Centerville, Louisiana

November 11, 2021

**Redistricting Workshop:**

The St. Mary Parish School Board met prior to the regular session on Thursday, November 11, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana. Demographer Mike Hefner provided the Board and the public with information regarding the St. Mary Parish School Board Reapportionment process. The following members answering to roll call:

**Present:** Mr. Joseph C. Foulcard, Jr., Mrs. Pearl B. Rack, Ms. Tammie L. Moore, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Mr. Michael E. Taylor, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Mr. Dwight D. Barbier, Mr. Roland H. Verret, Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred.

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

Mr. Mike Hefner announced that the Louisiana School Board Association (LSBA) has given permission for Board Members to receive continuing credit hours for attending redistricting meetings and future workshops. Mr. Hefner indicated when a district is out of balance from the average of more than plus or minus 5%, then the district has to go through the redistricting process. Redistricting is simply just a matter of adjusting the district boundary line, to either include more population, or take population out. The resolution that will be presented on the upcoming board agenda, is just a housekeeping measure to comply with requirements of the state law R.S. 33:1411, which states after the Census is released, within six months, the district has to do the calculations and determine if redistricting is necessary. Mr. Hefner indicated the 2020 population of St. Mary Parish divided by the 11 board seats, had a few districts that were outside of that plus or minus 5%, which determined that St. Mary Parish has to reapportion. Mr. Hefner presented a map to explain his starting plan, which included modifications of each district. He stated that changes could be made to the plan, if the Board needs to adjust the numbers in a district.

Mrs. Rack inquired about the ratio of the black and white population in District I and District IV.

Mr. Hefner responded that the percentage of the black population in District I is 56 percent and 51.27 percent for District IV. He also stated that District I had to pick up a lot of its population from District II and District IV, which had to be kept as majority minorities.

Mrs. Rack stated after changes District I has a higher black and white ratio, whereas it lowered the ratio in District IV.

Mr. Hefner replied that numbers were taken from District II and District IV. However, the majority of numbers were from District IV, which caused that district to drop in population. Unfortunately, there was not enough minority population left to bring District IV numbers up, therefore he had to pick up some white population.

Mrs. Rack inquired how can a majority black district have only a 51 percent of black population.

Ms. LaSalle stated that she also has a problem with the ratio and has noticed when there is a majority minority district it is barely majority, which is good in a way because everyone is represented. However, when the majority is Caucasian, the ratio is like 92 percent to 8 percent. She said, even though there are black districts, there is very little African American or minority representation in those other districts and the African American minority people come to the other districts for help.

Mr. Hefner responded that he tried to maintain the percentages as high as he could and tried to equal the numbers to the Census 2010 population count. However, there has been population shifts in the parish that is going to make it very difficult to do that.

Mrs. Rack indicated that it seems to be too much of a big change.

Mr. Hefner suggested setting up a meeting with District I, II, and IV Board Members and try to balance the numbers that will work for their district.

President Alfred asked Mr. Hefner how much preparation is needed to have the next meeting, and can it prior to the next regular school board meeting on December 9, 2021.

Mr. Hefner responded that he could meet with the minority representatives on December 9, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. , at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana.

Mr. Hefner stated that the other districts had very minor changes.

Mrs. Rack indicated that District I stayed at 56 percent after Mr. Hefner’s plans, District II remained the same at 49 percent, and District IV was 57 percent before and now 51 percent, District VI was 52 percent and now almost 54 percent. She stated that all the black minority districts have really increased except for District IV, which is her district.

Mr. Hefner responded that the analysis used is the way the numbers are in current districts with the new population, which is called the benchmark.

Mrs. Rack responded that the minority black areas of District IV could increase from 51 percent, by taking some streets from District I and adding them to District IV.

Mr. Foulcard suggested moving a percentage of the population from District I to help balance the numbers in District IV.

Mr. Hefner replied that they can review Mr. Foulcard’s suggestion and start working on a precinct and the census block level when they meet.

With no further discussion, the workshop adjourned.

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

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

President Alfred introduced Ms. Moore’s family, friends, church family, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, South Louisiana Community College family, and community supporters as they accompanied her on this special occasion.

Retired Judge Lori Landry and Reverend Allen Randle administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Tammie L. Moore, District II School Board Member of the St. Mary Parish School Board.

**Motion to Seat Ms. Tammie L. Moore for District II, School Board Member:**

Dr. Bagwell stated upon receiving the Oath of Office and accepting the responsibilities of St. Mary Parish School Board Member for District II, she respectfully asked that the Board approves the motion to officially seat Ms. Tammy L. Moore.

By a motion from Mrs. Rack and a second from Mr. Foulcard, Ms. Tammie L. Moore was seated as St. Mary Parish School Board Member for District II. All in favor and the motion carried.

**Regular Session:**

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, November 11, 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, 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**

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

**Berwick High School:**

Principal Paul Broussard introduced Guidance Clerk Belinda Boudreaux, as employee of the month at Berwick High School. She is accompanied this afternoon by her husband, son, and daughter-in-law. Mrs. Boudreaux has been the guidance clerk at Berwick High School since 2014. Her Panther Pride is unwavering and evident in all of the hard work that she puts in, from coordinating graduation, to cooking white beans for the baseball tournament, hospitality room and everything. Most recently, Mrs. Boudreaux stepped up to fill the role for the front office secretary during the extended leave of the secretary. She has learned everything quickly and gets it done without hesitation. The staff truly appreciates everything she does to help keep Berwick High School running. Principal Broussard proudly announced Mrs. Belinda Boudreaux as employee of the month at Berwick High School.

Principal Paul Broussard introduced 12th grader Gavin Baudoin as student of the month at Berwick High School. He is accompanied by his sister. Gavin currently has a 3.0 grade point average (GPA), and he plans to attend college for mechanical engineering. Since his freshman year, he has been outgoing, studious, determined, and a friend to everyone. Not very long ago, he injured his spinal cord and returned to school, and has not skipped a beat nor has he made any excuses. Despite having good days and some not so good days, Gavin is always smiling and trying to help others. His sense of humor is like no other and he tends to lift others up, without evening knowing it. Gavin’s driving ambitions are truly inspirational. Principal Broussard proudly announced Gavin Baudoin as student of the month at Berwick High School.

**Centerville High School:**

Principal Kristina Estay introduced Maci Jackson as student of the month at Centerville High School. She is accompanied by her mother, stepdad, grandmothers, godparents, and other family members. Maci has attended Centerville High School since the third grade. She is currently in the 11th grade with a 3.9 grade point average. She is an amazing leader, she has also been a Beta member for five years, she plans to attend Southern University and get a dual major in political science, and business. Principal Estay proudly announced Maci Jackson as student of the month at Centerville High School.

Principal Kristina Estay recognized Richey Garrett, Agriculture and Carpentry Teacher as employee of month at Centerville High School. He is accompanied by his wife, daughter, and grandkids. Coach Garrett has been an educator for 18 years. Years ago he started coaching baseball and teaching agriculture at Morgan City High School. He left St. Mary Parish then returned back to St. Mary Parish and began coaching football, basketball, and girls track at Centerville High School. He did a fantastic job last year teaching history and this year he is teaching agriculture and carpentry classes. Coach Garrett is loyal, determined and a very hard worker who comes to work every day and gives his all. He has brought some positives to Centerville High School and to the athletic program which is greatly appreciated. Principal Estay proudly announced Richey Garrett as employee of the month at Centerville High School.

**Approval of Amended Agenda.**

There was no amended agenda.

**Approval of Official School Board Minutes.**

Mr. Taylor offered the motion and Mrs. Griffin offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the Insurance Workshop and regular school board meeting held on October 14, 2021, and the special meeting held on October 28, 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-A, B,& C and Item 2-A was removed from the consent agenda for further discussion.

**Business Affairs:**

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

recent appointments.

4. \*Authorize RFP for Wide Area Network (WAN) and Internet Service.

Ms. LaSalle requested that Item 2 A\* be removed from the Consent Agenda for further clarification. She stated that the public should be aware of any changes made to the student dress code (JCDB).

Mrs. Rack requested to remove Item 1-A,B,C\* from the Consent Agenda for further clarification.

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

**Item 1.** Approve job descriptions for:

A. Account Clerk II-Purchasing Food Service

B. Account Clerk II-Food Service

C. Account Clerk III-Food Service

Mrs. Bergeron explained that Mrs. Guarisco’s staff who actually perform these positions updated their job descriptions because they were antiquated. Each department streamlined and added things in and then the supervisors approved them and submitted for full Board approval.

Mrs. Rack stated after reviewing the job description for Account Clerk II-Food Service Purchasing, she noticed that it is no longer the person for Account Clerk II Food Service purchasing accounting operations, which is no longer that person's duty.

Mrs. Bergeron responded that all job goals were removed from all the job descriptions, because it comes under their performance responsibilities.

Mrs. Rack also inquired who is responsible for receiving, collecting, and depositing money for the Account Clerk II and Account Clerk III job description.

Mrs. Guarisco explained that funds are not collected in the Child Nutrition Department. Funds are collected at each school, and the managers would collect and deposit the funds on a daily basis.

Mrs. Rack asked why this was stated on the job descriptions for the Account Clerks.

Mrs. Guarisco replied as stated by Mrs. Bergeron these job descriptions were antiquated.

Mrs. Rack made a motion and Ms. LaSalle made a second to approve the job descriptions for Item 1 A, B, and C. All in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 2.** Approval of policies from Forethought Consulting

A. Student Dress Code (JCDB)

Ms. LaSalle indicated that she asked to pull item 2 -A approval of Student Dress Code policy (JCDB). She stated that the public should be aware of any changes being made to the Student Dress Code.

Mrs. Bergeron responded that there is only one change was made on page 5, **required by BESE was removed** and replaced with **dictated by state** under face coverings.

Ms. LaSalle asked if the change is no longer a necessary part of the uniform.

Dr. Bagwell replied unless the Governor states otherwise.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and Mrs. Griffin made a second to approve changes made to the Student Dress Code policy (JCDB). All in favor and the motion carried.

**Staff Report:**

**Child Nutrition Supervisor’s Report**

Mrs. Claire Guarisco reported that the monthly food costs have doubled compared to last school year, which is going to directly affect the child nutrition budget. Also, there is a lot of food shortages, mainly due to lack of labor, which has caused prices to skyrocket and also caused many menu changes. She stated after dealing with all the constant food changes, the child nutrition staff has performed an exceptional job preparing meals and caring for the students.

President Alfred inquired if the CEP Program could be affected by the inflation of food.

Mrs. Guarisco responded it does not affect the fact that every child will get a free breakfast and lunch every day at school. The Child Nutrition Department still receives a reimbursable rate from the federal government for each child that eats.

President Alfred questioned if the cost of meals would have to be adjusted of what each child paid in the middle of the year if the school board did not have the CEP Program.

Mrs. Guarisco replied she definitely thinks it would need adjustments.

**Maintenance Supervisor’s Report:**

Mr. Wiese stated that the Front Door Security Projects for Maintenance Districts I and II began back in February 2019, with the exception of Berwick High, Patterson High, the St. Mary Alternative Program, Centerville, and LaGrange Elementary School. He indicated that Architect Carl Blum is designing plans and drafting budgets for the Board to review prior to the regular board meeting in December.

President Alfred stated that Demographer Mike Hefner requested a redistricting meeting at 3:00 p.m., prior to the December 9th regular board meeting.

Mr. Wiese asked the Board to set a Maintenance Committee Meeting for District I and II on December 9th, at 4:30 p.m., prior to the regular board meeting, to review plans and discuss budgets and funding.

**Chief Financial Officer’s Report:**

**Sale Tax Update**

Mr. Perry reported that the sales tax collections for the month of October was estimated at $1,702,000, which reflects hurricane expenditures.

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

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

**Other Significant Items:**

None

**Fiscal Risk Assessment:**

None

**Superintendent’s Report:**

Dr. Bagwell reported that on this Veterans Day we humbly honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans, particularly those who grew up in the classrooms in St. Mary Parish Schools. Our country relies on an all-volunteer force composed of men and women who share an innate sense of duty and selflessness, and we pause today to express our deepest gratitude to those who protect democracy.

Morgan City Junior High will be welcoming Ms. Melanie Belle, as the new assistant principal to replace Ms. Alexis Rack, who accepted a position in Lafayette Parish. As a former student of Morgan City Junior and Morgan City High School, Ms. Belle is excited to return to a much different role and is looking forward to working with the students, teachers, and parents of the school.

Dr. Bagwell encouraged everyone to vote on Saturday, November 13, 2021. There will be several constitutional amendments on the ballot and the school board has a 10-year tax renewal that will be presented to voters on property tax.

Dr. Bagwell concluded her report by wishing everyone a very happy Thanksgiving and asked that we all take a moment to reflect on the many blessings that they have been given.

**Board Comments:**

**Any other Business as Allowed by Act 131**

None

**Closing**

**Resolutions of Respect**

Mrs. Bergeron read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Susan K. Aucoin (retired middle school teacher), Larry Frank, Sr. (retired principal and coach) and Emma Dell Carr O’Gwin (retired special education teacher).

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