# Centerville, Louisiana

April 8, 2021

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, April 8, 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:** Mrs. Pearl B. Rack, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Mr. Michael E. Taylor, Mr. Dwight D. Barbier, Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred.

**Absent:** Mr. Joseph C. Foulcard Jr., Ms. Sylvia K. Lockett, Mr. Wayne J. Deslatte, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Mr. Roland H. Verret.

With only five board members present and six absent, there was no quorum.

President Alfred stated without a quorum, the Board can only address agenda items that do not require a vote.

**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**

**Centerville Elementary School:**

Assistant Principal Angela Brinkley introduced 4th grader Evelyn Jimenez as “Student of the Month” at Centerville Elementary School. She is accompanied by her mother and siblings. Evelyn has been on the principal’s list every year, with a 4.0 grade point average. She is a hard worker and always eager to learn new things. She is a member of the elementary Lighthouse Team, and she has also led Virtual Awards assemblies and helped with community involvement activities. Her favorite subject in school is science, and she enjoys baking and drawing in her spare time. Evelyn wants to become a baker when she gets older.

Assistant Principal Angela Brinkley introduced Kasey Trahan, 3rd grade Math/Science Teacher as “Employee of the Month” at Centerville Elementary School. She is accompanied by her husband and two sons. In her 16 years as an educator in St. Mary Parish, she has taught first, fourth, and fifth grade at M. D. Shannon Elementary School, and for the past six years she has taught third grade at Centerville Elementary School. Mrs. Trahan is a team player, always offering to assist with events around the school. When students need extra help, or teachers are needed to lead extra activities in the school she is always willing to step up and contribute her time. She does whatever she can to assist students and Centerville Elementary School.

**Patterson Junior High School:**

Principal Lauren Rentrop introduced 8th grader Vincent Byrd Jr. (“BJ”) as “Student of the Month” at Patterson Junior High School. He has many accomplishments during his four years at Patterson Junior High School. As a top honors student, BJ has received the honor of being recognized as a nominee for this year’s eighth grade Student of the Year. He is a past member of the Beta Honor Society, and he is very passionate about math. BJ has earned all A’s this school year, resulting in being a member of the Principal’s List Club. He is not only a leader in the classroom, but on the field as well. As a school athlete, BJ has played starting center for the Lumberjack football team and starting first and third baseman for the Lumberjack baseball team. Aside from excelling academically and athletically, BJ wins the heart of all the faculty with great respect, polite manners, and exceptional conduct. After graduating from Patterson Junior High School, he will attend Patterson High School and hopes to one day become a police officer. BJ stated, as he enters this new chapter going on to high school, he will miss the teachers and principals of Patterson Junior High School.

Principal Lauren Rentrop introduced 5th grader Madeline Guillot as “Student of the Month” at Patterson Junior High School. Madeline said she is a very proud Lumberjack of Patterson Junior High School. She has earned all A’s this school year and is also a member of the Principal’s List Club. She is the only 5th grader who is an active member of the Patterson Junior High School Peer Leaders Club. She is always excited to learn, she is an active participant in class discussions, and she is never afraid to ask questions and always willing to help others. As a top honors student, Madeline has also received the honor of being recognized as a nominee for this year’s fifth grade Student of the Year. She plans to attend Patterson High School when she graduates from Patterson Junior High School, and then Nicholls State University to major in culinary art, within the Chef John Folse Culinary Arts Institute.

Principal Lauren Rentrop introduced Chakeia Hartman, Cafeteria Manager as “Employee of the Month” at Patterson Junior High School. Mrs. Hartman joined Patterson Junior High School mid-year of this year and has proved to be more than just a chief. It is with love, organization, passion, and talent that Mrs. Hartman reaches the tummies of almost 500 individuals daily for both breakfast and lunch. Her love and passion, and service is evident through all the extras that do not go unnoticed. Whether, it is the sound of music playing while dining, or going the extra mile of handing out raffle tickets. It goes without saying that Mrs. Hartman has conformed the Lumberjack mess hall into more of an exciting dining experience. Aside from her skills in the kitchen, she executes incredible management and leadership roles, demonstrating order and execution daily. She takes great pride in the effort and morale of her coworkers and loves her staff dearly. Patterson Junior High School is blessed to have Mrs. Hartman. Principal Rentrop stated that, she is very proud to present Mrs. Hartman the honor and recognition as “Employee of the Month.”

**West St. Mary High School:**

Principal Donald Sanders introduced 12th grader Chloe Dupre as “Student of the Month” at West St. Mary High School. She is accompanied by her mother. Chloe has maintained a 4.0 grade point average since her entrance into West St. Mary High School. Her instructor for Biology I, as well as her cheerleading coach said, Chloe has consistently exemplified a great work ethic and remarkable outstanding academic excellence, which has made her an absolute pleasure to teach and ultimately to work with. She is truly meticulous; it was not a surprise when she achieved mastery on all of her LEAP 2025 exams in high school. In addition to her outstanding academic abilities, she has participated in several extracurricular activities while at West St. Mary High School. Chloe has been an active member of the 4-H Club, Beta Club, National Honor Society, West St. Mary High School’s Cheerleading team, and the announcer for the West St. Mary High School morning circle. Equally important she is the 2021 Student of the Year and the Senior Class President of West St. Mary High School. When Chloe is not being active on campus, she spends the remainder of her time at the Dance Factory in New Iberia Louisiana, where she is a senior dancer and occasionally an instructor. Chloe has fostered an extreme love for animals since she was a toddler, and that is when she decided to become a veterinarian. She plans to attend LSU in the fall.

Principal Donald Sanders introduced Launa Metz, Math/Business Teacher as “Employee of the Month” at West St. Mary High School. She is accompanied by her mother. Ms. Metz is a fourth-year teacher at West St. Mary High School. She is a 2016 graduate of Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana, and a 2020 Master’s of Education graduate of Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. Ms. Metz teaches financial literacy, business management and the principles of business with a customer service certification component. She is also the head volleyball coach, assistant softball coach and advisor of the Future Business Leaders of America, and both a junior and senior class sponsor. She is dedicated and above all solution-oriented and professional. When Ms. Metz is not coaching or teaching, she is assisting in the front office and providing technical support and feedback to other educators and students. Likewise with the changes that COVID-19 pandemic has warranted, she has helped tremendously with the transitioning of students and teachers to a more electronically inclined atmosphere that is both needed for today's education, and student safety. Her favorite part of teaching is being able to reach and teach kids on a personal level. For the remainder of the year, her goal is to do just that, as many of the senior students embark on a new journey to college and work life.

## Appearances:

Recognition of 2021-2022 St. Mary Parish Principal of the Year.

Mrs. Bergeron recognized Mrs. Shantell Toups as “Principal of the Year” at J. S. Aucoin Elementary School. She is accompanied by her son and coworkers. She began her teaching career at Hattie Watts Elementary, as a resource teacher for part of the year in 1999-2000. She transferred to Patterson High School to teach algebra and geometry for one year, then moved on to Patterson Junior High School, where she taught fourth grade until 2011. She was appointed at Shannon Elementary as the curriculum facilitator for three years, and then her administrative tenure includes serving two years as assistant principal at Berwick Elementary. Mrs. Toups decided to try principalship, where she served as principal at Shannon Elementary for one year before it closed. Since 2016, Mrs. Toups has served as principal at J. S. Aucoin Elementary. She holds a reading specialist degree, two master’s degrees, and she achieved her master’s degree plus 30 in 2014. Mrs. Toups will be presented at the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit in New Orleans on May 25th as a Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) semifinalist.

**Item 10:**  Receive Group Health Insurance Premium to Claims Summary.

Ms. Emmi Romero, Account Executive at DWJ Insurance provided an overview of the 2020 health insurance year. Ms. Romero reported with the 101% simple loss ratio over all of 2020 was generally identical to the 2019 claims. The drug costs, increased from 24.8% in 2019 to 31.8% in 2020. She indicated that they were very fortunate to negotiate an extremely low increase for the 2021 plan years. The school board is currently paying in total premium for the Commercial and MAP (Medicare Advantage Program) Plan, less than the total premium paid as far back as 2013. She stated now that the negotiations are done for the 2021 year and open enrollment has been successfully finished, they are already approaching preparation for the 2022 renewal on negotiations. Ms. Romero stated that she still does not have reports for next year’s renewals on the Commercial Plan for active employees and retirees not on Medicare but expects to receive the Medicare Advantage Plan renewal for 2022 on July 1st. In 2020, the COVID-19 claims related to the St. Mary Parish School Board, were $40 spent on vaccines, versus $6,300 spent in 2021. In 2020, $29,000 was spent on testing, and only $8,000 in 2021. In 2020, there were $543,000 in confirmed diagnosis claims, and about $56,000 in 2021. There has been a total of 204 confirmed cases within the school board since the start of COVID-19 last year. Currently, they have 290 total individuals vaccinated as of the end of March, and 54 are fully vaccinated.

## Committee Reports:

## Set time and dates for District Maintenance Committees Special Projects Meetings:

## Mr. Wiese asked the Board for their input on setting the time and dates for all three District Maintenance Committee Meetings. Selected dates are as follows:

## District I Committee Meeting: May 11, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

## District II Committee Meeting: May 11, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

## District III Committee Meeting: May 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

**Discipline Committee Meeting:**

Mr. Holmes reported that the St. Mary Parish Discipline Committee met on Thursday, March 25, 2021 to review recent changes in the student uniform policy that were adopted by the full Board. Committee members recommended that the changes be added into the Student Code of Conduct that will be provided to our parents at the opening of the 2021-2022 school year. The committee also discussed potential changes regarding consequences for tobacco use and vaping as a major, intended to decrease the use of such products on our school campuses. Finally, the committee, debated the relevance of the zero tolerance policy guidelines and determined that more latitude should be given to our school administrators, when making the decision to contact law enforcement in certain manners. A list of detailed recommendations will be included for board review and adoption, with the updated Student Code of Conduct later this summer.

**Staff Report:**

**Chief Financial Officer’s Report:**

#### Sales Tax Update

Mr. Perry reported the sales tax collections at nine months through the fiscal year were flat this month at $272.00 favorable versus budget and $763,000 for the year, which is primarily because of a one-time audit.

**Financial Statements (Major Funds Only)**

Financial statements are not available, due to some complications of a computer conversion. Mr. Perry said, soon as we get them, hopefully we will have some more meaningful statements and, hopefully a more meaningful budget or easier to read budget for this upcoming budget adoption.

**Other Significant Items**

None

### Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Bagwell thanked voters of St. Mary Parish for their overwhelming approval of the school district’s sales tax proposition.

LEAP testing will begin in high schools next week with elementary and middle schools administering the core area tests in the next two weeks. With the deployment of student laptops, testing will be able to occur within the classroom primarily, allowing computer labs to be dedicated to specialized situations.

St. Mary Parish will host Special Olympics on May 7th at the Berwick High School stadium.

**Comments from the Board on the sales tax proposition which passed on March 20, 2021:**

Mr. Taylor stated that he felt so appreciative to everybody that worked so hard to see that the sales tax election passed by an overwhelming majority of almost a two to one margin. At next month's meeting, he will put an item on the agenda to change the Gold Book to reflect the raises of $3,000 for teachers and $1500 for support staff.

President Alfred thanked everyone who supported the sales tax for teacher raises. He thanked Dr. Bagwell for rallying the troops and providing excellent transparent explanation to the general public. He thanked Mr. Taylor, for introducing the sales tax proposal and also taking care of all the stipulations involved with the process. He also thanked Mayor Lee Dragna, with the city of Morgan City, St. Mary Parish Councilman James Bennett, and Chairman Dean Adams for all their support. In closing, President Alfred congratulated all employees of the St. Mary Parish School Board for finally seeing a well-deserved salary increase.

**Entered into Recess:**

President Alfred called for a 10-minute recess to allow board member Mr. Joseph Foulcard time to arrive at meeting to acquire a quorum to continue meeting.

**Returned from Recess:**

After the time of recess expired, President Alfred stated that board member Mr. Joseph Foulcard would not be attending the meeting, which prohibits the Board from continuing the board meeting without a quorum and the meeting adjourned.