Centerville, Louisiana

February 10, 2022

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, February 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, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Mr. Michael E. Taylor, Mr. Dwight D. Barbier, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Mr. Roland H. Verret, Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred.

**Absent:** Mr. Wayne J. Deslatte.

# Invocation

Dr. Rachael Sanders gave the Invocation.

# Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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

Vice-President LaSalle stated that the Board was wearing red lapel pins in recognition of National Heart Disease Awareness Month and to honor Ms. Diana Daye, Retired Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/the Board, who recently passed away from heart disease.

# Introduction of Students and Employees of the Month

## Bayou Vista Elementary School:

On behalf of Principal Kiante Gunner, Curriculum Facilitator Teia Dolci introduced 5th grader Lynkon Kitchen as student of the month at Bayou Vista Elementary School. He is accompanied by his mother, great grandmother, and a few of his aunts. Lynkon is also the Student of the Year, who will be competing for regional title. He is intrinsically motivated to learn, respectful, humble, witty and kind, and a natural leader who only gives his best at everything that he does. Lynkon will be missed by his peers at Bayou Vista Elementary School when he graduates to Junior High School.

On behalf of Principal Kiante Gunner, Curriculum Facilitator Teia Dolci introduced P. E./Art teacher,Cynthia Chaisson as employee of the month at Bayou Vista Elementary School. She is accompanied by her husband, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren. Ms. Chaisson has been a teacher in St. Mary Parish for 33 years. She currently serves as one of the Art and P. E. teacher and she is also the school test coordinator. Ms. Chaisson has high expectations of all students, no matter the grade level. She extensively plans art activities that are aligned to grade level content. As she nears retirement, the staff of Bayou Vista Elementary School thanked her for her years of service and congratulated her on this award.

## Centerville Junior High School:

Principal Kristina Estay introduced 8th grader Jameon Francis as student of the month at Centerville Junior High School. He is accompanied by his father and his sister. Jameon is an honors student, who was also in the competition for Centerville High School Student of the Year. He is a member of the basketball team and Beta Club. Jameon is kind, a team player, motivated, determined, dedicated and compassionate. His science teacher stated that Jameon is a student who demonstrates leadership, he is aware of his strengths, and he uses them to succeed in and outside of the classroom. His compassion for others in his relationships with his peers and teachers is obvious. Jameon is motivated to reach his goals that he set for himself, and it motivates the students around him. In his free time, he enjoys playing his game and spending time with his parents. After graduating from high school, he wants to attend college, but he is uncertain at the time about what degree he wants to accomplish.

Principal Kristina Estay introduced 4th - 8th grade Resource Paraprofessional, Sherald Butler as employee of the month at Centerville Junior High School. She is accompanied by some family members and a few of her colleagues. Ms. Butler has been employed with St. Mary Parish School for 32 years. She worked with elementary students through Title I tutoring before going to Centerville Junior High School. Ms. Butler is not just a paraprofessional, she is a mother figure for most of the students. She is also a mentor for some students in the Tier 2 Interventions. She has a wonderful sense of humor and always has a smile on her face. Ms. Butler plans to travel when she retires. Principal Estay stated that Ms. Butler is a pleasure to have on the faculty at Centerville Junior High School.

## Morgan City High School:

Assistant Principal Lacie Hotard introduced 12th grader Luis Gonzalez as student of the month at Morgan City High School. He is accompanied by his parents. Luis came to the United States from Guatemala as a sophomore in high school. While in Guatemala, Luis had a poetry book published and he brought those skills to St. Mary Parish, by winning the 2021 drug free slogan contest “It’s not about fitting in, it’s about standing out.” He is a member of the Beta Club, the foreign language society, the student council, he is a member of the Morgan City High School soccer team, and also a Tiger ambassador. The staff at Morgan City High School is proud of Luis and all of his accomplishments.

Assistant Principal Lacie Hotard introduced Head Custodian, Terry Singleton as employee of the month at Morgan City High School. He is accompanied by his wife. Mr. Singleton started his career with St. Mary Parish School Board in 1992, as a custodian at Morgan City High School. In 2011, he was promoted into the head custodian position and will be finishing his 30th year on April 26, 2022. His peers will miss his ever-present smile, his outgoing personality, his work ethic, and the life he brings to Morgan City High School.

# Approval of Amended Agenda.

There was no amended agenda.

# Approval of Official School Board Minutes.

Mrs. Griffin offered the motion and Mr. Barbier offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the Redistricting Workshop and the regular school board meeting held on January 13, 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

**Personnel:**

## Item 1. \*Approval of revised policies from Forethought Consulting:

A. Public School Choice (JBCE)

# Business Affairs:

## Item 3. Permission to Advertise for Bids:

A. \*Child Nutrition Department Items: Dry and canned foods, frozen foods, small and large equipment, paper, and cleaning supplies.

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

# Appearances:

### **St. Mary Parish District Students of the Year:**

Ms. Rose Hale introduced the “Students of the Year” for the district as follows.  The following students will compete in the regional competition.

**Elementary**: Lynkon Kitchen, 5th grade student, Bayou Vista Elementary School

**Junior High**: Jude Tarver, 8th grade student, Berwick Junior High School

**High School**: Alyssa Perkins, 12th grade student, Patterson High School

### Recognition of 2021 Louisiana High School Athletic Association Prep Poster Contest Winner -Victoria Nguyen of Berwick High School.

Principal Paul Broussard introduced Victoria Nguyen of Berwick High School as the 2021 Louisiana High School Athletic Association Prep Poster Contest Winner. Victoria’s artwork will serve as the official program cover and poster for the 2021 Ochsner Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) Prep Classic.

Victoria’s artistic motivation is recreating images of utterly precise scenes. She typically chooses the most detailed photographs to paint in order to create a challenge for herself. She participates in the talented visual art’s program, BETA Club, as well as the HOSA club. After graduation, she plans to attend Louisiana State University and major in pre-veterinary medicine and open her own veterinary clinic. As the winner of this year’s contest, Victoria will receive free Raising Cane’s for one year and a $100 cash prize, compliments of the LHSAA and Raising Cane’s. She was presented with a framed copy of the official poster during halftime of the Class 4A State Championship on Friday, December 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., at the Caesars Superdome. The presentation also included the school’s principal, art teacher and representatives from Raising Cane’s, the Caesars Superdome and the LHSAA.

## Item 2. Proclamations:

1. **National School Breakfast Week (March 7-11, 2022)**

On behalf of Ms. Claire Guarisco, Dr. Sanders read aloud the proclamation for the National School Breakfast Week for March 7-11, 2022, as follows:

##### NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK

**OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS** The School Breakfast Program has served our nation admirably since it was permanently established in 1975; and

**WHEREAS** the School Breakfast Program is dedicated to the health and well-being of our nation’s children; and

**WHEREAS** the School Breakfast Program joins and has been joined through the years by many other excellent child nutrition programs; and

**WHEREAS** there is evidence of continued need for nutrition education and awareness of the value of school nutrition programs

**NOW THEREFORE**, the St. Mary Parish School Board does hereby proclaim the week of March 7-11, 2022, as NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK 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 regular Board Meeting on February 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

Mrs. Rack made a motion to approve National School Breakfast Week Proclamation for the week of March 7-11, 2022. Ms. LaSalle made a second, all in favor the motion carried.

1. **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (March)**

Ms. Jennifer Collins-Lanceslin indicated that Disabilities Awareness Month affects individuals who become disabled before the age of 22. Ms. Collin-Lanceslin provided the Board with a calendar of events for the month of March 2022. She is hoping to collaborate community projects with individuals of the Special Education Programs in St. Mary Schools, and also provide the public with community projects for older adults with special needs. Ms. Collin-Lanceslin asked the Board to consider adopting the Proclamation of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month for March 2022.

Mr. Foulcard made a motion to approve the Development Disability Awareness Month Proclamation for March 2022. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

###### PROCLAMATION

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS** developmental disabilities manifest during the developmental years. of life, before age 22, and are lifelong in duration, resulting in continued need for a variety of services designed to support full inclusion in community and life.

**WHEREAS** disability is a natural part of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently, to exert control and choice over their own lives and to fully participate in and contribute to their communities through full integration and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural and educational mainstream of United States society and

**WHEREAS**, every person, regardless of their ability, has valued strengths, a capacity to learn and the potential to make important contributions to their local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, celebrating the abilities and contributions of people with Developmental disabilities can only serve to enrich the communities of Louisiana and enhance our diversity; and

**WHEREAS** we join with the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council during the month of March to encourage all citizens to recognize Louisiana's advances concerning persons with developmental disabilities, and also to acknowledge that our work to ensure full inclusion and integrated communities is not yet done.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Teresa T. Bagwell**, Superintendent of St. Mary Parish Schools, do hereby proclaim March 2022 as **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH** in our school district.

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Teresa T. Bagwell

St. Mary Parish School Board Superintendent

February 10, 2022

Date

**C. National Autism Awareness Month (April)**

Ms. Tiffany Wilson announced that National Autism Awareness Month is celebrated in the month of April, and the worldwide National Autism Awareness Day is April 2, 2022. Ms. Wilson provided the Board with a calendar of community events scheduled for the month of April, and also welcomed St. Mary Schools and the public to help celebrate individuals and families with Autism. Citizens of St. Mary Parish are encouraged to wear Autism shirts on April 8th, to show their support for Autism Awareness Day. Ms. Wilson asked the Board to consider adopting the Proclamation for National Autism Awareness Month for the month of April 2022.

Mrs. Rack made a motion to approve the National Autism Awareness Month Proclamation for April 2022. Mr. Foulcard made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

Proclamation

**National Autism Awareness Month (April)**

**WHEREAS**, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong developmental disability, resulting in significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal communication; and,

**WHEREAS** ASD is the third most common developmental disability, affecting 1,500,000 individuals nationwide, and 10,388 children in this state: and,

**WHEREAS** persons with an Autism Spectrum Disorder can succeed and reach their highest potential with effective community-based supports; accurate, early diagnosis, and the resulting appropriate education and intervention are vital to the future growth and development of the individual; and,

**WHEREAS**, support groups, such as Autism Society Bayou and Autism Speak, have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with ASD; and,

**WHEREAS** these groups remain committed to individuals with ASD and to educating families, professionals, and the general public to better understand ASD; and,

**WHEREAS** Autism Spectrum Disorder is a complex disability that requires and greater recognition and understanding to ensure that individuals with ASD living in St. Mary Parish are afforded a self-determined life full of dignity, respect and fulfillment:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the St. Mary Parish School Board does hereby proclaim April 2022 as **NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH in St. Mary Parish Schools.**

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

February 10, 2022

Date

## Item 4. Discussion and/or action concerning establishment of ad hoc committee to review and make recommendations about superintendent evaluation instrument.

President Alfred appointed Mrs. Black, Mrs. Rack, Ms. Moore, and Mrs. Griffin as Chairperson to a newly developed ad hoc committee to review and make recommendations about the superintendent evaluation instrument. The committee will meet on February 24, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana.

## Item 5. Approve amending Industrial Tax Exemption Program Resolution rescinding prior authorization designated to the parish president.

President Alfred stated on April 12, 2018, the St. Mary Parish School Board unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the parish president to make decisions in the Industrial Tax Exemption Program on behalf of the school board. The school board had four years in this program to see if the resolution has resulted in a positive net effect for the school system. At this time, the Board will either verify the original resolution or rescind the resolution, to return to the original situation where the parish president must come to the school board for each request for an Ad Valorem tax break, and the Industrial Tax Exemption Program(ITEP). In other words, the Board is not changing nothing, just returning to the original method of school board approval for each request. The Board also has three board members who were not part of the decision to approve the original request. Since 2018, there have only been Bollinger and Metal Shark, that the Board is aware of that needed approval. The Board approved Bollinger because it presented a net positive economic impact to the parish. The Board attempted to deny Metal Shark because of the net negative economic impact of the parish and the addition of a mere two employees to their expansion. Both of these requests were for expansions of their business, not because they were a new business. The board realized that Metal Shark is not part of the original resolution, because of the net zero projected economic impact, the expansion would provide to the parish. In these four years, and after only two requests, it has occurred to some board members, that we have various problems with the arrangement of the parish president making decisions for the Board. Under Act 1 of the 2012 legislative session, the powers of the Board became limited. Basically, the duties of the Board are now hiring and evaluating the superintendent and approving the school board's budget and policies. These tax exemptions affected the school board’s budget tremendously. The school board is in the business of educating the children of St. Mary Parish. This takes money to achieve, and the only income is from various taxes on a national, state and local level. The Board must study each tax break, the effect on the economy of the parish and make a decision to the best interest of the Board and the parish. In the present situation, the Board feels that each request is just rubbered stamped by the parish and passed on to the Board, whether the Board likes it or not. The negotiations of the school board and the parish president on the Industrial Tax Exemption Program application by Metal Shark, has caused unnecessary problems for the school board. Even though the decision to deny the tax break at the last meeting was overruled because of an error. It has caused other problems, in communication with the parish, the school board felt they made mistakes, and the parish thought the school board made mistakes, “which the school board did.” This difference of opinion has caused unnecessary ill feelings between the entities, and this could have been avoided. Also, according to the resolution, the parish communicated with the school board’s superintendent, which was unnecessary. The parish should go directly to the Board because the superintendent has no vote. This would expedite and clarify the time involved in making the decision. The school board’s president did not get actively involved until a meeting was held after the 30-day deadline. The parish never did communicate with the Board president until then. The St. Mary Parish School Board has always been pro-business. Evidence of this, is that the Board have always approved these exemptions, especially on new businesses. The St. Mary Parish School Board also have an active and extensive school adoption program, which benefits both the schools and the businesses. Finally, it was stated to the school board by parish officials, that St. Mary Parish is the only parish in the region that has the parish president make ITEP decisions for all entities. President Alfred stated that this sent up a red flag if the arrangement is so good, why are we the only parish that does this? It was stated that this gives us a competitive advantage and signifies our collective support, which does not take away from our support. President Alfred stated in his opinion, these types of decisions on taxpayers’ money require the collective input of the Board and not any one person whether it is the superintendent, or the parish president.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and Mr. Taylor made a second to rescind the original resolution and have the Board make decisions on the taxes.

Discussion followed by Parish President David Hanagriff, where he asked the Board not to undo the original agreement, which was in place between the school board and the parish. The agreement was unanimously voted on years ago by the school board, and the program that was put in place actually worked perfectly, the way it was designed. Mr. Hanagriff stated whenever a business comes to St. Mary Parish, the parish takes all the information and puts it into a formula, which generates a net positive or a negative number. When Metal Shark applied for a tax exemption, which is located in the City of Franklin, it was not a positive. Therefore, by agreement he as the parish president had to meet with each entity designee. The City of Franklin, the Sheriff’s Office and the parish signed off on the agreement, whereas the St. Mary Parish School Board voted against it at the December 9th regular school meeting. Mr. Hanagriff humbly asked the Board to send a message stating St. Mary is a pro-business parish and please do not rescind the original agreement.

Ms. Moore asked Mr. Hanagriff if he would be required to present an agreement before the Board each time there is a new application.

Mr. Hanagriff replied it is only required if it is a net negative.

Ms. LaSalle indicated that she had to make a slight correction for Mr. Hanagriff. She stated that the school board is pro-student and pro-academics first, and for business after students. The school board needs taxes to operate the schools and pay employees, but Mr. Hanagriff voted against the .45 percent sales tax.

Mr. Hanagriff responded at the time he voted against the increase sales tax. However, he was in support of teachers getting a raise. His wife is a teacher and he believed that she deserved it, but he was not in agreeance with doing it through a sales tax.

Ms. LaSalle stated this were taxes that were given up.

Mr. Hanagriff replied you are not giving anything up that you already had. It is the potential of what is coming that you are giving up, and you are not losing anything just not gaining as much. He agreed with Ms. LaSalle that the school board is for students, academic, and everything else but the businesses are the ones that generates the income, and everyone needs to work together.

With no further discussion, a vote was submitted as follows:

Yeas: Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Mr. Michael E. Taylor, Mr. Roland H. Verret, Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred.

Nays: Mr. Joseph C. Foulcard Jr., Ms. Tammie L. Moore, Mrs. Pearl B. Rack, Mr. Dwight D. Barbier, Mrs. Alaina L. Black.

Absent: Mr. Wayne J. Deslatte

The motion failed with 5 yeas votes, 5 nays votes, and 1 absent.

**ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD**

**RESOLUTION**

The following resolution was offered by Ms. LaSalle and seconded by Mr. Taylor.

RESOLUTION

A resolution rescinding the St. Mary Parish School Board’s April 12, 2018, resolution, which authorized the President of St. Mary Parish to make certain decisions, on behalf of the School Board, related to the Industrial Tax Exemption Program and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 21(F) of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974 authorized the Board of Commerce and Industry ("BCI"), with the approval of the Governor, to approve contracts under the Industrial Tax Exemption Program ("ITEP"); and

WHEREAS, through ITEP, applicants seeking to construct, replace or expand certain manufacturing and industrial facilities within the State of Louisiana (the "State") can receive an exemption from ad valorem taxes levied on such facilities by the State and local governmental taxing entities; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 5 of Title 13 of the Louisiana Administrative Code, as amended (the "Rules"), sets forth the conditions for participation in ITEP and provides that ITEP contracts should be premised upon job and payroll creation (or job retention, under compelling circumstances) at new or expanded manufacturing plants or establishments, and that the percentage of exemption from ad valorem taxes, and length of the contract for such exemption, may vary depending upon the nature of the project and its economic development benefit; and

WHEREAS, the Rules require that each exemption contract include, as Exhibit "A", a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement among the State, Louisiana Economic Development ("LED"), and the ITEP applicant that states, inter alia, the number of jobs and payroll to be created, the term of the exemption, the percentage of property eligible for the exemption, and any penalty provisions for failure to create the requisite number of jobs or payroll at the project site; and

WHEREAS the Rules require that, as a taxing entity, the St. Mary Parish School Board (the "School Board"), signify its consent or objection to the terms of any tax exemption to be provided to an applicant, via the issuance of a resolution; and

WHEREAS, in April of 2018, the School Board approved a resolution which authorized the Parish President of St. Mary Parish to take certain actions, on behalf of the School Board, in terms of the approval or denial of ITEP applications affecting St. Mary Parish; and

WHEREAS, the School Board desires to rescind its prior resolution, which authorized the President of St. Mary Parish to make certain decisions, on behalf of the School Board, related to ITEP approval.

\*\*\*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the St. Mary Parish School Board that:

SECTION 1. Upon consideration, the St. Mary Parish School Board hereby rescinds its April 12, 2018, resolution, which authorized the Parish President of St. Mary Parish to make certain decisions, on behalf of the School Board, related to the approval or rejection of ITEP applications affecting St. Mary Parish.

SECTION 2. From the date of this Resolution onward, the School Board will be solely responsible for approving or rejecting, on behalf of the School Board, ITEP applications that require action on the part of the School Board, including communicating with LED or BCI as to the approval or rejection of any application.

SECTION 3. When considering any pending ITEP application, the School Board shall invite the President of St. Mary Parish to address the School Board at a duly authorized meeting, for purposes of discussing whether any pending ITEP application is in the best interests of the taxpayers of St. Mary Parish. At said meeting, the Parish President shall present the results of the economic evaluation and advise the School Board as to the estimated payroll and number of jobs to be created or retained by such project, the term of the exemption contract, the percentage of property eligible for the exemption, the estimated amount of taxes to be forgone by the taxing entities, and other matters required by the rules, the BCI, and the LED.

SECTION 4. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the BCI, LED, the Governor of the State, the Parish President, and the St. Mary Parish Council.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 10th day of February 2022.

*/s/* Teresa T. Bagwell */s/* Kenneth E. Alfred

Secretary President

**STATE OF LOUISIANA**

**PARISH OF ST. MARY**

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Parish School Board of St. Mary Parish, State of Louisiana (the "School Board"), do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board on February 10, 2022, rescinding the April 12, 2018, resolution.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature on this, the 10th day of February 2022.

Secretary

## Item 6. Receive update from BlueCross on resolution of transition and benefit issues for the Commercial and MAP Group Health Plans.

Mr. Perez indicated that open enrollment effective January 1, 2022, had major transition on both the Commercial Plan and the Medicare Advantage Plan, which was moved from United Healthcare to Blue Cross. Mr. Dan Wagner, Vice President of Blue Cross Medicare Sales, provided the Board an overview on how the prescription drug formulary for the Medicare Advantage Plan was resolved. He stated that every year formulary changes are made on the Commercial Plan and the Medicare Advantage Plan. United Healthcare provided the school board with a four-tier prescription drug formulary, whereas Blue Cross has a five-tier formulary. There were some definite disruptions where people started paying higher prescription costs than they did in the previous years for the drugs that we are currently taking. After receiving feedback from Mr. Perez and staff, Blue Cross made changes to their formulary. The five-tier formulary for tier-one and tier-two are $3 for one month supply, $0 for a 90-day supply. Tier-three and tier-four was combined to make it one-tier with one month supply of that tier is $45 and specialty drugs are a flat cost of $100, which these changes went into effect as of February 1, 2022. In addition to the formulary changes, rebates will be provided to those who experience a different tier before changes were effective.

Mr. Taylor questioned if a 90-day prescription with a zero cost, is mail order only or can local pharmacies be used as well.

Mr. Perez replied if the doctor provides a 90-day prescription for a particular drug, then a preferred pharmacy can be used.

Ms. Velika Hurst, Account Manager of Blue Cross reported that there were some disruptions in service on the Commercial side, but identification cards did go out on time, as promised. However, once they got into the system there were a couple of incorrect date of births, where numbers got transposed. She stated that some issues were received today, but hopefully it will be resolved by Friday.

## Item 7. Discussion of ESSER funding approval for HVAC projected budget in the amount of $3,175,263.00 including proposed project funding and permission to proceed.

Mr. Wiese read aloud a paragraph that defined how the ESSER II HVAC funds are being utilized as follows:

In an effort to prevent, prepare, and respond to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Louisiana Department of Education allowed $3,175,266 to repair and replace HVAC systems across the school district. These funds are to be utilized to update our school HVAC systems to the newest and most reliable technologies to help promote good indoor air quality, which is known to reduce the spread of COVID 19. A list of HVAC projects across the district estimated costs of $3,173,000.0 are as follows:

**District I**

**West St. Mary High School**

Replace 2- 480-ton chillers and cooling towers with 3- 300-ton air cool systems to be designed by Associated Design Group estimated at $2,000,000.00.

**Franklin Jr. High School**

Replace 1- 90-ton chiller estimated at $100,000.00.

**District II**

**Berwick Elementary School**

Replace 1- 90-ton chiller estimated at $ 100,000.00

Replace 21 air handlers in 1 wing estimated at $190,000.00

Replace 16 air handlers in two story building estimated at $144,000.00.

**Bayou Vista Elementary School**

Replace 22 air handlers throughout campus estimated at $198,000.00.

**Hattie Watts Elementary School**

Replace 5 zone systems estimated at $225,000.00.

**District III**

**J. S. Aucoin Elementary School**

Replace 2 gym condensing units 5-tons each estimated at $10,000.00

Replace 2 cafeteria condensing units 7- 1/2 tons each estimated at $16,000.00

**Wyandotte Elementary School**

Replace 2 zone systems estimated at $100,000.00

**M. E. Norman Elementary School**

Replace 1 zone system estimated at $36,000.00.

**J. B. Maitland Elementary School**

Replace 1 zone system estimated at $54,000.00.

Mr. Wiese asked the Board for approval to proceed with these expenditures and also to engage in the professional services of Associated Design to start designing the project at West St. Mary High School.

Mr. Foulcard offered a motion and Ms. Moore offered a second to approve ESSER funding for the HVAC projected budget in the amount of $3,175263.00 including proposed project funding and permission to proceed. All in favor and the motion carried.

In response to Mr. Taylor’s question, Dr. Bagwell stated that these funds were allotted through the ESSER II funding, which were pre-approved and granted for that budget.

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

## Item 8. Discussion of ESSER funding approvals for Roofing projected budget in the amount of

$19,141,244.00 including proposed project funding and permission to proceed.

Mr. Wiese read aloud a paragraph that defined how the ESSER II and III Roofing funds are being utilized as follows:

The Louisiana Department of Education has allocated two sets of funds to address the decades of old roofing systems. ESSER II funds in the amount of $1,300,000.00 and ESSER III funds in the amount of $17,841,244.00, for a total allocation of $19,141,244.00. The purpose of these funds is to install a roofing system that will ensure a safe and protective building that will aid in providing a healthy environment that will help promote good indoor air quality which is known to reduce the spread of COVID-19. He provided the Board with a list of school roofing replacement projects across the parish according to its priority. District I projects have been assigned to Jim Firmin Architects and District II projects were assigned to Carl Blum Architects. Mr. Jim Firmin will handle all projects in District I excluding St. Mary Alternative and Mr. Carl Blum will handle all schools in Districts II and III including St. Mary Alternative. Mr. Wiese asked the Board for permission to proceed with the negotiation of the two Architects to get the projects completed as quickly as possible.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and seconded by Mr. Foulcard to approve the ESSER funding for the roofing projected budget in the amount of $19,141,244.00 including proposed project funding and permission to proceed. All in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 9. Approve Internet Access and Wide Area Network (WAN) purchase.

Mr. Derise stated for four years the scoring matrix, the school board had an RFP issue. There were two vendors that responded, which was Conterra and AT&T. The WAN (wide area network) is how each school communicates with each other and back to the Central Office Complex. Mr. Derise asked the Board to approve the lowest bid to Conterra.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion to approve the Internet Access and Wide Area Network (WAN) purchase. Mrs. Rack made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Barbier asked the cost of the services.

Mr. Derise responded that the internet is estimated at $5,000 per month, and WAN is estimated at $1,000.00 per school. E-Rate pays the majority of the cost, and the school board pays 15 percent of that.

## Item 10. Receive bids for the MCHS HVAC Phase 3, 1st Floor Classroom Wing (left) and Boys Gym.

Mr. Wiese reported that bids were received on February 2, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. for the Morgan City High School HVAC Phase 3, which would involve the classroom wing lab and the boy’s gym area. The lowest bid was received from Volute, Inc. at the base bid price of $1,174,500. It was elected to add on two of the alternate bids, one for $93,000 to replace the emergency generator and the other alternative $49,000 to replace the ceiling tile grid and lighting in the Band, Chorus area and in the hallways. Engineering costs were estimated to be at $94,000 but total budget for the replacement of the air conditioning of $1,410,500, of which $962,600 was already set aside for that project. There was a shortfall of $447,900. The District III Maintenance Committee elected to approve the lowest bid to Volute, Inc., and move $447,900 into the District III Maintenance Capital Funds. Mr. Wiese asked for full Board approval to approve bid to Volute, Inc. at the cost of $1,410,500 and add the $447,900 to the District III Maintenance Capital Funds.

Mr. Barbier made a motion to approve bid of $1,174,500.00 for the MCHS HVAC Phase 3, 1st Floor Classroom Wing (left) and Boys Gym. Mrs. Black made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

# Committee Reports:

Ms. McClarity indicated that the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting was rescheduled from March 8, 2022, to April 19, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. at the Central Office Complex in Centerville. She mentioned that the Gifted and Talented students have an art display in the Central Office Complex lobby to represent Black History Month. The 2022 Gifted and Talented Arts Jam Presentation will be held on March 10th at 5:00 p.m., at the Teche Theater in Franklin. She also stated that Special Olympics will be approaching soon, and asked for the Board’s support in celebrating these events.

Mr. Holmes announced that the Discipline Committee Meeting will meet on Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville.

Mr. Wiese reported that letters will be sent on Monday, February 14th to principals regarding Special Projects. He announced that Mr. Gene Stelly the Assistant Supervisor of Maintenance will be retiring on Friday, February 11th and also acknowledged Mr. Stelly for a job well performed.

# Staff Report:

## Chief Financial Officer’s Report:

## Sale Tax Update

Mr. Perry reported that the sales tax collections for seven months through the year was estimated at $2,400,000, compared to $1,600,000 budgeted.

## 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 that the month of February proclaims the African American History Month. This year it centers on a theme of health and wellness, given recent attention to preventative care research in the field of health care. Students across the district had the opportunity to participate in an array of activities, to raise awareness of the impact that African Americans have had in the field of medical research and practice. In addition to the traditional school wide displays of celebration, Dr. Bagwell sincerely thanked St. Mary School’s Talented Art department for the exhibit of incredible artwork honoring African American History Month. In recognition of school counselor week, she publicly thanked 12 highly dedicated counselors to support students through their academic struggles and achievements, while also offering guidance in navigating through this complex process that leads from the classroom to post-secondary education and career assisting students and parents in decisions that have such a long-term impact is a vital service. Applications for the Summer Adventure Program were sent to parents of elementary and middle school students. She strongly encouraged parents to allow their children to participate, as students will be engaged in fun learning activities designed to enhance comprehension of the key content in all four areas. Applications for participation are due tomorrow, February 11th. Meals and bus service will also be provided for those who attend. In closing, Dr. Bagwell wished everyone a safe and enjoyable Mardi Gras break and remind students and parents that schools will be closed from February 28th to March 4th and reopen on Monday, March 7th.

# Any other Business as Allowed by Act 131

None

# Closing

## Resolutions of Respect

Dr. Sanders read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Robert Ayers (retired assistant superintendent), Shirley Conner (retired cafeteria technician), Diana Daye (retired executive assistant to the superintendent/the board), Velta Firmin (retired elementary school teacher), Robert McCurtis, Jr. (retired bus driver), Michael Moncriffe (retired supervisor of federal programs), Huey Perez (retired bus driver), Sue Rodriguez (retired bus driver), and Gail Sanders (retired bus driver).

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