Centerville, Louisiana

December 9, 2021

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, December 9, 2021, 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.

**Absent:** None

**Invocation**

Mrs. Bergeron 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.

**Introduction of Students and Employees of the Month**

## J. S. Aucoin Elementary School:

Principal Shantell Toups introduced 5th grader Alondra Hernandez as student of the month at J. S. Aucoin Elementary School. She was also a candidate this year for Student of the Year. She is accompanied by her mom, dad, brother, and sister. Alondra excels in academics at J. S. Aucoin Elementary and she is an avid reader. However, her favorite subject is math. Beyond her academic success, she brings a lot of leadership qualities to her class. She has embraced our SEL Program, and she is always looking for ways to share her best self. Alondra’s teachers say that she is has a quiet sense of humor and she always exudes positivity no matter what the situation or circumstance. She loves art and she loves to draw. She shares her love of art and her talents with others whenever she can. In the future, Alondra wants to be an architect. Ms. Toups proudly presented Alondra Hernandez as student of the month at J. S. Aucoin.

Principal Shantell Toups introduced Head Custodian, Trudy Howard as employee of the month at J. S. Aucoin Elementary School. She is accompanied by her husband and granddaughter. Ms. Trudy has stepped into some big shoes last year to fill the head custodian position at J. S. Aucoin, after losing a custodian last year to a battle of cancer. Ms. Toups indicated that she cannot speak enough words to tell you how much we appreciate everything that Ms. Trudy does at the school. She runs the show, and she keeps everything in line, and also helps with car rider duty in the morning and in the afternoon. Ms. Toups proudly presented Ms. Trudy Howard as employee of the month at J. S. Aucoin Elementary School.

## Franklin High School:

Principal Natasha Jackson introduced 12th grader Ledaisha Coates as student of the month at Franklin High School. She is accompanied by her mom, grandmother, a few teachers and the assistant principal. Ledaisha is a member of National Honor Society. She has been a member of the volleyball team for four years, cheerleading squad for three years, and she is now the Co-captain of the cheerleading squad. She is a member of the student leadership team, and a finalist for the Student of the Year competition. Ledaisha is also a member of the Upward Bound program through ULL ( University of Louisiana at Lafayette) she also has earned all-state academic honors in volleyball. She is currently enrolled in dual enrollment classes through St. Mary Parish and Southern University. She plans to attend LSU (Louisiana State University) in the fall and major in biology and further her studies to become an obstetrician gynecologist.

Principal Natasha Jackson introduced Ponchella Doucet, Jobs for American Graduates Specialist, as employee of the month at Franklin High School. She is accompanied by her husband and her two kids. Ms. Doucet obtained a bachelor's degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She began teaching at Franklin High in 2008, where she taught English. She took on the challenge as a long-term substitute teacher for what she believed was a temporary position for six weeks. Six weeks quickly turned into many years. She is now the Jobs for America's Graduate Specialist. Her main goal is to help students realize that they can accomplish their goals if they do not allow themselves to give up so easily. She learned that students do not care about how much you know in life but instead what they really care about is how much you care about them. Once they know you care, you can teach them anything. She has served as a mentor for students throughout Franklin Senior High School. Her interests include reading, writing, educating and thinking of creative ways to assist others. She enjoys educating so much that she plans to retire in the school system. Ms. Doucet is not only the employee of the month but also the teacher of the year at Franklin High School.

## LaGrange Elementary School:

Principal Heidi Mouton introduced Della Bellard, Math and Science Teacher as employee of the month at LaGrange Elementary School. She is being accompanied by her husband, her son and his fiancé, her cousins, her sister-in-law, and her close friends. She is very well loved and admired. She has been a teacher for 16 years. During those years, Ms. Bellard has made a tremendous impact on lots of people big and small. She is a team player, a positive spirit and an exceptional teacher. Ms. Bellard instills in her students every single day, “that if you do nothing, you get nothing.” She teaches her students one of the most valuable lessons in life, and that is that you have to work hard for things nothing will be handed to you. She holds the students at LaGrange Elementary to high expectations. You can just feel the love and encouragement when you walk into her classroom. She is respected by her co-workers and helps in every way she can. Ms. Bellard is not only the employee of the month but also the teacher of the year at LaGrange Elementary School.

Principal Heidi Mouton introduced 5th grader Jlaysiah Polidore as student of the month at LaGrange Elementary School. She is accompanied by her mom. She has been a member of the LaGrange’s Elite Student’s Society for all of her years at LaGrange Elementary. She has been a member of choir, karate, cheer, basketball, and the art club. She received many academic awards over the years as well as the Citizenship Award. She will get the job done and get it done right. Jlaysiah not only has a beautiful, helpful spirit but she is extremely smart and has a very bright future ahead of her. The staff will be sad to see Jlaysiah leave LaGrange but will excited to see her grow in a leadership role, as she grows through her school years.

# Approval of Amended Agenda.

President Alfred stated that Item 4 -Approve Request for Proposal (RFP) for an applicant tracking system was deleted from the amended agenda.

Attorney Hammonds stated that he was contacted yesterday by the attorney in pending litigation dealing with Opioids, which he did not represent St. Mary Parish School Board in that case. However, the counsel that represented the school board contacted attorney Hammonds and indicated that he needs some action from the Board before the end of this month. Attorney Hammonds recommended that the Board add an item to the agenda for tonight's meeting. That agenda item would be a strategy session and action concerning pending litigation. And the pending litigation entitled St. Mary Parish School Board versus AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation el al, bearing suit number 3:2018cv00957 on the docket the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana. The St. Mary Parish School Board’s case has been consolidated with many other similar cases in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. Attorney Hammonds stated according to the open meetings law, it is required to list the name and the numbers of any litigation being discussed and for that purpose he recommended that the Board add an item to the end of the agenda.

Mr. Taylor made a motion and Ms. LaSalle made a second to approve the amended agenda by deleting Agenda Item 4 under Business Affairs as described and approve Attorney Hammonds recommendation as discussed above. All in favor and the motion carried.

# Approval of Official School Board Minutes.

Ms. Moore offered the motion and Mrs. Rack offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the Redistricting Workshop and the regular school board meeting held on November 11, 2021, 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.** \*Approve policy from Forethought Consulting

A. \*Purchasing (DJE)

B. \*Sabbatical Leave (GBRHA)

C. \*Sick Leave (GBRIB)

D. \*Parent Conferences (IHAD)

E. \*Student Welfare (JG)

**Item 2.** \*Approve Job Description

A. \*Warehouse Foreman

# Business Affairs:

**Item 3**. \*Approve banking resolutions authorizing signatories at various schools as a result

of recent appointments.

**Item 7.** \*Permission to advertise for bid Alligator Eggs (5-year lease).

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and Mrs. Griffin made a second to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented by Dr. Bagwell. All in favor and the motion carried.

# Appearances:

## Recognition of the St. Mary Parish School Board Christmas card artwork winners.

Dr. Bagwell stated the St. Mary Parish School Board Annual Christmas Card Contest is designed to spread holiday greetings, while also showcasing the talents of St. Mary students. The card designs must include a message that focuses on the school as a learning community and include an original theme in their design. This year's winner for the Annual Christmas Card Contest is 11th grader Jaiden Partain of Morgan City High School. Jaiden received a framed copy of her original design, a certificate and $75. Honorable mention winners received a framed copy of their design and a certificate. The honorable mention winners are as follows:

* Brie Landry, 3rd grade, Hattie Watts Elementary School
* Camila Jimenez, 5th grade, Bayou Vista Elementary School
* Mia Knight, 8th grade, Patterson Junior High School
* Alicea Franklin, 8th grade, Patterson Junior High School

**Item 5.** To consider and take action with respect to adopting a resolution providing for Canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in Consolidated School District No. 5 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, November 13, 2021, to authorize the continuation of a special tax therein.

Mr. Perry stated according to the official certified tabulation of votes cast at said election, there was a total of 2,050 votes cast in favor of the proposition and a total of 1,773 votes cast against the proposition, resulting in a majority of 277 votes cast in favor of the proposition. The proposition was therefore duly carried by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified electors voting at the election. Mr. Perry asked that the Board approve the Resolution for Canvassing the returns.

Mr. Deslatte made a motion and Mr. Taylor made a second to approve the resolution providing for Canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in Consolidated School District No. 5 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, November 13, 2021, to authorize the continuation of a special tax therein. All in favor and the motion carried.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Wayne J. Deslatte and seconded by Mr. Michael E. Taylor:

**RESOLUTION**

A resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in Consolidated School District No. 5 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, November 13,2021, to authorize the continuation of a special tax therein.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish School Board of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Consolidated School District No. 5 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "District"), that:

SECTION 1. Canvass. This Governing Authority does now proceed in open and public session to examine the official tabulations of votes cast at the special election held in Consolidated School District No. 5 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021 (the “Election”), to authorize the continuation of a special tax therein pursuant to the following proposition (the “Proposition”):

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 PROPOSITION

(TAX CONTINUATION)

Shall Consolidated School District No. 5 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (a parishwide school district) (the "District"), be authorized to continue to levy an eleven and eighty-two hundredths (11.82) mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated $6,777,175 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2022 and ending with the year 2031, for the purpose of giving additional support to public elementary and secondary schools in the District by providing funds for salary obligations and educational management, advancement and enrichment, said millage to represent a sixty-four hundredths of a mill (.64) increase (due to reappraisal) over the 11.18 mills tax authorized to be levied through the year 2021 pursuant to an election held on October 22, 2011?

This Governing Authority does further proceed to examine and canvass the returns of the Election thereof.

SECTION 2. Election Results. According to the official certified tabulation of votes cast at said Election, there was a total of **2,050** votes cast **IN FAVOR OF** the Proposition and a total of **1,773** votes cast **AGAINST** the Proposition, resulting in a majority of **277** votes cast **IN FAVOR OF** the Proposition. The Proposition was therefore duly **CARRIED** by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified electors voting at the Election.

SECTION 3. Promulgation of Election Result. The results of said election shall be promulgated by publication in the manner provided by law, after receipt from the Secretary of State’s office of the actual costs of the election, as required by Act 205 of the Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana for the year 2019.

SECTION 4. Declaration. The foregoing results of the Election are hereby declared by this Governing Authority and shall be published as required by law.

SECTION 5. Procès Verbal. A *Procès Verbal* of the canvass of the returns of the Election shall be made and a certified copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who shall record the same in his office; another certified copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Clerk of Court and *Ex-Officio* Recorder of Mortgages in and for the Parish of St. Mary, who shall record the same in the Mortgage Records of said Parish; and another copy thereof shall be retained in the archives of this Governing Authority.

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

**YEAS:** 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.

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 9th day of December, 2021.

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

Secretary President

PROCÈS VERBAL OF THE CANVASS OF THE VOTES CAST AT THE SPECIAL ELECTION HELD IN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, STATE OF LOUISIANA, ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021.

BE IT KNOWN AND REMEMBERED that on Thursday, December 9, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., at its regular meeting place, the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex, 474 Hwy. 317, Centerville, Louisiana, the Parish School Board of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Consolidated School District No. 5 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "District"), and being the authority ordering the special election held therein on Saturday, November 13, 2021, with the following members present:

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There being absent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;

did, in open and public session, examine the official certified tabulations of votes cast at the said election, and did examine and canvass the returns of the said election, there having been submitted at said election the following proposition, to wit:

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 PROPOSITION

(TAX CONTINUATION)

Shall Consolidated School District No. 5 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (a parishwide school district) (the "District"), be authorized to continue to levy an eleven and eighty-two hundredths (11.82) mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated $6,777,175 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2022 and ending with the year 2031, for the purpose of giving additional support to public elementary and secondary schools in the District by providing funds for salary obligations and educational management, advancement and enrichment, said millage to represent a sixty-four hundredths of a mill (.64) increase (due to reappraisal) over the 11.18 mills tax authorized to be levied through the year 2021 pursuant to an election held on October 22, 2011?

There was found by said count and canvass that there was a total of **2,050** votes cast **IN FAVOR OF** the Proposition and a total of **1,773** votes cast **AGAINST** the Proposition, as hereinabove set forth, and it was further found and determined that there was a majority of **277** votes cast **IN FAVOR OF** the Proposition as hereinabove set forth.

Therefore, the Governing Authority did declare and proclaim and does hereby declare and proclaim in open and public session that the Proposition as herein­above set forth was duly **CARRIED** by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified electors voting at the said special election held in the District on Saturday, November 13, 2021.

Results by precinct are available from the Secretary of this Governing Authority during regular business hours or via the Louisiana Secretary of State’s website (voterportal.sos.la.gov).

**Exhibit "A"** attached hereto and made a part of this *Proc*è*s* *Verbal* is a copy of the Notice of Special Election and proof of publication thereof.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Centerville, Louisiana, on this, the 9th day of December, 2021.

ATTEST: /s/ Kenneth E. Alfred

President

/s/ Teresa T. Bagwell

Secretary

**EXHIBIT "A"**

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Pursuant to the provisions of a resolution adopted by the Parish School Board of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Consolidated School District No. 5 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "District"), on May 13, 2021, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held within the District on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2021**, and that at the said election there will be submitted to all registered voters in the District qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 PROPOSITION

(TAX CONTINUATION)

Shall Consolidated School District No. 5 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (a parishwide school district) (the "District"), be authorized to continue to levy an eleven and eighty-two hundredths (11.82) mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated $6,777,175 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2022 and ending with the year 2031, for the purpose of giving additional support to public elementary and secondary schools in the District by providing funds for salary obligations and educational management, advancement and enrichment, said millage to represent a sixty-four hundredths of a mill (.64) increase (due to reappraisal) over the 11.18 mills tax authorized to be levied through the year 2021 pursuant to an election held on October 22, 2011?

Said special election will be held at each and every polling place in St. Mary Parish, which polls will open at seven o’clock (7:00) a.m. and close at eight o’clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541.

The polling places for the precincts are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, shall be those persons designated according to law.

The estimated cost of this election as determined by the Secretary of State based upon the provisions of Chapter 8-A of Title 18 and actual costs of similar elections is $67,000.

Notice is further given that a portion of the monies collected from the tax described in the Proposition shall be remitted to certain state and statewide retirement systems in the manner required by law.

The said special election will be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 5 and Chapter 6-A of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, and the officers appointed to hold the said election, as provided in this Notice of Special Election, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, will make due returns thereof to said Governing Authority, and NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Governing Authority will meet at its regular meeting place, the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex, 474 Hwy. 317, Centerville, Louisiana, on **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021,** at **FIVE O’CLOCK (5:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the results of the said special election. All registered voters of the District are entitled to vote at said special election and voting machines will be used.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Centerville, Louisiana, on this, the 13th day of May, 2021.

ATTEST: /s/ Kenneth E. Alfred

President

/s/ Teresa T. Bagwell

Secretary

**STATE OF LOUISIANA**

**PARISH OF ST. MARY**

**BEFORE ME,** the undersigned Notary Public, duly commissioned in and for the Parish and State aforesaid; personal came and appeared, Judith A Touchet, who after being duly sworn, deposed and said;

That she is **Bookkeeper** for St. Mary and Franklin Banner Tribune, a weekly newspaper published at Franklin, Louisiana, Parish of St. Mary and having general circulation in the City of Franklin and Parish of St. Mary.

That the attached is a true and correct copy of a legal advertisement, which appeared in the **JULY 21, 28, August 4 & 11, 2021** issues of The St. Mary and Franklin Banner Tribune.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Judith A. Touchet

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th  day of August, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Joseph A. Tabb

NOTARY PUBLIC

BAR ROLL 31983

My commission expires COMMISSION EXPIRES AT DEATH

**PROCLAMATION**

I, the undersigned President of the Parish School Board of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, the governing authority of Consolidated School District No. 5 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "District"), do hereby declare, proclaim and announce that the proposition submitted at the special election held in the District on Saturday, November 13, 2021, was CARRIED by a majority of the votes cast at the said special election, all as described and set out in the above *Procès Verbal*.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Centerville, Louisiana, on this, the 9th day of December, 2021.

/s/ Kenneth E. Alfred

President

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF ST. MARY

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Parish School Board of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Consolidated School District No. 5 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "District"), do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of the proceedings and *Procès Verbal* made by said Governing Authority on December 9, 2021, providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in the District on Saturday, November 13, 2021, to authorize the continuation of a special tax therein.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Centerville, Louisiana, on this, the 9th day of December, 2021.

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Secretary

**Item 6.** Receive Open Enrollment and Health Insurance Renewal Update.

Mr. James Perez provided an update on the open enrollment process. The board made the decision to move from United Healthcare for both the Commercial Plan and the Medicare Advantage Plan, effective January 1, 2021. Mr. Perez indicated when the Board made the decision back in 2019 to move away from Blue Cross to United Healthcare, that transition was a great experience. UnitedHealthcare has a very efficient process on enrollment, and we encountered no disruption, and it took a matter of days. However, BlueCross enrollment processing system is slightly outdated, and it has been more work than the 2019 experience. The enrollment period this year because of their strict deadline was November 1st through November 22nd. Mr. Perez stated that an estimate of 75 percent responded with the employees enrolling on the online portal. He stated that DJW are averaging about 25 calls and emails daily from St. Mary Parish School Board employees and retirees, which has been answered in a timely matter. The ultimate goal is that employees receive their ID cards prior to January 1st or the Medicare Advantage plan, which should not be an issue because the Medicare Advantage Plan is dictated by the Enrollment Center for Medicare Services. However, employees may get their cards just before January 1st for the Commercial Plan. Mr. Perez opened the floor for board discussion.

In response to Mrs. Rack’s question, Mr. Perez responded that Blue Cross has sent out many letters that were complicating things. However, the Medicare Advantage Plan is not a problem, the concerns are with the Commercial Plan.

Mr. Alfred inquired about if employees will receive booklets for the Medicare Advantage Plan and the Commercial Plan. Mr. Perez indicated in addition to receiving ID cards, booklets will arrive in two separate mailings prior to January 1st.

Ms. LaSalle asked Mr. Perez if he stated earlier that 75 percent of employees responded for enrollment. Mr. Perez replied that about 75 percent of employees responded on the online portal this year because of COVID and limitations. Mr. Perez stated that manual enrollment is also being accepted by phone calls until January 1, 2022.

With no further discussion, Mr. Perez wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Item 8.** Permission to advertise for bid HVAC replacement at Morgan City High School 1st Floor Classroom Wing (left) and Boys Gym.

Mr. Wiese reported that the Morgan City High School HVAC Project is in phase three and the final phase, which should complete 100 percent of the building. His plans for the summer would be to complete the left side of the building and the boy’s gym. The estimated project cost is $1,035,720, which is very close to the $1,040,000 budget. Mr. Wiese asked the Board for permission to advertise bid for the Morgan City High School HVAC Project.

Mr. Barbier made a motion and Mrs. Black made a second to approve Mr. Wiese permission to advertise for bid HVAC replacement at Morgan City High School 1st Floor Classroom Wing (left) and Boys Gym. All in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 9.** Approve the Industrial Tax Exemption Program application of Gravois Aluminum Boats, LLC; and providing for other matters in connections therewith.

Mr. David Hanagriff, President of St. Mary Parish Government and Mr. Evan Boudreaux, Director of St. Mary Parish Government Economic Development appeared before the Board to discuss an economic issue regarding Metal Shark located in the City of Franklin limits and requesting approval of the Industrial Tax Exemption Program. The program basically gives tax exemptions to businesses to create new businesses and also gives money and tax exemptions to current businesses that allow them to expand and grow their business. Mr. Hanagriff stated once a company comes to St. Mary Parish and applies for the Industrial Tax Exemption Program, the parish takes all the information and puts it into a formula, which generates a net positive or a negative number. He came before the Board this afternoon because this particular application is a slight negative. Mr. Hanagriff stated that he cannot move forward in signing an agreement that is a slight negative, unless he goes to each entity and inform them of what is going on and talk about the numbers and get approval. Currently, the sheriff, the parish and the City of Franklin has signed off on the agreement.

Mr. Evan Boudreaux, Director of St. Mary Parish Economic Development stated that this application is for the expansion purposed of Metal Shark to purchase new equipment, which is allowing them to remain competitive in their current market and also to give them the opportunity to expand into newer markets. This particular project will create two new direct jobs with an average payroll of $73,000 a year. In the breakdown in the handout basically shows how much the property tax is going to be collected over the 10-year term, how much the exemptions were, and then what sales tax will be collected as well from the purchase of this property. What is really important to note is this ITEP program under the 2016 executive order by Governor Edwards does now change it to where after approval the Commerce and Industry board of the application. It then goes to the locals to decide based on each taxing entity, if they approve it based on this information. The Commerce Industry board has approved this exemption already. So now it is up to the local governments to decide if they want to grant this exemption. The exemption is worth five years at an 80 percent property tax abatement with one option to renew another 80 percent abated for another five years. After that five-year term, the exemption rolls off.

Mrs. Griffin asked what caused this to have a net negative.

Mr. Boudreaux responded that the exemption would show that it is worth $98,000 over 10 years, the tax revenue that is going to be collected is about $70,000, and because of the low job numbers and the limited amount of sales tax that they will be providing is why it is a net negative.

Mrs. Griffin questioned can the school board choose to opt-out of this program without jeopardizing the entire program.

Mr. Boudreaux replied previously you could but under the 2016 changes now it has to be a unanimous decision.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and Mr. Taylor made a second to deny the Industrial Tax Exemption Program application of Gravois Aluminum Boats, LLC; and providing for other matters in connections therewith.

Mrs. Black questioned when they were a company in St. Mary Parish before, did they get the exemption. Mr. Boudreaux responded he would have to go back and research it. He stated that the school board will collect more taxes than they are currently collecting if this application was to get approved. The total sales tax collections would be $42,291, property taxes collections as an aggregate are $26,918. Of that amount the St. Mary Parish School Board is set to receive $10,673 for the 10-year period. After five years the state has to review and ensure that Metal Shark is in compliance with the program and should they not be in compliance, then they would have to pay back whatever that five-year amount would be.

Ms. LaSalle questioned how many employees the company would be hiring.

Mr. Boudreaux replied that the company would have to hire two new employees.

Ms. LaSalle inquired if they are doing through this process for only two employees.

Mr. Boudreaux responded at least two employees. However, they can hire more but the state’s agreement requires at least two employees. Mr. Boudreaux stated that Metal Shark is a company that helps and benefits every single person in this parish and creates a lot of jobs and a lot of tax base. However, it is a company that has another facility in another state. It is a company that can move just as easy as other companies have moved. He said, “It is very important that we are pro-business in this parish.” These are taxes that you do not currently collect over a 10-year period. It would be $40,000, which does not seem like a whole lot spread over 10 years, versus a company potentially leaving or other companies seeing a negative effect that St. Mary Parish is not going to approve a tax exemption that the state has already approved, and the sheriff, the mayor of Franklin, and the parish has already signed off on. Mr. Boudreaux humbly asked the Board to please consider that moving forward to St. Mary Parish and for future growth and future businesses in St. Mary Parish.

Ms. LaSalle stated that Mr. Boudreaux said that the school board stands to get the most amount taxes, which puts the school board in another category. She indicated that Mom and Pop organizations do not get the same advantages as he does, to come before the Board and not want to pay taxes or have to hired two employees and be exempt from taxes. They have to pay their taxes.

Mr. Boudreaux responded you are correct, but this is for more than just two employees. Metal Shark has 279 employees.

Ms. LaSalle replied that is what you have currently, but you are going to be adding at least two employees.

Mr. Taylor stated that the motion was to deny the application, therefore a favorable vote would be denying the application.

With no further discussion, President Alfred stated that an “I” vote means you support Mrs. Griffin's motion to deny the tax exemption. “Nay” means you do not support the motion. All in favor and the motion carried with Mr. Barbier voting nay.

# Committee Reports:

## Special Education Advisory Council Meeting Report:

The Special Education Advisory Council met onTuesday, December 7, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana. Ms. McClarity stated that Community of Friends came before the committee as guest speakers. Community of Friends is a very good organization that partnership with the St. Mary Parish School Board, especially with working with students with disabilities. The main goals of Community of Friends are to help and assist students with or without disabilities, their families, the community, organizations, other areas of academic health, and human services. Ms. McClarity said she has partnership with Community of Friends at Franklin High School for her students. BY-U Esports also provided a presentation at the meeting. Esports is an organization that connects education with gaming, classroom instructions, and developmental practices for visual situations for students with or without disabilities. It also increases problem solving skills for students and it is associated with high academic achievements, math and ELA. Ms. McClarity reported that Special Olympics will be held in March 2022, but time and date will be determined later. The last topic was a brief discussion on cameras in the classrooms, which is still undetermined at this time.

## Maintenance District I and District II Committee Meeting - December 9, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Wiese reported that the Maintenance District I and District II Committee Members met together as a group to review the Front Door Security Modification Plans and Budget. The Committee Members reviewed Mr. Blum’s budget for the total project of $673,400, which to be funded with the $800,000 ESSER funds. As a group they asked the Board for permission to advertise bids for the Front Door Security Modification Projects.

Mr. Deslatte made a motion and Mr. Taylor made a second to approve projects for District I. All in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Taylor made a motion and Mrs. Griffin made a second to approve projects for District II. All in favor and the motion carried.

## Chief Financial Officer’s Report:

**Sale Tax Update**

Mr. Perry reported that five months through the fiscal year on sales tax collections this month were $1,445,000 compared to a budget of $1,302,000, with a $143,000 surplus or excess of revenues over budget.

**Financial Statements (Major Funds Only):**

The Board was provided financial statements for major funds only to review at their leisure.

**Other Significant Items:**

Mr. Perry indicated that Mr. Chris Miller from Darnell Sykes was not able to present the audit report at this meeting. However, it should be available for the January 13, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Perry indicated that the IRS mileage rates were not released. He will update the Board with mileage rates at the January 13, 2022 meeting.

**Fiscal Risk Assessment:**

None

## Maintenance Department

Mr. Wiese provided the Board with a roofing survey complied by P & H Companies on all St. Mary Schools. The spreadsheet provided an overview for each school, and everything identified at that school. Mr. Wiese stated that an estimate of $18,000,000 has been budgeted in the ESSER Funds for roofing projects. He will prioritize schools that need the most repairs and put a budget together in order to hire an architect or multiple architects.

Mr. Deslatte inquired if there is a time limitation on the ESSER Funds.

Dr. Bagwell responded that each set of stimulus money has a set timeline. ESSER II Funds must be expended by 2023, and ESSER III Funds must be expended by 2024. The bulk of the roofing will come out of the ESSER III Funds received from the federal stimulus and should be completed by 2023.

Mr. Taylor inquired if the company made any recommendations as to replacing the roofs or just making changes.

Mr. Wiese responded that the company did not give any recommendations, and that the report only reflects the conditions. He stated it would be the Board’s decision to provide the architects with recommendations on how they want to proceed.

President Alfred asked Mr. Wiese if he needs any action from the Board.

Mr. Wiese replied no action is needed from the Board at this time.

# Superintendent’s Report:

Dr. Bagwell reported that the Louisiana Department of Education released performance score data for schools and districts this last week. Data indicated that as a district St. Mary's overall performance declined by 3.1 points to a district performance score of 82.3. Despite the slight decline, St. Mary maintained its status as one of the top 20 districts in the state of Louisiana. St. Mary also continues to outperform surrounding districts, including Iberia, Lafayette, St. Martin, and Assumption. While the sum of the performance data was released well into our school year, schools have already been provided with individual student data in order to plan ways to help them grow academically. Congratulations is extended to the following schools for achieving Top Gain status for earning what is considered “A” in progress moving students; J S. Aucoin Elementary, Bayou Vista Elementary, Berwick Elementary, Franklin Jr. High, Elementary, Hattie Watts Elementary, Norman Elementary and Wyandotte Elementary. Additionally, schools earning Equity Honoree status for outperforming 90 percent of all schools across various student’s subgroups and who failed to receive any type of intervention label include; J. S. Aucoin Elementary, Berwick High, Morgan City High, Patterson High, and West St. Mary High. This is an incredible achievement, given the school year of ongoing disruptions. Schools will dismiss for the holidays on Friday, December 17th at the normal dismissal time. Parents are reminded that students will return on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 while teachers and staff returned from the holiday for professional workshops on Monday January 3rd. In closing, Dr. Bagwell wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

# Board Comments:

On behalf of the Board, President Alfred wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and congratulated the Top Gain schools and the 90 percent schools.

# Attorney Hammonds Recommendation to Enter into Executive Session:

Attorney Hammonds recommended that the Board go into Executive Session to hear from its counsel in the litigation, as previously listed.

Mr. Taylor moved that the Board enter into Executive Session. Mr. Deslatte made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to return back into regular session. Ms. LaSalle made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

# Recommendation from Attorney Burke:

Attorney Burke asked that an individual is hereby authorized to execute any formal agreements implementing a unified plan for the allocation and use of the Opioid Settlement proceeds that is not substantially inconsistent with the MOU and the Resolution including but not limited to the subdivision settlement participation forms, in the Distributor Settlement Agreement, and the Jansson Settlement Agreement. Attorney Burke also asked that the School Board agrees to register into the settlement and that a designated member of the Board be given authority to sign off on acceptance of the settlement.

Mr. Taylor made a motion and Ms. Moore to accept the Resolution to register into the Opioid Settlement with attorneys, accept the settlement, and also authorize Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred as the School Board’s president to be the person that signs on behalf of the school board.

All in favor and the motion carried.

# Any other Business as Allowed by Act 131

None

# Closing

## Resolutions of Respect

Mrs. Bergeron read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Judy Duval (retired head custodian), and Gail Borne Hebert (retired cafeteria manager).

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