# Centerville, Louisiana

June 10, 2021

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, June 10, 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:** Ms. Sylvia K. Lockett, Mrs. Pearl B. Rack, Mr. Michael E. Taylor, Mr. Dwight D. Barbier, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Mr. Roland H. Verret, Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred.

**Absent:** Mr. Joseph C. Foulcard, Jr., Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Mr. Wayne J. Deslatte, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle.

## Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Stadalis gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

## Approval of Amended Agenda

There were no amended agenda items to approve.

## Approval of Official School Board Minutes

Mrs. Rack offered the motion and Mr. Taylor offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the regular meeting held on May 13, 2021, as presented. All in favor and the motion carried.

Ms. Lockett offered the motion and Mr. Barbier offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the special meeting held on May 27, 2021, as presented. All in favor and the motion carried.

President Alfred thanked Board Members for attending the special meeting. He indicated that board member Ms. Sylvia K. Lockett was not able to attend the meeting and that she requested to make a statement regarding the special meeting.

Ms. Lockett apologized for not being able to attend the special meeting due to medical obligations. She indicated that she would have joined the other colleagues in voting unanimously for the $2,000 stipend for all employees. Ms. Lockett said, “I do want to make you all understand when Dr. Bagwell called me, I made sure that I understood clearly that it was for all employees, I asked her several questions, and she assured me that it was for all employees. Prior to the meeting I received several phone calls, phone calls from sub bus drivers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and I assured them that I have been assured that it will be for all employees. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank our employees, and I am sure my co-workers would like to thank them as well, for always doing what is in the best interest for the children of St Mary Parish.”

## 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

## Business Affairs:

### **Item 1.** \*Award Bids:

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

B. \*Maintenance Department: Custodial supplies

### **Item 2.** \*Approve renewal of current egg, juice, specified dry and canned foods, specified frozen foods, specified small equipment, specified paper and cleaning supplies contracts.

### **Item 3.** \*Approve a newspaper to serve as the official journal for the school board

### for the year commencing July 1, 2021.

### **Item 4.** \*Approve Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire of audit engagement entities.

**Item 5.** \*Authorize official school board minutes to include 2020 board member transcriptsreflecting compliance with Act 705 requirements of meeting six (6) hours of annual training:

### A. Mr. Joseph C. Foulcard, Jr. G. Mr. Wayne J. Deslatte

### B. Ms. Sylvia K. Lockett H. Mr. Michael E. Taylor

### C. Mr. Kenneth E. “Kenny” Alfred I. Mrs. Alaina L. Black

### D. Mrs. Pearl B. Rack J. Mr. Dwight D. Barbier

### E. Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin K. Mr. Roland H. Verret

### F. Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle

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

## Appearances:

Recognition of Top Word-Millionaires in St. Mary Parish:

On behalf of Ms. Sarah Broussard in her absence, Mrs. Niki Fryou recognized the Top Word-Millionaires in St. Mary Parish as follows:

* 2020 Top Word Millionaire (Secondary): Zoe Miller, 11th grader at Patterson High school.

Zoe was unable to attend the meeting, but she will receive a gift certificate and a $50 gift card for reading 4,841,325 words.

* 2021 Top Word Millionaire (Secondary): Angela Mardrid-Marquez, 6th grader at Morgan City Junior High School.

Angela was presented a gift certificate and a $50 gift card for reading 3,380,719 words.

**Item 6.** Approve banking resolutions authorizing signatories at various schools as a result

of recent appointments.

Mr. Perry indicated that the banking resolutions authorizing signatories are procedural, due to recent appointments at Hattie Watts Elementary School and M. E. Norman Elementary School. He asked that the Board approve the resolutions.

Mr. Barbier made a motion to approve banking resolutions authorizing signatories at various schools as a result of recent appointments. Mrs. Black made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

### **Item 7.** Approve resolution for Position on ACT Index Changes.

Dr. Bagwell indicated that over the last several months, the Accountability Commission has been meeting to address some changes on how school performance scores and district performance scores are calculated. With Board approval, the current resolution would be sent to the members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, which addresses the changes that are being promoted for the ACT. Mainly, the inclusion of “bands” for ACT calculations, currently a student would have to score perfect to get 150, that would be banded to 27 and above. Secondly, students would continue to get credit for WorkKeys tests as part of the ACT index, and finally students would actually get credit for a score of 17. Currently, if a student scores a 17 on the ACT, they received no points to the school's performance score. However, a student who scored a 17 on the ACT qualifies for a TOPS Tech award. The Superintendent's Association, LSBA, as well as members of LDOE promoted the idea of giving some credit on the school performance score for an ACT of 17. Dr. Bagwell asked for Board to approve the resolution.

Mrs. Rack made a motion and Ms. Lockett made a second to approve the resolution for Position on ACT Index Changes. All in favor and the motion carried.

### **Item 8.** Approve resolution for Position of Requesting a Federal Accountability Waiver.

Dr. Bagwell stated that every state has the option to request a waiver of school performance or district performance scores for the year 2020 - 2021. Due to the pandemic, and the disruption that it caused to public education not only in the opening of school but also in the quarantine of students because of COVID. The current resolution asked for the board to urge BESE, and the State Superintendent of Education to take advantage of this flexibility waiver option being offered by the Federal Government currently to waive school performance scores and district performance scores for the 2020 - 2021 school year only given the disruption to public education due to the pandemic.

Mrs. Black made a motion to approve the resolution for Position of Requesting a Federal Accountability Waiver. Ms. Lockett made a motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

### **Item 9:** Approve resolution Thanking the Community.

Dr. Bagwell stated that the resolution “Thanking the Community” also comes from the Louisiana School Board Association. It is just a formal resolution to offer our thanks to our community partners and to our parents especially for their trust in us and keeping their kids safe and educating them throughout the pandemic.

Ms. Lockett made a motion to approve resolution “Thanking the Community.” Mr. Barbier made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

**Staff Report:**

Mr. Wiese reported that the maintenance department was struggling to find custodial and maintenance staff. Currently, seven custodians and four maintenance personnel are needed across the parish. Also, the availability of getting supplies has been a long delay, which pushed back some of the summer projects that he is trying to get completed. He indicated that the school system has received approval to use some of the ESSER funds to replace roofs across the parish and has already engaged in a company to do a roofing survey across the parish.

Morgan City High School HVAC project in District III has all supplies on site, and it is moving along well. Mr. Wiese also stated that every summer the City of Morgan City utilizes the gym area at M. D. Shannon Elementary School, where the chiller “is on its last leg.” The school system is trying not to spend a significant amount of money on the chiller, but still provide service in the building for the summer camp.

President Alfred asked if the contract between St. Mary Parish School Board and the City of Morgan City outline who was responsible for the maintenance of the Shannon building. Mr. Wiese responded he did not think so, and it would be a large expense if the School Board were to fix it.

Superintendent Bagwell stated that she and Chief Financial Officer Alton Perry met with Morgan City Mayor Lee Dragna a few months ago to discuss the future of Shannon. She also said, “The city does have obviously a significant interest in utilizing the building, so we will be looking to host another meeting with them now that this information has come to light just to talk about the future of the building.”

Mr. Taylor stated at the District Maintenance Committee Meetings, the committee discussed several large projects, which could possibly be funded with federal funds, but was unsure of the answer at the time. Mr. Taylor then asked Mr. Wiese if he was aware of what projects could be handled through the federal funds. Mr. Wiese responded that after reading through the ESSER documentation, it was a very broad and open idea as to what gets funded and what does not get funded. St. Mary’s largest project is HVAC, which would be covered through the ESSER funds. Mr. Wiese also said, “We haven't gone that way yet on how we defer some of those costs into the ESSER program, but that is something that I'm sure we will look at doing and we just haven't gotten there yet.” Mr. Wiese will provide an update at the July 8, 2021, meeting.

## Chief Financial Officer’s Report

## Sales Tax Update

Mr. Perry reported that the sales tax collections for the month of May were projected at $1.447 million, which is ahead of budget due to its audit.

## Financial Statements (Major Funds Only)

Mr. Perry stated that the financial statements were not available, due to the new accounting software.

## Other Significant Items

Mr. Perry stated that the health insurance plan summary he had just received prior to the meeting was not in the board packet. He indicated that a meeting was held with United Healthcare, and they are trying to start the process early. The January and February numbers of the loss ratios were a little bit better at 82.63 percent loss ratio in January and 91 percent in February, and that is comparing to the end of last year at 107 percent and 127 percent. Mr. Perry said, “We want those numbers to be around 80 precent, so they are looking a little better, and we are hoping in the next couple of months we'll continue to get some good numbers.” “And at that point, we'll get a renewal from them on both of our plans, and we will go from there as to whether we want to bid out or whatever, as you know bidding out, there is only one other company that is able to compete and that is Blue Cross, but we will present everything to the board as we learn.” More information should be available within the next month or so for the MAP Plan (Medicare Advantage Plan) and two or three months for the employees’ health insurance plan.

## Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Bagwell reported that teacher’s and administrator’s training have begun in earnest this week as educators focus on their own professional learning throughout the summer. On Tuesday, administrators delved into the process of setting clear and meaningful expectations for the upcoming school year, considering all the changes that were initiated this year. Additionally, teachers and principals from across the district spent these last couple of days, learning about the impacts of building trust-based relationships with children to support their learning. Workshops are scheduled for technology integration, reading intervention, and many other critical topics throughout the summer.

In conclusion, Dr. Bagwell thanked all the students and teachers who have made the district's first week of Summer Adventure Camp, a huge success. She appreciates all the hard work that teachers have put into the camp in making it a great opportunity for the kids.

## Comments from the Board

Mr. Taylor inquired about the date for the annual School Board Member Workshop. Dr. Bagwell replied that the workshop is scheduled on Thursday, July 22, 2021, starting at 8:00 a.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex.

## Any other Business as Allowed by Act 131

None

## Closing

## Resolution of Respect

Mr. Stadalis read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Willie W. Jacko, Jr. (retired teacher and coach) and Matilda D. Parker (retired teacher).

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