Centerville, Louisiana

October 14, 2021

# Insurance Workshop:

The St. Mary Parish School Board met prior to the regular session on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana. A Group Health Plan Informational Workshop was presented by Employee Benefits Consultant James Perez, with the following members answering to roll call:

**Present:** Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Mr. Roland H. Verret, Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle (arrived at 4:13 p.m.), Mr. Dwight D. Barbier (arrived at 4:18 p.m.), Mrs. Pearl B. Rack (arrived at 4:20 p.m.), and Mr. Joseph C. Foulcard Jr., (arrived at 4:20 p.m.)

**Absent:** Sylvia K. Lockett (Deceased), Mr. Wayne J. Deslatte, Mr. Michael E. Taylor, and Mrs. Alaina L. Black.

Mr. James Perez provided information for the 2022 renewal proposals from United Healthcare and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana on the Medicare Advantage Plan and the Commercial Plan, which will be discussed and voted on in regular session under agenda Item 10.

After board discussion, Mrs. Griffin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. LaSalle made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

# Regular Session:

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, October 14, 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., Mrs. Pearl B. Rack, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Mr. Dwight D. Barbier, Mr. Roland H. Verret, Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred.

During roll call, Dr. Bagwell requested a moment of silence out of respect to the passing of Ms. Sylvia K. Lockett, District II Board Member.

**Absent:** Ms. Sylvia K. Lockett, Mr. Wayne J. Deslatte, Mr. Michael E. Taylor, and Mrs. Alaina L. Black

Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Bergeron gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

## Introduction of Students and Employees of the Month

### Berwick Junior High School:

Principal Kristin Percle introduced 8th grader I’Nestie Scott as student of the month at Berwick Junior High School. She is accompanied by her father and grandmother. I’Nestie is a true role model for the student body of Berwick Junior High School. She is a member of the Beta Club, Jazz Club, Student Council, and the newly formed Garden Club. She is an avid reader as well as a lover of music. She is also in the Talented Art Program where she has won several merit awards for her sculptures. I’Nestie is truly talented as her work is so impressive, her art teacher often uses her models for other students to learn and create their own ideas based on her work. I’Nestie is such a hard worker and team player in everything that she does. She is responsible and always kind to others, so many students and teachers know they can depend on her with the positive energy that radiates from her daily. The staff of Berwick Junior High School is very fortunate to have I’Nestie as a student.

Principal Kristin Percle introduced Joshua Montgomery, Adaptive Physical Education teacher as employee of the month at Berwick Junior High School. He is accompanied this afternoon by his wife.  Josh began his career as a PE teacher at Labadieville Primary School in 2009. He then spent the next few years at Patterson Junior High teaching math enrichment and American History. In 2011, he became an Adaptive Physical Education teacher in St. Mary Parish servicing Berwick Elementary, M. E. Norman Elementary, Wyandotte Elementary, Bayou Vista Elementary, H. A. Watts Elementary, and Berwick Junior High. Coach Montgomery has also coached several sports at several schools throughout his time in St. Mary Parish. He is currently the head football coach, and track coach at Berwick Junior High School. Coach Montgomery is surely one of a kind, his tenacity in seeing students’ success has been an asset to the students and the community of Berwick Junior High. Coach Montgomery installed a weight training and conditioning program this past summer at Berwick Junior High. Through his generous efforts and time invested at Berwick Junior High, students not only develop strength and endurance this summer and fall, but they also developed confidence, discipline and pride that has influenced and enhanced the academic and cultural environment of the school. Coach Montgomery instilled his work ethic into his Adaptive Physical Education classes, preparing his students for life after high school. The employees of Berwick Junior High School are very grateful to have Coach Montgomery on their staff.

### Morgan City Junior High School:

Principal Michelle South introduced 8th grader Kylah Farrington as student of the month at Morgan City Junior High School. Kylah represents Morgan City Junior High School with pride in the extraordinary model of the roar expectations. She currently has straight A’s, she likes to read, and has a love for learning. According to her teachers, Kylah is respectful to herself, her peers, and her teachers. Kylah has a positive attitude every day, she interacts appropriately with her peers and holds herself responsible for her own learning. She would like to attend the Louisiana State University (LSU) Medical School and become an anesthesiologist. Kylah is an excellent model student, and her peers are very happy to have her at Morgan City Junior High School.

Principal Michelle South recognized Jacqueline Nguyen, 6th grade Social Studies teacher as employee of month at Morgan City Junior High School. Ms. Nguyen is currently taking technology classes at Purdue University and was not able to attend the meeting. Ms. Nguyen has been teaching at Morgan City Junior for three years. In those three years, she has become one of the most vital teachers to the profession. She teaches her students through analog and virtual means, she is the sponsor of the History Club, the Social Studies Department Chair, she mentors other teachers and shares her technology expertise with the faculty. Ms. Nguyen is currently pursuing her master's degree in technology at Purdue University. She has an extraordinary work ethic, strong values, and has enormous integrity. She is a model teacher who goes out of her way to help others, she puts the students first, and knows how important it is to grow each and every student, every day.

## Approval of Amended Agenda.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and Mr. Barbier made a second to approve the amended agenda, as presented. All in favor and the motion carried.

## Approval of Official School Board Minutes.

Ms. LaSalle offered the motion and Mr. Foulcard offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the regular meeting and public hearing held on September 9, 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 job descriptions for:

A. Occupational Therapist

B. Physical Therapist

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

## Appearances

Mr. Barbier introduced Olympian Medalist, Vernon “Tootie” Norwood in acknowledgement of board adoption renaming Morgan City High School track in his honor. He was accompanied by British Olympic sprinter Ashleigh Nelson, who won a gold medal in the 4 x 100 meters and a bronze medal in the 100 meters at the 2013 European Championships. Mr. Norwood was born in New Orleans, in 1992, and came to Morgan City in 2005, after his family was displaced by Hurricane Katrina. He was then enrolled in Morgan City High School and graduated with the Class of 2011. Mr. Norwood started track in his junior year at Morgan City High, and blossomed in his senior year. He was granted a track scholarship to South Plains Junior College in Texas, where he earned an associate degree. While at South Plains Junior College, Mr. Norwood was a five-time NJCAA National Champion. He then signed a track scholarship with LSU and became a four-time National Champion, while earning a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies, with a minor in social work, leadership, and sociology. While at LSU, he was first in the nation in the 400-meter indoor and first in the nation in the 400-meter outdoor National Championship, where he is the only one of seven athletes to win both indoor and outdoor in the same year. Mr. Norwood was destined to be on the 2016 Olympic team, but his hamstring injury delayed his dreams. In 2020, the Olympics were delayed due to COVID-19. He then earned a spot in the Tokyo Olympics, where he achieved a gold medal in the 400-meter and a bronze medal in the 400-meter mixed relay. Mr. Norwood has represented the City of Morgan City, St. Mary Parish, the State of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

Mr. Vernon Norwood thanked the Board for the recognition of renaming Morgan City High School track in his honor.

President Alfred asked for a five-minute recess, to allow Board Members the opportunity to take photos with Olympic Medalist, Vernon “Tootie” Norwood.

After recess, the meeting resumed to regular session.

## Business Affairs

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

1. School Board Ethics (BH)
2. Curriculum (ID) (Revised by Hammonds and Sills)
3. Kindergarten (IDCC)
4. Education of Students with Exceptionalities (IDDF)
5. (Delete) Cameras in Special Education Classrooms (IDDFC)
6. (Delete) Compulsory School Attendance Ages (JBA)
7. School Admission (JBC) (Revised by Hammonds and Sills)
8. (Delete) Public School Choice (JBCE)

I. (Delete) Student Records (JR)

Mrs. Bergeron asked the Board to adopt policies 2-A, 2-B, 2-C, 2-D, and 2-G. Items 2-E, 2-F, 2-H, and 2-I will be presented at a later date.

Mr. Verret offered a motion and Ms. LaSalle offered the second to approve Items 2-A, B, C, D, and G. All in favor and the motion carried.

### Item 3. Review and take appropriate action regarding adjustments to the 2021-2022 St. Mary Parish Schools Calendar for school closures due to Hurricane Ida.

Mr. Stadalis reported after schools closed for five days due to the impacts of Hurricane Ida, and resulted in a thorough analysis of instructional time missed under the current calendar. It was determined that two additional days will be needed to add to the calendar to meet the requirements for the 2021-22 school year. Mr. Stadalis asked the Board to consider the proposed changes of moving the teacher in-service to Monday, January 3rd with students returning to school on Tuesday, January 4th.

Ms. LaSalle offered a motion and Mrs. Griffin offered the second to approve adjustments to the 2021-2022 St. Mary Parish Schools Calendar for school closures due to Hurricane Ida. All in favor and the motion carried.

### Item 4. Review and take appropriate action regarding adjustments to the proposed changes.

to the 2021-2022 St. Mary Parish Employee Calendar for school closures due to Hurricane Ida.

Mrs. Bergeron indicated that the 2021-2022 employee calendar also needed to be updated for school closures due to Hurricane Ida. January 3rd and 4th were added back into the employee calendar, and storm days were left in the calendar for employees to identify the four days designated as storm days. The only calendars that were not affected by the actual day count were the 240 and 242 employees. Mrs. Bergeron asked the Board to approve the adjustments to the 2021-2022 Employee Calendar.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and Mr. Barbier made a second to adjustments to the proposed changes to the 2021-2022 St. Mary Parish Employee Calendar for school closures due to Hurricane Ida.

### Item 5. Approve property and casualty insurance consultant contract renewal.

Mr. Perry reported that the property and casualty insurance contract renewal is a one-year agreement at no rate increase, for the amount of $18,353.00, which included two additional one-year options at which the Board or Norris Insurance Consultant, Carmel Breaux could opt out.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and Mr. Foulcard made a second to approve the property and casualty insurance consultant contract renewal. All in favor and the motion carried.

### Item 6. Approve Interlocal Agreement between the Louisiana Public Schools Risk Management Agency "LARMA" and the St. Mary Parish School Board.

Mr. Perry asked the Board to approve the annual Interlocal Agreement with the Louisiana Public Schools Risk Management Agency “LARMA,” with no additional cost from the Board.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and Mr. Barbier made a second to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the Louisiana Public Schools Risk Management Agency "LARMA" and the St. Mary Parish School Board. All in favor and the motion carried.

### Item 7. To consider and take action with respect to adopting a resolution confirming an election date change pursuant to Executive Order of the Governor; establishing a new date to canvass the returns of the election; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

Mr. Perry asked the Board to approve the resolution, which confirms the election date change from October 9th to November 13, 2021.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and Mr. Foulcard made a second to approve the resolution confirming an election date change pursuant to Executive Order of the Governor; establishing a new date to canvass the returns of the election; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. All in favor and the motion carried.

The following resolution was offered by Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle and seconded by Mr. Joseph C. Foulcard, Jr.:

**RESOLUTION**

A resolution confirming an election date change pursuant to Executive Order of the Governor; confirming the date to canvass the returns of the election; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

WHEREAS, the Parish School Board of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of Consolidated School District No. 5 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, heretofore called for an election to be held on Saturday, October 9, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Governor issued Executive Order Number 2021 JBE 13 on September 9, 2021 (said Executive Order, with any supplements or modifications, herein the "Executive Order"), to reschedule elections due to the Statewide State of Emergency caused by Hurricane Ida;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED 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. This Governing Authority acknowledges the change in the election date, pursuant to the Executive Order, from October 9, 2021 to November 13, 2021.

SECTION 2. This Governing Authority shall 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 examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election.

SECTION 3. All provisions of the election call resolution previously adopted by this Governing Authority, other than the change in the election date and the canvass date, shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. The President and/or Secretary are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal authorities to conduct the election.

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

**YEAS:** Mr. Joseph C. Foulcard, Jr., Mrs. Pearl B. Rack, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Mr. Dwight D. Barbier, Mr. Roland H. Verret, and Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred.

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Ms. Sylvia K. Lockett, Mr. Wayne J. Deslatte, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, and Mr.

Michael E. Taylor.

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 14th day of October, 2021.

/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 the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), the governing authority of Consolidated School District No. *S* of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "District"), do hereby certify that the foregoing page constitutes a true and correct copy of the proceedings taken by the Governing Authority on October 14, 2021, confirming an election date change pursuant to proclamation of the Governor; confirming the date to canvass the returns of the election; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Centerville, Louisiana, on this, the 14th day of October, 2021.

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Secretary

### Item 8. Approve group voluntary dental plan renewal for the year commencing January 1, 2022.

Mr. James Perez indicated that the St. Mary Parish School Board has maintained a voluntary group dental plan for at least 15 years with Ameritas for active employees. The renewal for January 2021-22 will include no rate adjustment, no premium contributions from the Board, and benefits will be enhanced by an increase in the out-of-pocket benefit maximum from $1,200 to $1,500.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and Mr. Barbier made a second to approve the group voluntary dental plan renewal with Ameritas for the year commencing January 1, 2022.

### Item 9. Approve group voluntary vision plan renewal for the year commencing January 1, 2022.

Mr. James Perez reported that the St. Mary Parish School Board has maintained a voluntary group vision plan for the past seven years with Davis Vision through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana. As a voluntary plan, the St. Mary Parish School Board made no contributions toward the premium for that seven-year period. However, premiums will be adjusted by nine and a half percent for this year’s renewal. The premium for the Employee Only coverage will be increased by 72 cents more per month, and $1.89 for the Employee Plus Spouse, Employee Plus Child(ren), and Employee Plus Family coverage.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and Ms. LaSalle made a second to approve the group voluntary vision plan renewal with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana for the year commencing January 1, 2022.

### Item 10. Receive update on healthcare renewals and take appropriate action.

In a follow up to the insurance workshop held prior to this meeting today, Mr. James Perez provided the Board with an update on the Medical Advantage Plan renewal for the 2022 plan year. He reported that the initial rate reduction by United Healthcare was 5 percent with no change in benefits. However, Blue Cross offered a proposal that included a 15 percent reduction and $306,000 total saving, which included some benefit enhancements. United Healthcare reconsidered and their final renewal offer included an increase from 5 percent to 10 percent and a total saving of $202,000 for the school system, which also included some benefit enhancements. Blue Cross would be adding $130 benefit for eyeglass allowance, which is not included with United Healthcare. The device allowance for hearing aids with Blue Cross is $500 per year, and $500 every three years with United Healthcare. Blue Cross added a $0 copay for preventive dental care, which requires using a United Concordia network dentist. The Post-discharge Support Program is included, to some degree with United Healthcare and Blue Cross, which includes meal delivery for members who are discharged from an inpatient stay. Transportation is offered by United Healthcare, which is not included by Blue Cross. In-home personal care is included with United Healthcare, but is not included with Blue Cross.

Currently, with the United Healthcare Medicare Advantage Plan for a high claimant with expensive prescription drugs that surpassed the true out-of-pocket threshold of $7,050, will either pay the copay of $3.95 for generic drugs, $9.85 for name-brand drugs, or 5 percent, whichever is greater. For 2022, both carriers will provide an enhanced benefit of the coinsurance or the copay to be the lesser of, which will be a substantial improvement for prescription drugs. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana also committed to allow active employees and their spouses who have both Medicare Parts A and B to enroll in the Medicare Advantage Plan.

Mr. Foulcard made a motion and Mr. Barbier made a second to approve the Medicare Advantage Plan renewal with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana for an annual employer cost savings at $306,000.

Mr. Perez provided an update on the Commercial Healthcare Plan renewal for active employees and non-Medicare retirees, which included the 2022 renewal comparison of benefit options with United Healthcare and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana as follows:

**Option 1 Option 2 Option 3**

**Insurance Carrier** United Healthcare United Healthcare BlueCross BlueShield

**Network** Choice Plus Advanced Select Plus GroupCare PPO

**Deductible In-Network** $2,000 $2,250 $2,000

**Coinsurance In-Network**  60/40 60/40 60/40

**In-Network OOP Max - per person** $6,250 $6,250 $6,250

#### Office Copay

**PCP** $40 $40/$60 $40($25 QB)

**PCP Children <19** $0 $0 $40($25 QB)

**Specialist** $60/$75 $60/$75 $55

**Hospital Copay (additional)**

**Inpatient** $0/$500 $0/$500 $0

**Outpatient** $0 $0 $0

**Pharmacy**

**Deductible** $0 $0 $0

$15/$35/$75 $15/$35/$75 $15/$40/$70

**Copays** Spec. 10% up to $150

**PLAN 1 RATE ADJUSTMENT** 23.6% 16.3% 20%

**PLAN 2 RATE ADJUSTMENT** 23.6% 16.5% 4.90%

Mr. Perez stated that the final proposal with United Healthcare for Option 1 Commercial Plan, has an increased rate adjustment of 23.6 percent for Plans 1 and 2 with no change in benefits. Option 2, the Ochsner Select Plus Plan with United Healthcare includes some wellness enhancements, and also has a $50 increase for the deductible in-network. The increased rate adjustment for Option 2, Plan 1 is 16.3 percent, and 16.5 percent for Plan 2.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana proposal for Option 3, has a $40 copay for the primary physician care and $25 if using a quality blue provider. The children primary care physician copay is $40 and $25 if using a quality blue provider. If seeing a Blue Cross network specialist, the specialist copay would be $55. There is no additional copay or deductible for inpatient or outpatient care, no deductible on pharmacy, and the prescription drug copay is $15/$40/$70 and the specialist drugs are 10 percent up to a maximum of $150. The increased rate adjustment for Option 3, Plan 1 is 20 percent, and 4.9 percent for Plan 2, which is the high deductible plan.

Mr. Perez indicated if the school board renewed Option 1 with United Healthcare with no change in benefits and accepting the 23.6% increase for the Commercial Plan and the Medicare Advantage Plan, the school board would absorb $1.6 million dollars of the $2 million financial increase. Option 2, the Ochsner Select Plus Plan with United Healthcare accepting the 16.3 percent increase on Plan 1 and 16.5 percent on Plan 2, with the employee payroll deducted increases the school board would absorb $960,000 of the $1.3 million financial increase.

Option 3, Plan 1 with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana, based on the current enrollment the financial impact would be $1.5 million increase for the school system and based on the employees premium St. Mary Parish School Board would absorb $1.2 million of the $1.5 million.

Mr. Perez noted going forward something needs to be done with how St. Mary Parish School Board has their plan funded, and start to transition from a fully insured plan to a self-funded plan where the school board can have more control over their benefits and decisions related to their health plan. Within the next 12 months, he would like to participate or provide some type of workshop to educate the Board in preparation for transitioning to a self-funded plan.

In considering the favorable plan to the rate adjustment with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana, Mrs. Griffin made a motion to move the Commercial Plan from United Healthcare to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana, and that the school board absorb the entire increase of $1.5 million, with no increase in premiums being passed on to the employees. Mr. Barbier made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

### Item 11. Approve distribution of insurance rebate.

Mr. James Perez stated based on the 2020 plan year, the St. Mary Parish School Board received a medical loss ratio rebate for the amount $188,956.91. Last year for the 2019 plan year, the entire amount of the rebate was reimbursed back to the employees. To qualify for the 2020 plan year rebate, you had to have been enrolled in a Commercial Plan (not the Medicare Advantage Plan), either as an active employee, or a retiree, for at least six months out of that plan year and still currently employed/or a retiree.

Mr. Perry stated that the rebate check would be estimated between $200 to $240 and possibly distributed before the Thanksgiving break.

Mr. Barbier made a motion and Mr. Foulcard made a second to approve the distribution of insurance rebate for the amount of $188,956.91. All in favor and the motion carried.

### Item 12. Award bids for Wyandotte Elementary Playground Equipment.

Mr. Wiese reported that sealed bids were received on September 30th at 10:00 a.m., for the Wyandotte Elementary Playground Equipment. Bids were awarded based on the completeness of bid proposal, attractiveness, style, and colors of designs with multiple play events, safety and age appropriateness, delivery and installation date, warranties, and price. Two bids were received as follows:

* Plant Recess Inc., in Baton Rouge, LA for $51,529.00
* Bliss Products and Services, in Lithia Springs, GA for $40,275.84 (Bid was determined not to have adequate play events to accommodate 75 kids with lower warranty values).

Mr. Wiese recommended awarding bid to Plant Recess in the amount of $51,529.00, which will be funded with the Wyandotte land sale with a budget not to exceed $67,000.00

Mr. Barbier made a motion and Ms. LaSalle made a second to approve bids for Wyandotte Elementary Playground equipment with Plant Recess for the amount of $51,529.00, funded with the Wyandotte land sale not exceeding $67,000.00. All in favor and the motion carried.

### Item 13. Proclamation(s):

A. School Bus Safety Week (October 18-22, 2021)

Mr. Ortiz stated Bus Safety Week is a time to recognize the importance of St. Mary Parish School Bus drivers and appreciate the invaluable contributions they make to education and student safety. Mr. Ortiz asked the Board to proclaim October 18-22, 2021, as School Bus Safety Week in St. Mary Parish and urged all citizens to support the efforts of bus drivers in reducing preventable injuries to our children.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and Mr. LaSalle made a second to approve the School Bus Safety Week Proclamation for October 18-22, 2021. All in favor and the motion carried.

B. Veterans Day (November 11 , 2021)

Mrs. Monceaux presented the Proclamation of Veterans Day. Whereas, residents of St. Mary Parish that have honorably served in the armed forces and remain actively deployed in defense of our nation. It is especially significant for educators to demonstrate and instill respect and reverence for the men and woman who have dedicated their lives to the defense of freedom.

Whereas, November 11th serves as an official day of recognition, honoring the service and sacrifice of these brave men and women. Let it therefore be resolved that the St. Mary Parish School Board recognizes the contributions of our nation’s military and devoted service to citizens of the United States, and also applaud our parish schools who commemorate Veterans Day through ceremonies, classroom activities, and moments of silence honoring our heroes.

Mr. Barbier made a motion and Ms. LaSalle made a second to approve the Veterans Day Proclamtion for November 11, 2021.

In response to Board inquires, Mrs. Monceaux said she will forward the schedule of events to Board Members once it becomes available.

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

## Committee Reports

### Update on the SPED Advisory Council Committee Meeting held on September 7, 2021: Ms. McClarity explained that Long COVID has been identified as another term for post-COVID conditions. According to the CDC, post-COVID conditions are a wide range of new, returning, or ongoing health problems students and adults can experience after being infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. Studies have shown that children of all ages may experience long COVID, which can produce a combination of symptoms. Ms. McClarity mentioned that St. Mary Schools and Special Services focus on some of the symptoms as follows:

* Tiredness or fatigue
* Difficulty thinking or concentrating (sometimes referred to as “brain fog”)Headache
* Changes in smell or taste
* Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath

Ms. McClarity stated that autistic kids usually experience some of these issues, and they should be identified in the same manner as a gifted or talented evaluation. Under federal laws if a student under Section 504 or IDEA experiences any of these symptoms from COVID, then the district is responsible for addressing the matter.

Further details can be reviewed in the Long COVID handout under Section 504 and the IDEA, which was provided to the Board to review at their leisure.

Ms. LaSalle inquired if parents are required to report if students had COVID in the summer, or when it did not require them to miss school.

Ms. McClarity responded in most instances the parent will share the student’s information, however under the privacy act they are not required to report it.

## Staff Report

**Chief Financial Officer’s Report:**

### Sale Tax Update

Mr. Perry reported that the sales tax for the third month of collections estimated at $1,344,000 versus $1,300,000 budgeted for $42,000 favorable variance.

### 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 school systems annually report student counts for the purpose of establishing funding to the State's Minimum Foundation Program. On October 1st, St. Mary reported a total of 7,663 students in grades K through 12. This official enrollment count is nearly the same as reported last year by minus 16 students, which indicates a stabilization of the annual student losses that the district has experienced over the last several years. A second student count will be calculated on February 1st, which also factors into the overall Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) budget for the district.

The sudden loss of District II, School Board Member, Ms. Sylvia Lockett will necessitate that the Board meets to appoint a representative to fill the seat of District II Board Member until a special election can be held. Board policy dictates that the vacancy be filled within 20 days, and that the Board call for a special election. Notification has been made to the Secretary of State's Office. Dr. Bagwell asked that the Board consider scheduling a special meeting to fulfill the appointment of District II Board Member.

# Board Comments:

President Alfred scheduled a special meeting on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.,in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana, to discuss the following:

Approve Declaration of Vacancy in Position of School Board Member, District II, St. Mary Parish School Board and Proclamation calling Special Election to fill such vacancy.

Appoint a representative to temporarily fill the seat of District II, School Board Member until the Special Election.

Ms. LaSalle inquired about the criteria in replacing District II position.

Attorney Hammonds responded that the requirements are as follows:

* Must be over the age of 18
* Must be able to read and write
* Must have lived in the election district for at least one year.

# Any other Business as Allowed by Act 131

None

## Closing

## Resolutions of Respect

Mrs. Bergeron read the Resolution of Respect for the late Sylvia Kay Lockett (retired school principal and active school board member).

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