Centerville, Louisiana

July 14, 2022

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, July 14, 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. Pearl B. Rack, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Mr. Wayne J. Deslatte, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Mr. Michael E. Taylor, Mr. Dwight D. Barbier, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Mr. Roland H. Verret, Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred.

# 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.

# Approval of Amended Agenda.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and Mr. Taylor made a second to approve the amended agenda.

# Approval of Official School Board Minutes.

Mrs. Rack offered the motion and Ms. LaSalle offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the regular meeting held on June 9, 2022, as presented. 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. Superintendent Bagwell read aloud the items on the consent agenda as follows:

# New Business

Person**nel:**

### **Item 1.** \*Approve updated job descriptions for:

1. \*Supervisor of Student Services **(Moved to Business Affairs**)
2. \*Account Clerk II-Office of Special Services
3. \*Audiologist

### **Item 2.** Award Bids:

1. \*Custodial Supplies

### **Item 3**. \*Approve Intergovernmental Agreement between St. Mary Parish Sheriff’s Office and

St. Mary Parish School Board for School Resource Officers (SRO.) **(Moved to Business affairs)**

### **Item 5.** \*Approve Memorandum of Understanding for the Foster Grandparent Program.

### **Item 8**. \*Authorize RFP or negotiation process for casualty insurance for the yearcommencing October 1, 2022.

### **Item 9**. \*Approve banking resolutions authorizing signatories at various schoolsas a result of recent appointments.

Mrs. Rack requested to remove item 1 A, and President Alfred requested to removed item 3 from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

## Appearances:

The Beverly Woods Fishing and Hunting with Kids Foundation.

## Mr. Robert Bowers was unable to attend the meeting.

## Business Affairs:

### **Item 1.** \*Approve updated job descriptions for:

1. \*Supervisor of Student Services

Mrs. Rack inquired if the Supervisor of Student Services was a new position.

Ms. Estay replied it replaced the Behavioral Support Personnel position held by Mr. Mike Ortiz, which was not filled after his retirement. Mr. Holmes would assume all hearings, and the new supervisor position would be responsible for transportation, safety, and athletic director.

Mrs. Rack asked if ESSER funds were paying any salaries.

Dr. Bagwell responded only the positions previously approved by ESSER Funds, until funds are no longer available.

Ms. LaSalle indicated although this position may not affect the budget, the Board should be notified in advance of any new positions.

Ms. Estay stated if approved by the Board, the position would be advertised.

Mrs. Rack approved the updated job description for Supervisor of Student Services. Ms. LaSalle made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

### **Item 3.** \*Approve Intergovernmental Agreement between St. Mary Parish Sheriff’s Office and

St. Mary Parish School Board for School Resource Officers (SRO).

President Alfred asked Ms. Estay to explain the School Resource Officers (SRO) expenses to the Board.

Ms. Estay reported the salary for Sergeant West would be $5,770.55, and $4,852.40 for Mr. Shepherd, which included insurance, state pay reimbursement, and vehicle allowance, for a total of $10,622.95.

President Alfred asked if there were any other expenses for School Resource Officers (SRO).

Mr. Perry responded the school board also pays half the salary for a police officer in Patterson, which was a decision made by a former superintendent and he is not aware of a contract or agreement.

Mr. Taylor asked that more information be presented at the next meeting regarding the salary paid to the Patterson police officer.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between St. Mary Parish Sheriff’s Office and St. Mary Parish School Board for School Resource Officers (SRO.) Mrs. Black made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

Item 4. Review and take appropriate action regarding adjustments to the 2022-2023 St. Mary Parish Schools Calendar for graduation ceremonies.

Dr. Sanders requested approval from the Board to shift high school graduation ceremonies from May 11-12, 2023 to May 18-19, 2023. However, Morgan City High School Class of 2023 will remain as scheduled.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and Mrs. Griffin made a second to approve adjustments to the 2022-2023 St. Mary Parish Schools Calendar for graduation ceremonies, as presented by Dr. Sanders. All in favor and the motion carried.

### **Item 6.** Approve engagement of auditors to perform agreed upon procedures as mandated by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor for the year ended June 30, 2022.

Mr. Perry indicated that the engagement of auditors was waived the last two years, due to COVID. However, as mandated by the Louisiana Legislative each year is required to have a new engagement. He asked that the Board approve the engagement for the year ended June 30, 2022.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve engagement of auditors to perform agreed upon procedures as mandated by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor for the year ended June 30, 2022. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 7.** Receive an update on Dual Enrollment.

Mrs. Rack indicated that she was disturbed after hearing feedback from outside of the school system, that dual enrollment was only available to students at the Louisiana State University (LSU). After researching, she learned that years ago the school board agreed on dual enrollment and later decided to add more schools to the list. Therefore, she requested clarification on why the Louisiana State University (LSU) is now the only provider for dual enrollment.

Dr. Bagwell replied that the two main reasons about dual enrollment courses; those students have a benefit in their post-secondary endeavors, and the capacity of the faculty to be able to teach those dual enrollment classes. Over the last few years, the capacity of faculties to offer dual enrollment has significantly diminished.

Dr. Sanders responded that the universities across the state of Louisiana required 18 graduate hours in the content area, where teachers would teach and be able to facilitate the university. Therefore, St. Mary Parish Schools do not have teachers at all six of the high schools with 18 graduate hours in their content area. Louisiana State University (LSU) does not require teachers to have 18 graduate hours, and they also provide training for teachers the summer prior to the school year. Dr. Sanders stated that English I and II will be continued at Franklin Senior High School through Southern University, which will provide a two-day training with an English teacher.

Ms. Moore stated if LSU or Southern allows to waive the requirements for the instructors to have a master’s plus 18 hours, will the credits still be transferable to other institutions that requires it.

Dr. Sanders responded because of the state protocols that are used in the universal course code for those particular university classes, and through the BESE system it is guaranteed that those course codes when used correctly, are transferable across the state.

Item was discussion only, which required no action from the Board.

### **Item 10.** Approve student accident insurance for year commencing August 1, 2022.

Mrs. Carmel Breaux of Norris Consultant reported that the student accident insurance renewal for August 1st is being offered by current agent Frank's Agency, same insurance carrier Zurich Insurance, with an estimated cost of $3,200 decrease over expiring. All benefit term conditions will remain the same, which also includes the $5,000,000 Catastrophic coverage as required by Louisiana High School Athletic Association for a total of $43,121.

Mr. Deslatte made a motion and Mr. Barbier made a second to approve the student accident insurance for a total of $43,121 for year commencing August 1, 2022.

President Alfred noted that this year’s renewal quote included, extended dental for PreK-12 and the all-sports plan blanket has an estimated decrease of $3,200.

All in favor and the motion carried.

### **Item 11.** Permission to advertise for bids regarding replacement of 2- 480-ton chillers and cooling towers with 3 -300-ton air cooled systems at West St. Mary High School using ESSER funds.

Mr. Hatcher asked the Board for permission to advertise for bids regarding the HVAC project at West High School, which was previously approved with ESSER funds.

Ms. Moore made a motion and Mrs. Rack made a motion to grant permission to advertise for bids regarding replacement of 2- 480-ton chillers and cooling towers with 3 -300-ton air cooled systems at West St. Mary High School using ESSER funds, as presented by Mr. Hatcher. All in favor and the motion carried.

### **Item 12.** Discuss and take appropriate action regarding changes to the school clerical staffing formula (Gold Book)

Mr. Taylor indicated that the school clerical staffing formula in the Gold Book, currently states that school secretaries could decrease if student enrollment falls below 500. Over the last few years, Berwick High School had slightly fallen below their normal enrollment, but is expected to exceed over 500 for the next school year. Mr. Taylor requested that the Board adjust the clerical staffing formula for high schools from current student enrollment of 501-650 to 475.

Mr. Taylor made a motion and Mr. Foulcard made a second to adjust the clerical staffing formula in the Gold Book for high schools.

During discussion, Dr. Bagwell replied when doing staffing formulas for teachers, assistant principals, the entire Gold Book is a two-year average, and not based on a single year. The projected enrollment for this year would not have been calculated as part of the decision to staff whether it's teachers, assistant principals, or clerical staff. During the prior year with a two-year average because of COVID and a loss of students across the district, no changes were made in the staffing of clerical even though the school enrollment had dropped. However, schools were informed that if the student enrollment continued to drop, then it would be instituted for the 2022-2023 school year.

Several board members agreed that all school clerical positions in the Gold Book needed to be reviewed and brought back to the Board for approval.

Mrs. Griffin suggested forming an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Gold Book for the 2023-2024 school year.

Mrs. Griffin made an amended motion to table discussion regarding changes to the school clerical staffing formula (Gold Book) and Ms. LaSalle made the second.

Ad Hoc Committee Members to review the Gold Book for 2023-2024 school year, are as follows:

* Mr. Taylor, Chairman
* Ms. LaSalle
* Mrs. Rack
* Mrs. Black
* Ms. Moore

Time and date will be scheduled at the August 11, 2022 regular board meeting.

With no further discussion, the motion carried with Mr. Taylor voting nay.

### **Item 13.** Discuss and take appropriate action regarding an Industrial Tax Exemption application for Sterling Sugars, LLC.

Dr. Bagwell stated that a letter from the Louisiana Economic Development Office on June 8, 2022 for action that needed to be taken before August 7, 2022. Sterling Sugars received a notice of non-compliance for an Industrial Tax Exemption agreement that was granted to them, which was reported late. Although it was past the deadline, the objectives of Sterling Sugars were met and exceeded. The school board could either move to defer any decision of non-compliance to the Louisiana Board of Commerce, or recommend some sort of consequence to the Louisiana Board of Commerce for Sterling Sugars non-compliance. Dr. Bagwell stated in her humble opinion, she would recommend that the Board defer the decision of non- compliance to the Louisiana Board of Commerce.

Mr. Evan Boudreaux, Economic Director of St. Mary Parish Government, indicated that the project was in the 2020 project year. When the compliance submission date was due, the governor hadn't signed the contract to approve the exemption at the time. Therefore, when Sterling Sugars was notified, there was no contract in place which caused confusion between the state and the company. The annual Certification of Compliance was received shortly after the deadline and upon review, the company’s actual annual jobs and payroll was three jobs with payroll of $125,275.00. Therefore, the company is in compliance with Company Objectives for the Project Year and 100 percent of the requirements have been satisfied.

Mr. Barbier made a motion to defer the discussion to the Louisiana Board of Commerce, as recommended by Dr. Bagwell. Ms. Moore made the second, all in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 14.** Discuss and take appropriate action regarding an Industrial Tax Exemption application for Birla Carbon USA Inc.

Mr. Evan Boudreaux, Economic Director of St. Mary Parish Government, reported that the St. Mary Parish School Board would receive $175,572 over the 10-year period, with 80 percent of the total abatement of $690,288 over a 10-year term. It would create four new jobs with an annual payroll of $300,000, and three new indirect jobs with a total economic impact of $28.3 million.

Mr. Deslatte stated that the budget for Maintenance District I is extremely low, and the school board cannot continue giving tax exemptions.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Boudreaux indicated that the Birla Carbon USA Industrial Tax Exemption is a net positive and no action is required from the Board at this time.

### **Item 15.** Discuss and take appropriate action regarding entering into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with NOLA Education, LLC to provide a STAR Academy at Franklin Junior High School.

Dr. Bagwell stated that, Representative St. Blanc approached Principal J Ina, about an opportunity to use the Governor's Education Emergency Relief Fund to support a STAR Academy Program at Franklin Junior High School. The Star Academy essentially is a project-based learning environment, where students work in conjunction with one another to do hands on activities to cover the state standards for that grade level. While additionally covering grade level standards of prior grade levels. It is touted as a means of increasing graduation rates and decreasing absenteeism. Franklin Junior High School met the minimum of 80 students, and it will be housed in the upstairs area of the school using the entire seventh grade. The project is a million dollars, with a three-year commitment. The million dollars primarily goes for resources, furniture, training for staff members and subsequent visits of the program. A minimum number of Chromebooks will also be supplied to cover the program. However, if any Chromebooks are damaged or lost, those would have to be covered by the school. The board is being asked to enter into this cooperative endeavor agreement.

Mr. Ina stated after looking into the program, he thinks the program would be very important for his community. It deals with a certain kind of demographic that he serves at his school, typically an underserved population, low social economic, and for those students that are under engaged. By having a small population, the academy can be implemented into a full grade level. The kids would go to school and the curriculum experts would work with Mr. Ina and his staff, to develop a schedule that will coincide with the 394 minutes that we have in instructional time. However, there may be some modifications on schedule inside the school, but the kids will start school at the same time. They would be taught the same standards that are required that are taught by other schools, but it will be a modified curriculum to include hands on project-based learning. Mr. Ina said his hope is, “that this program would reach students and give them a more positive and enlightening school experience.” This opportunity does not come around often to be given a million dollars to have a program of this magnitude in this particular community.

Mrs. Rack made a motion and Ms. Moore made a second to approve entering into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with NOLA Education, LLC to provide a STAR Academy at Franklin Jr. High School.

Ms. LaSalle asked what would be rewarded to the seventh grade after completing the program.

Dr. Bagwell responded that you would mitigate educational deficits that they may have had in being one to two years behind. Students that are on track or on grade level, they would actually score at that mastery advanced level.

Mr. Barbier asked if the Board would have to fund anything for this program.

Mr. Ina replied there will be no cost required from the Board. A minimum number of Chromebooks will be provided to cover the program. However, if any Chromebooks are damaged or lost, those would have to be covered by the school. Mr. Ina stated if this situation occurred, he should be able to find funding with school resources that are already in place to cover the cost of those devices.

Mrs. Griffin indicated that obligations of the School Board in the contract said, “The School Board will utilize its best efforts to continue funding the program on terms and conditions agreed upon by the Board and NOLA Education.” She then asked Dr. Bagwell what happens after the three years.

Dr. Bagwell replied that she emailed the director of sales to get it in writing, should the Board elect to continue in any capacity, the partnership agreement would be renegotiated between the School Board and NOLA Education. Therefore, the School Board would not be under that guise to prove after three years they made the best effort to continue at $1,000,000.

In response to Mrs. Griffin question, Dr. Bagwell replied that some of the initial upfront cost would not be needed that the GEERF funding is paying for. There are lower levels of payment that can be used to continue in some limited capacity, which would be something to consider at the end of the three years.

Legal Counsel Blanchard informed that Board this is a curriculum change in the district and if the Board approves the program, notice will have to be given to the plaintiff in the Desegregation case to let them know that there has been a curriculum change at Franklin Junior High School. There is no court approval necessary at this time.

With no further discussion, the motion carried with Mr. Verret voting nay.

**Item 16.** Report on results of the mineral lease sale affecting the Bayou Carlin section (Section 16 T15S R9E)

Mr. Lee Bloch was not able to attend the meeting. Mr. Perry stated that Mr. Bloch is the Section 16 Land Consultant. He was going to provide a report on a mineral lease, but some developments this morning basically necessitated the school board deferring his reporting to possibly the next meeting.

### **Item 17.** Discuss hiring of legal counsel

President Alfred stated that Item 17 and Item 18 will be discussed in Executive Session.

### **Item 18.** Executive Session- Strategy session and/or action concerning pending litigation

\*As authorized by La.R.S. 42:17(A)(2), there may be an executive session to discuss strategy in litigation entitled “Boudreaux, et al vs. School Board of St. Mary Parish”, bearing Civil Action No. 6:65-11351 on the docket of the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana.

# Board Enters Closed Session:

With a motion from Ms. Moore and a second from Mr. Foulcard , the Board went into closed session to address the litigation as listed above.

# Board Returns to Regular Session:

Ms. LaSalle moved that the Board return to regular session. Mr. Foulcard gave a second and the meeting resumed.

## Reports

## Committee:

Mrs. Griffin reported that the Ad Hoc Committee Meeting will meet Thursday, July 21st at 3:30 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room, to discuss the superintendent’s evaluation instrument.

Mr. Barbier reported that the Athletic Committee will also meet on Thursday, July 21st at 5:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room.

## Staff:

Mr. Virgil Hatcher reported that the Maintenance Department installed a generator at the Central Office Complex. The front door security project at Berwick High School and several other projects are ongoing and may not be finished before school starts, due to receiving material. These projects have been scheduled to complete during the Thanksgiving break.

President Alfred inquired about the painting supplies.

Mr. Hatcher replied painting supplies were very thin. However, they managed to complete what they can, with what they have.

# Chief Financial Officer’s Report

## Sales Tax Update:

Mr. Perry reported that the sales tax collections finished for the fiscal year at $1.6 million collected verses $1.3 million budgeted.

## 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 will be delivering budget packets on Friday, July 15, 2022, for board members to review before the Board Member Workshop on Tuesday, July 19th.

# Superintendent’s Report:

Dr. Bagwell reported on August 3rd, five days of in-service will initiate the inaugural preparations for St. Mary Parish teachers entering into the 2022-2023 school year. Students will begin school on Wednesday, August 10th. In closing, Dr. Bagwell encouraged parents and guardians to ensure that all students are enrolled, prepared, and have attended school orientations so kids are ready to go on the first day of school.

# Comments from the Board:

President Alfred reminded board members of the Board Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, July 19th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex Office in Centerville, Louisiana. School board members qualifying dates for the November’s election, begins on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 and ends on Friday, July 22, 2022.

# Any other Business as Allowed by Act 131

None

# Closing

## Resolutions of Respect

None

## Adjournment:

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