Centerville, Louisiana

March 10, 2022

**The Regular School Board Meeting was called to order by President Alfred.**

**Administer Oath of Office to School Board Member:**

Judge Curtis Sigur administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Tammie L. Moore, District II School Board Member of the St. Mary Parish School Board. Ms. Moore was accompanied by her father, Mr. Lynel Wilson, as he held the Bible during the ceremony. Ms. Moore served as the interim school board member following the death of board member, Sylvia K. Lockett. Ms. Moore qualified unopposed in the March 26th election and will continue to serve the remainder of the current term.

**Regular Session:**

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, March 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, 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, and Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred.

**Invocation:**

Mrs. Bergeron 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

## Wyandotte Elementary School:

Principal Tammilee Kelly introduced 5th grader Hudson Gorman as “Student of the Month” and “Student of the Year” at Wyandotte Elementary School. Hudson is also the current winner of the Red Ribbon Slogan Contest for the upcoming school year. He is accompanied by his parents. His favorite subject is science, and he wants to be a design engineer when he grows up and create Lego sets. He is a former Millionaire-Word reader and is on target to reach that goal again this year. Hudson is a fantastic student, and he will be inducted into Junior Beta this coming month. He also plays the trumpet in band. Outside of school, he is a member of Boy Scouts, and he is also a passionate and skilled soccer player, which he has played since he was five. He is part of the youth formation group at Sacred Heart Church. He has a pet fish named dagger, who loves to eat garlic noodles and chicken. His personality and sense of humor can make anyone smile. He gets along well with his classmates and is one of those students that will help anyone. Hudson gave another student $5.00 to buy gifts for that child's mom for Christmas. He saw the need and took care of it without hesitation and did not ask for the money back.

Principal Tammilee Kelly introduced 4th grade science and social studies teacher, Jordan Lee as “Employee of the Month” at Wyandotte Elementary School. She is accompanied and supported by her husband and mother. Mrs. Lee has been in education for five years and has taught fourth grade science and social studies all five years. Her hobbies include traveling, art, cooking, and spending time with her family. She believes her role in teaching is to be the best role model educator that she can be for her students. What she loves most about teaching, is connecting with her students and making a difference in their lives. She has an unwavering determination to get students to grow academically and her ability to teach is inspiring. Her creative style shines bright in her classroom. Her optimistic, contagious personality makes fourth grade science and social studies interactive, engaging, and exciting. She is truly loved and respected by her students and staff of Wyandotte Elementary School.

## Franklin Junior High School:

Principal J. Ina introduced 8th grader Caliss Williams as “Student of the Month” at Franklin Junior High School. She is accompanied by her mother. Caliss is currently an eighth-grade student at Franklin Junior High School that is involved in many extracurricular activities. She is the Co-captain of the volleyball team, member of the softball team, and a member of the track team. Caliss has a 4.0 grade point average and has not had a semester where she has not been on the honor roll since attending Franklin Junior High School. She delivers the daily morning announcements and is currently the Franklin Junior High School “Student of the Year.” Her hobbies are dancing, hanging out with friends and being with her family and friends. Of all the things that Caliss loves, she most enjoys helping her mother with her autistic brother. Having an autistic brother has really changed the way she looks at life. Caliss stated that when she gets older, she would like to be a student athlete and volleyball player for Southern University. She would also like to attend Louisiana State University School of Medicine, and she has aspirations of becoming a dermatologist.

Principal J. Ina introduced resource teacher, Lakessa Cooks as “Employee of the Month” at Franklin Junior High School. Ms. Cooks is a native of Centerville, Louisiana. She graduated from Centerville High School in 1998. She received a bachelor's degree from Nicholls State University and a master's in education from Walden University. She is certified in elementary and special education. Ms. Cooks has been in education for 16 years and this is her eighth-year teaching in the Special Services Department at Franklin Junior High School. She has a true passion working with students, especially those with disabilities. She takes pride in helping each child progress in all areas of their development. Ms. Cooks is also the 2021-2022 “Teacher of the Year” at Franklin Junior High School.

## Patterson High School:

Principal Tara Fabre introduced 12th grader Keatyn Harden as “Student of the Month” at Patterson High School. However, Keatyn and her parents could not attend the meeting, due to prior commitments. Her sister as well as a teacher at Patterson High School, Mrs. Regan Perez is present to accept Keatyn’s awards. Keatyn is a model student who possesses a love of learning, a passion for knowledge and a hunger to develop and grow academically. She is positive, helpful, cooperative, friendly and always motivating to others in and outside of the classroom. She is a natural leader on and off the court and field. She always has a smile on her face and extremely polite and kind to everyone she meets. Keatyn gives 110 percent at everything she does, and she does a lot. She is the Student Council President, she is in the Beta Club, Random Acts of Kindness, Key Club, Insight, softball, basketball, and volleyball. Her longtime goal is to be a pediatric surgeon and help children all over the world, which is not surprising at all because she truly cares for others and dedicated to making the world a better place, which is what she is already doing. Principal Fabre stated, Keatyn mentioned to her how honored she was to be recognized tonight. However, she did not think she could think about herself. She could not let her softball team down because they depended on her being with them, as they traveled this evening to play softball.

Principal Tara Fabre introduced mathematics teacher, Gina Marshall as “Employee of the Month” at Patterson High School. Ms. Marshall is accompanied by her son and daughter. Mrs. Marshall moved to Patterson from Oklahoma in 2007, after marrying a Patterson High School graduate. She went back to school to get her master's degree in education so that she could teach math. She has been teaching at Patterson High for eight and a half years. Outside of school, she is a Girl Scout Troop Leader for local troop 20890. She is also a lifetime member of Alpha Omicron Pi Fraternity. She stays busy with her two children, as well as her two dogs, two fish and most recently a bearded dragon. Mrs. Marshall is also Patterson High School’s “Teacher of the Year.” Some of her students and colleagues stated that, Mrs. Marshall is a dedicated and passionate teacher. She goes above and beyond each and every day to ensure that all of her students have the best chance to succeed. She is always willing to patiently help a fellow faculty member needing an extra hand or a student needing one more example of a concept to understand a lesson. She truly cares about their success and wants to be the best for them. No matter how bad the day may be going, Mrs. Marshall’s genuine positive disposition always has a way to improve the day's outcome. Principal Fabre proudly stated that Mrs. Marshall is very deserving of this award.

# Approval of Amended Agenda

There were no amended agenda items to approve.

# Approval of Official School Board Minutes

Mr. Taylor offered the motion, Mr. Barbier offered the second and the motion carried to approve the official school board minutes from the regular meeting held on February 10, 2022, as presented.

# 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:

**Item 1**:  **\*Permission to Advertise for bids:**

**A. \*Child Nutrition Department Items: milk and produce**

**Item 2: \*Award bid for Alligator eggs**

**Item 9: \*Request permission to obtain proposals for disability insurance for the period commencing October 1, 2022**.

Ms. LaSalle requested to remove item 8 from the Consent Agenda for further clarification.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, with the exception of removing item 8. Mrs. Rack made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

# Appearances

## Recognition of 2022-2023 St. Mary Parish Teachers of the Year

Mrs. Bergeron recognized the 2022-2023 St. Mary Parish Teachers of the Year as follows:

Elementary: Alicia Williams (Hattie A. Watts Elementary School)

Junior High: Crystal Guidry (Patterson Junior High School)

High School: Ponchella Doucet (Franklin Senior High School)

## Recognition of 2022-2023 St. Mary Parish Principal of the Year

Ronnie Louis (B. E. Boudreaux Middle School)

## Recognition of Cherish Lewis in honor of her poetry winning entry and national publication

Principal Paul Broussard recognized Cherish Lewis, a sophomore at Berwick High School for her poem “A Broken Home.” Cherish was accompanied by several family members. Principal Broussard described Cherish as one of the most shining examples of what it means to be a Berwick Panther. She is organized and juggles a full slate of honors classes along with her athletic endeavors. Cherish is always respectful to the staff and her fellow students, and always willing to lend a hand to anybody in need. She was encouraged to submit her poem into a national competition during her ninth-grade year by her English teacher. Not only was it chosen but was also published in the national publication. Cherish read aloud her poem as follows:

**A Broken Home**

We all come from a broken home. America the beautiful, the country with 50 states also judgmental. A country where you are judged for your race, your culture, your social class, who you love, is broken. A nation where people thrive on putting another person down. America the Beautiful is not so attractive. A home to 328 million is broken and always has been, 328 million people in a broken home.

# Business Affairs

**Item 3: Discuss and take appropriate action regarding revised Cooperative Agreement with the City of Morgan City.**

Dr. Bagwell indicated that revisions were made to the Cooperative Agreement with the City of Morgan City, which was recently approved at a board meeting. Although, she was given authorization to sign off on the agreement, she felt that the Board needed to be advised and approve the revisions. The first revision stated that the balance could be paid off at any time, which originally was a three-year agreement with equal payments throughout three years. Secondly, on page 6 under general terms stated if the city fails to comply with the payment obligations, the St. Mary Parish School Board has the right to seek legal recourse. The original agreement referred to as the school board taking ownership of the property back if the city defaults on anything. Dr. Bagwell asked for the Board’s approval to give her the authority to sign off on the revised Cooperative Agreement with the City of Morgan City.

Ms. LaSalle asked Dr. Bagwell who implemented the changes to the agreement, and if the changes are detrimental to the School Board in any way.

Dr. Bagwell responded that the attorney with the City of Morgan City made the changes to the agreement. If the City of Morgan City defaults on payment, and the school board is required to seek legal recourse, then it could be cumbersome to the board. Although, she does not anticipate that in any way, she felt that the board needed to know about the changes.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the revised Cooperative Agreement with the City of Morgan City. Mr. Barbier made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 4: Approve recommendation regarding** **property insurance renewal for building and contents coverage for the year commencing April 1, 2022.**

Ms. Carmel Breaux of Norris Consulting provided the Board with a revised spreadsheet that listed two options at the bottom of sheet, regarding property insurance renewal for building and contents coverage for the year commencing April 1, 2022. Ms. Breaux referred to column four of the spreadsheet, with renewal offers from Paul’s Agency and the same carrier Velocity Risk Underwriters (VRU Program) as the expiring policy. The Board's Statement of Values will change from $328 million to $343 million, which is strictly a 5 percent increase in values due to today’s inflation cost of materials. The building limit for named storm, wind and all other perils will remain at $40 million as purchased for several years. The deductible will the remain the same at 5 percent for named storm wind and hail, with a $100,000 minimum per occurrence. Ms. Breaux indicated that item four on the spreadsheet “Claims Basis: ACV (actual cost value) or Replacement Cost” would be the biggest change that the insurance carrier would make this year, regarding roofs on buildings. The carrier will pay the actual cash value for clay, concrete, tile or slate, which is 30 years or older and pay the replacement value for under 30 years; light metal panels, standing seam metal for 25 years or older will pay the actual cash value and under 25 years will pay the replacement value; all other types of roofs over 15 years will pay the actual cost value and anything newer than 15 years will continue to pay the replacement cost. The annual premium for this year’s renewal is $1,273,143, with an increase of $245,000 over expiring. Ms. Breaux explained that the carriers are offering two options, which decreases the named storm and wind coverage from $40 million to $35 million, with a savings of $26,000 or keep the same $40 million and increase the wind deductible to 7 percent, with a $78,000 savings. Ms. Breaux stated that neither one of those options is worth the savings, because it creates a much larger exposure for the school system. Her recommendation on the building and contents would be to renew coverage at $1,273,143.

In response to Mr. Taylor’s question, Ms. Breaux replied that the current agent reached out to 35 other agencies to get quotes for this renewal. Of those 35 quotes, 26 agencies responded and declined quotes, because they no longer write in Louisiana, or their pricing would not be competitive to the school board’s current policy.

Mr. Taylor made a motion and Ms. Moore made a second to approve recommendations regarding property insurance renewal for building and contents coverage for the year commencing April 1, 2022, totaling $1,273,143.

Mr. Perry stated that the Board needs to reject terrorism coverage from the renewal.

President Alfred asked Ms. Breaux to briefly define terrorism.

Ms. Breaux responded that terrorism is different from cyber. The act of terrorism has to be declared by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of State, and also by the Attorney General of the United States. All three departments would have to agree, and certain criteria levels would have to be met before it becomes an act of terrorism, which is very difficult to get declared.

Mrs. Rack made a motion and Ms. LaSalle made a second to reject the terrorism coverage regarding the above property insurance renewal for building and contents coverage for the year commencing April 1, 2022. All in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 5: Approve recommendation regarding property insurance renewal for boiler and machinery coverage for the year commencing April 1, 2022.**

Ms. Carmel Breaux with Norris Consultant presented the equipment breakdown renewal quote for boiler and machinery coverage. Ms. Breaux recommended that the Board renew policy with Frank’s Agency as the current agent and Travelers Insurance as the carrier. The policy limit will increase from $50,000,000 to $75,000,000, the amount of coverage for Electric Power Interruption - off premises will increase from $250,000 to $1,000,000, and all other coverages will remain the same. The total premium for this year’s renewal is $14,290, with an estimated cost of $1,200 increase over expiring.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion to approve recommendation regarding property insurance renewal for boiler and machinery coverage for the year commencing April 1, 2022, with Traveler’s Insurance for the amount of $14,290. Ms. LaSalle made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 6: Approve recommendation regarding workers compensation insurance for the year commencing May 1, 2022.**

Ms. Carmel Breaux with Norris Consultant presented the Workers’ Compensation renewal for the year commencing May 1, 2022. She briefly explained the renewal being offered by the current agent Frank’s Agency with Midwest Employers as the carrier. Ms. Breaux recommended that the Board renew the Excess Workers’ Compensation policy with the self-insured retention deductible of $850,000 and the annual premium of $87,303, which is an 18 percent decrease for this renewal.

Mr. Barbier made a motion to approve the recommendation regarding Workers’ Compensation insurance for the year commencing May 1, 2022, for a total of $87,303. Mr. Foulcard made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 7:**  **Approve recommendation to retain services of third-party administrator (TPA) and safety consultant to assist the Board with the workers compensation program.**

Ms. Carmel Breaux with Norris Consultant recommended that the Board renew the contract with Claims Administrator for an annual fee of $19,367, to handle all workers comp claims and issue payments to injured employees, and also renew the contract with RiskWise of $9,900 for safety and loss prevention. Ms. Breaux indicated that the school board has a projected annual savings of $600,000 by self-funding the workers compensation program.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve a recommendation to retain services of third-party administrator (TPA) for the annual premium of $19,367 and safety consultant RiskWise at the annual premium of $9,900 to assist the Board with the workers compensation program. Ms. LaSalle made a second.

Mr. Taylor stated that the school board has saved millions of dollars over the last 20 years by doing the self-funding workers compensation program.

Ms. LaSalle stated that it would be interesting to have a 10-year workers compensation chart to compare savings of when the school board was not self-funded versus self-funded. It would be helpful for the Board to see the difference on paper when making decisions.

Ms. Breaux replied it is possible but would require time to compile the information. She will forward the information to Mr. Perry, and she will present it at the next meeting that she attends.

With no further questions, all in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 8:** **\*Request permission to obtain proposals for student and athletic insurance for the year commencing August 1, 2022. (removed from the consent agenda by Ms. LaSalle for further clarification).**

Ms. LaSalle stated that her request to remove Item 8\* from the Consent Agenda was made in error. She needed clarification on Consent Agenda Item 9\*.

Mrs. Rack made a motion to approve permission to obtain proposals for student and athletic insurance for the year commencing August 1, 2022. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

Ms. LaSalle asked Mr. Perry for clarification on Item 9\* regarding disability insurance.

Mr. Perry replied that the disability insurance is offered to all active employees, who disburses the entire cost of premium.

**Item 10:** **Approve Proclamation(s):**

**A. National Library Week 2022**

On behalf of Ms. Broussard in her absence, Ms. Hoffpauir stated that National Library Week is an annual celebration sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the United States. This celebration highlights the valuable roles that libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities. This year's theme is “Connect with your Library,” which promotes the idea that libraries are not just books, but places to get connected to technology, offer opportunities to connect with media, programs, ideas and classes. And most importantly, libraries also connect communities to each other. Therefore, be it resolved that the St. Mary Parish School Board proclaims National Library Week, April 3-9, 2022 in celebration of this year's theme “Connect with your Library”.

Mrs. Black made a motion and Ms. Moore made a second to approve the Proclamation for National Library Week 2022. All in favor and the motion carried.

**National Library Week 2022**

**Proclamation**

WHEREAS, libraries are not just about what they have for people, but what they do for and with people;

WHEREAS, librarians work to meet the changing needs of their communities, including providing resources for everyone and bringing services outside of library walls;

WHEREAS, libraries and librarians offer access to the tools, technology, and training essential to the economic and cultural lives of their communities;

WHEREAS, libraries are places of creativity where people can meet to share a hobby, use a 3D printer, edit a video, or use software to record their own music.

WHEREAS, libraries are places for opportunity, education, self-help, and lifelong learning;

WHEREAS, libraries continuously grow and evolve in how they provide for the needs of every member of their communities;

WHEREAS, libraries, librarians, library workers and supporters across America are celebrating National Library Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Mary Parish School Board proclaims NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK, April 3-9, 2022, in celebration of this year’s theme-*Connect with your Library.*

**B. Administrative Professionals/Secretary Week (April 25-29, 2022**)

Mrs. Bergeron stated that National Secretaries Day was originally created to recognize the importance and value of the secretarial position. Today, secretaries are dedicated to assisting administrators, teachers, students, and staff across the parish. Their unselfish service to our schools and community, as well as their tireless efforts to ensure our schools and offices run smoothly, is to be honored and recognized. Mrs. Bergeron asked the Board to approve the Proclamation for April 25-29, 2022, as “Administrative Professionals/Secretary Week”.

Mr. Barbier made a motion and Ms. LaSalle made a second to approve April 25-29, 2022 as, “Secretary and/or Administrative Professional’s Week”. All in favor and motion carried.

**~PROCLAMATION~**

**WHEREAS,** secretaries are dedicated to assisting in the provision of quality education to the administrators, teachers, and students of St. Mary Parish; and

**WHEREAS** secretaries are deeply committed to the position, profession, and the people they serve; and

**WHEREAS,** secretaries serve in one of the most crucial and demanding roles in education; and

**WHEREAS,** notwithstanding the pressures and demands of their professional obligations, secretaries are understanding of and sympathetic to those with whom they work; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the St. Mary Parish School Board proclaim the week of **APRIL 25-29, 2022** as

**SECRETARY APPRECIATION WEEK**

and urge all administrators, teachers, and citizens to observe this week by taking time to recognize the secretaries for their unselfish service to the school and community.

I, undersigned President and Secretary of the St. Mary Parish School Board, do hereby certify the above and foregoing is a true copy of a proclamation adopted at its regular Board Meeting on March 10, 2022, at which time a quorum was present and that same is in full force and effect.

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Kenneth E. Alfred, President Dr. Teresa T. Bagwell, Ed. D., Secretary

**C. Teacher Appreciation Week (May 1-7, 2022)**

Mrs. Bergeron indicated that teaching is one of the oldest professions going back to 561 BC, and we all know that teachers play a critical role in educating and shaping our children in the future leaders of our country. They are kind, patient, hardworking, dedicated, and understand professionals that mold our children's lives in a positive direction. We entrust our children with the teachers, and they affect their lives on a daily basis. Teaching is known to be a time-consuming and a challenging profession. Whether you have a teacher, know a teacher, or are a teacher, there are endless ways to give a little extra support to teachers and the entire support staff that lift up our students every day. Mrs. Bergeron asked the Board to approve the proclamation for “Teacher Appreciation Week” for the week of May 1-7, 2022.

Ms. Moore made a motion to approve the proclamation for “Teacher Appreciation Week” for the week of May 1-7, 2022. Mr. Taylor made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

**~PROCLAMATION~**

**WHEREAS,** teachers bear the primary responsibility for educating our society and

Insuring the future of public education; and

**WHEREAS,** teachers provide the motivation and avenue for creating a culture of

lifelong learners; and

**WHEREAS,** teachers work tireless to create that one learning experience which

will inspire student to believe in themselves and what they can become; and

**WHEREAS,** the success or failure of a school system is not based on the structure

of its school buildings or the mandates of the curriculum, but

rather on the unwavering dedication of the teachers it employs;

now

**THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED,** that the St. Mary Parish School Board dedicates the week of **May 1-7, 2022** as

**TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK**

and calls upon students, parents, and citizens of the parish to offer their deepest appreciation and thanks to the devoted teachers of our district.

I, undersigned President and Secretary of the St. Mary Parish School Board, do hereby certify the above and foregoing is a true copy of a proclamation adopted at its regular Board Meeting on March 10, 2022, at which time a quorum was present and that same is in full force and effect.

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Kenneth E. Alfred, President Dr. Teresa T. Bagwell, Ed. D., Secretary

**D. School Lunch Hero Day**

On behalf of Mrs. Claire Guarisco in her absence, Mrs. Bergeron indicated that School Lunch Hero Day is held annually on the first Friday in May, in honor of each person responsible for providing lunches and food to millions of children across America. This year will take place on Friday, May 6th. If you looked forward to tasty food and a full belly in school, you knew exactly for whom to thank. Each person responsible for making sure good food is handed out to students is a hero, and this day was especially designed to show them love. Mrs. Bergeron asked the Board to approve the proclamation that declares Friday, May 6, 2022, as School Lunch Hero Day.

Mrs. Rack made a motion to approve the School Lunch Hero Day Proclamation for Friday, May 6, 2022. Mr. Barbier made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

**SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY**

**OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION**

WHEREASnutritious meals at school are an essential part of the school day; and

WHEREAS the staff of the District’s school meals and nutrition department are committed to providing healthful, nutritious meals to the District’s children; and

WHEREAS the men and women who prepare and serve school meals help nurture our children through their daily interaction and support; and

WHEREAS the day of Friday, May 6, 2022 is School Lunch Hero Day

NOW THEREFORE, the St. Mary Parish School Board does hereby proclaim May 6, 2022 as SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY and encourage all residents to become aware and concerned about their children’s and their own nutrition habits, in hope of achieving a more healthful citizenry for today and the future.

I, undersigned President and Secretary of St. Mary Parish School Board, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of a proclamation adopted at its special Meeting on March 10, 2022, at which time a quorum was present and that same is in full force and effect.

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Kenneth E. Alfred, President Teresa T. Bagwell, Secretary

**E. Week of the Young Child (April 2-8, 2022)**

Ms. Hoffpauir stated that the St. Mary Parish Ready Start Network in partnership with other state and local organizations, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children are celebrating the Week of the Young Child. For young children, the future of their academic success and development relies on early learning and the St. Mary Parish School Board is continually working to promote and inspire early learning opportunities for their young children. The National Association for the Education of Young Children acknowledges the importance of educating young children by holding a week-long celebration focused on the earliest learners and honoring those who teach them. Therefore, be it resolved with the St. Mary Parish School Board, proclaim April 2-8, 2022, as the week of the young child celebrating our youngest learners.

Ms. LaSalle moved to proclaim “Week of the Young Child” for April 2-8, 2022. Ms. Moore offered a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

**~PROCLAMATION~**

**WHEREAS**, the **St. Mary Parish Ready Start Network** in partnership with other state and local organizations, in conjunction with theNational Association for the Education of Young Children are celebrating the **Week of the Young Child**, April 2 through April 8, 2022; and

**WHEREAS,** the **St. Mary Parish School Board** is continually working to promote and inspire early learning opportunities, which are crucial to the growth and development of young children; and

**WHEREAS,** early childhood education represents a worthy commitment to our children’s future and will bring lasting benefit for the communities of this parish; and

**WHEREAS,** to recognize how the early years of childhood form a foundation for children’s success in school and in life; and

**WHEREAS,** teachers and others who work with or on behalf of young children, who make a difference in the lives of our youngest learners deserve thanks and recognition; and

**WHEREAS,** policies that support early learning for all young children are essential in building public support for high-quality early childhood education programs.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, **St. Mary Parish School Board**, hereby proclaims, April 2 through April 8, 2022, as

***Week of the Young Child***

***Celebrating Our Youngest Learners!***

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Kenneth E. Alfred, President Dr. Teresa T. Bagwell, Superintendent

# Committee Reports:

**1. Set Maintenance Committee meetings for District I & II to receive bids and take necessary**

**action for the Front Door Security Projects at Berwick High, Patterson High, St. Mary Alternative, Centerville High, and LaGrange Elementary.**

Mr. Wiese reported that the Maintenance District I and II will meet on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 4:30 p.m., prior to the regular board meeting, in the Evans Medine Meeting Room, at the Central Office Complex in Centerville.

**2. Set Ad Hoc Committee Meeting.**

Mrs. Griffin reported that the Ad Hoc Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 4:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room, at the Central Office Complex in Centerville.

**3. Child Nutrition Committee Meeting.**

Mrs. Rack requested to be placed on the April 21st agenda to schedule a Child Nutrition Committee Meeting.

# Staff Report:

## Chief Financial Officer’s Report:

### Sales Tax Update

Mr. Perry reported that the sales tax collections with eight months through the fiscal year collected $1,341,000 versus a budget of $1,300,000, which is slightly up by 3 percent.

President Alfred inquired if the current gas prices affect the sales taxes.

Mr. Perry responded he is not sure how it affects the sales taxes. However, it is impacting the school board’s budget and the fuel for fleet buses have also increased. He indicated that the upcoming budget would have several line items that will need to be increased.

### Financial Statements (Major Funds Only)

Financial statement for major funds only were provided in the meeting packet.

# Other Significant Items

None

# Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Bagwell reported that high schools across the parish have conducted ACT testing over the last few days. In all, approximately 584 juniors and a small group of seniors participated in this assessment of college aptitude. Results aid high school students in gaining acceptance into post-secondary education and attaining scholarship opportunities while also serving as part of the high school performance score. On Thursday, March 24th high school teams will be participating in the Morgan City Rotary Club’s annual New Generations Forum, which will be held at Morgan City High School beginning at 6:00 p.m. The event showcases the commitment of our young people in making a difference to improve their community as they pitch their original ideas to local government leaders. The teams research all aspects of their project including cost factors in an effort to bring their ideas into reality. In closing, Dr. Bagwell thanked the Rotary Club for sponsoring this very valuable opportunity and invite the public to attend.

# Comments from the Board

President Alfred reported that he and Dr. Bagwell attended a Legislative Breakfast hosted by the South-Central Louisiana Association of School Superintendents in Charles Parish. There were interesting topics regarding homestead exemptions and Industrial Tax Exemptions. He stated that a guest speaker and others agreed that Louisiana revenues are hindered by the many exemptions afforded through homestead exemptions, Industrial Tax Exemptions, and other specially adopted programs.

Several Board members attended the 84th Annual Convention of the Louisiana School Board Association (LSBA) on March 6-8, 2022, in Baton Rouge. President Alfred stated that Ascension Parish School Board and several surrounding colleges provided helpful information regarding Teachers’ Recruitment.

President Alfred reminded Board Members to submit their annual Financial Disclosure Statements to the Louisiana Board of Ethics before May 15, 2022, and also complete the required Ethics training, which is due before December 31st of each year.

President Alfred recognized three St. Mary Parish Principals; Ms. Brianna Comeaux, Ms. Kiante Gunner, and Mr. J Bertrand Ina, for completing the LSBA’s Future Superintendents Class of 2021.

Mrs. Rack stated that Ms. Sylvia K. Lockett was honored with a plaque at the LSBA In-Memoriam Ceremony for deceased school board members since the 2021 Convention.

**Executive Session**

Attorney Hammonds recommended that the Board go into executive session to discuss strategy and how to move forward in the following litigation, which has been pending for many years.

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.

Mrs. Griffin moved that the Board enter into executive session to discuss litigation regarding case styled Boudreaux et. al. v. School Board of St. Mary Parish, as described above.  Mrs. Rack gave a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Deslatte made a motion to return to regular session.  Ms. Moore made a second and the meeting resumed.

President Alfred reported that the Board met with the legal counsel to discussed strategy in the case styled Boudreaux versus St. Mary Parish School Board, and it was determined that there will be no action taken at this time.

# Other Business as Allowed by Act 131

None

# Closing

## Resolution of Respect

Mrs. Bergeron read the Resolution of Respect for the late Jacqueline Como (retired teacher).

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