagwell (or her designee) will take all action necessary to immediately publish this proclamation in the School Board’s official journal.

**SECTION 8:** Superintendent Teresa T. Bagwell (or her designee) will send a copy of this proclamation to the Clerk of Court for the 16th Judicial District and to the Secretary of State by registered or certified mail no later than twenty-four (24) hours after this proclamation is issued.

**RESOLVED** by the St. Mary Parish School Board at its special board meeting on the 23rd day of August, 2022.

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Teresa T. Bagwell Kenneth E. Alfred

Board Secretary Board President

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the Declaration of Vacancy in Position of School Board Member, District IV, St. Mary Parish School Board and Proclamation calling Special Election to fill such vacancy. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 2.** Appoint a representative to temporarily fill the seat of District IV, School Board Member until the Special Election.

Ms. Moore made a motion to appoint representative Ms. Debra R. Jones, 304 Trainor Street, Franklin, Louisiana 70538, to temporarily fill the seat of District IV, School Board Member through the end of term on December 31, 2022 until the Special Election. Mrs. Black made a second to the motion.

Ms. Debra R. Jones stated she is looking forward to bringing her expertise as a board member, to serve for the community, schools, students, parents, and staff of the St. Mary Parish School Board. She thanked her family and Mrs. Pearl Rack for their support, and the board members for allowing her the opportunity to speak and to be part of their team.

President Alfred said Mrs. Rack devotedly attended board meetings that she was responsible for attending, and was always prepared to bring her concerns to the Board. He commended Mrs. Rack for her services at the St. Mary Parish School Board.

Mrs. Rack stated it was a difficult decision to make, and she will really regret not being able to complete her term nor run for the next election. As a school board member, her daughter would not be considered for an administrative position in the system. Therefore, she decided if an opportunity would ever occur, she would resign from the Board and not block her daughter from being considered. She thanked the constituents of District IV, the superintendent, the executive assistant, the chief financial officer and personally thanked several board members for reaching out to her by texts, emails, or phone calls. Mrs. Rack concluded her speech by saying, “She will continue to attend board meetings because her heart is still with the St. Mary Parish School Board.”

All in favor and the motion carried.

# Any other Business as Allowed by Act 131

Dr. Bagwell asked the board to consider expanding the agenda for a time sensitive item, which includes a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between Franklin Foundation Hospital and the St. Mary Parish School Board. The agreement will provide a trainer to supply medical professional services for the West End schools.

With a motion from Mrs. Griffin and a second from Mr. Barbier, the Board voted unanimously to expand the agenda as allowed by Act 131. All in favor and the motion carried.

Supervisor of Student Services, Ronnie Louis, explained that there is a shortage on athletic trainers in the area. Therefore, he has been working with Franklin Foundation Hospital to draft an agreement, which will provide athletic training services to Franklin High School, Centerville High School, West St. Mary High School, and possibly Patterson High School. The agreement will provide a certified athletic trainer to provide medical services for practices, home games, football games, and volleyball games. School administrators will be able to contact the trainer at all times. Parents will have the option to visit any physician of their choice. This agreement will be no cost to the Board.

Mr. Barbier made a motion and Ms. Moore made a second to approve the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between Franklin Foundation Hospital and the St. Mary Parish School Board. All in favor and the motion carried.

# Closing

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