Centerville, Louisiana

January 14, 2021

 The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, January 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., Ms. Sylvia K. Lockett, Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Mr. Wayne J. Deslatte, Mrs. Pearl B. Rack, Mr. Dwight D. Barbier, Mr. Roland H. Verret, Mr. Michael E. Taylor.

Absent: Mrs. Alaina L. Black.

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

United States of America.

# Elections of Officers (Two Year Term):

Outgoing President Taylor thanked the Board for electing him to serve as president for the past four years. He also thanked the Board for the tough decisions made of putting students back into the classrooms during this unusual pandemic school year, and lastly he thanked the Board for unanimously voting to support the .45 percent sales tax proposition.

 Vice-President Rack thanked the Board for electing her to serve as vice-president. Mrs. Rack stated that her duties as vice-president were very easy, and she would like to see the president contribute more duties to the approaching vice-president.

 Superintendent Bagwell opened the floor up to nominations for the office of president for a two-year term. The following were nominated: Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred (nominated by Mr. Wayne J. Deslatte), Mrs. Pearl B. Rack (nominated by Ms. Sylvia K. Lockett). Mr. Taylor made a motion, and Mr. Barbier made a second to close nominations for president. All in favor, and the motion carried. Dr. Bagwell asked board members to verbally vote for Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred or Mrs. Pearl B. Rack to serve as president, the results are as follows: Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred (7 votes), and Mrs. Pearl B. Rack (2 votes). Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred was declared President. Mr. Alfred thanked Mr. Deslatte for nominating him and thanked the Board for their support to have him serve as president. He thanked Mr. Taylor for serving 30 years as a board member and four years as president. He then thanked Mrs. Rack for her hard work performed as vice-president, and that she is a valuable member of the Board.

 President Alfred then called for nominations for the office of vice-president for a two-year term. The following were nominated: Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle (nominated by Mrs. Ginger Griffin), Mrs. Pearl B. Rack (nominated by Ms. Sylvia K. Lockett). Mr. Deslatte made a motion, and Mr. Verret made a second to close nominations for vice-president. All in favor, and the motion carried. A roll call vote for nominations of vice-president are as follows: Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle (7 votes), and Mrs. Pearl B. Rack (3 votes). Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle was declared vice-president.

# Introduction of Students and Employees of the Month

## B. E. Boudreaux Middle School:

 Assistant Principal Michelle Bishop introduced 8th grader Kelsey August as “Student of the Month” at B. E. Boudreaux Middle School. She was also chosen by her peers at B. E. Boudreaux Middle School as “Student of the Year.” Kelsey is 14 years old and enjoys dancing, reading, and playing volleyball. She is a member of the B. E. Boudreaux Middle School Cheerleading team, dance club, band, Student Council, and the Black History Program Committee. For the past 10 years she has been a student at Cara Studio of Dance in Franklin, where she has learned different dance techniques. Kelsey loves to read when she is at home relaxing. She has a strong relationship with her classrooms as well as her teachers. When she completes her journey at West St. Mary High School, she would like to attend college at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana with a double major of school law and accounting. After graduating from Southern University her goal is to attend Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge to receive a degree in sports management. Kelsey said, being chosen as “Student of the Year” by a group of the most outstanding students at B. E. Boudreaux Middle School was a great honor that she will cherish forever.

 Assistant Principal Michelle Bishop introduced English teacher Anita Morgel as “Employee of the Month” at B. E. Boudreaux Middle School. Ms. Morgel began her career in education in 2001 and began teaching in Terrebonne Parish. In the last six years, she has been teaching English in St. Mary Parish, of which the last four years have been at B. E. Boudreaux Middle School. After school hours she enjoys relaxing at home watching her favorite TV show “NCIS.” She has a passion for teaching and for her students, she is a team player who is always willing to help her co-workers. Ms. Morgel is honored as a colleague to be elected as “Employee of the Month” at B. E. Boudreaux Middle School.

## Hattie Watts Elementary School:

 Due to illness, the introduction of student and employee of the month will be postponed until the February 11, 2021 meeting.

## Raintree Elementary School:

 Principal Tonya Hills introduced 5th grader Tyren Austin as “Student of the Month” at Raintree Elementary School. He is accompanied by his mother and brother. Tyren is a fifth-grade student who is a member of the Beta Club and a variety of clubs. He is also in talented theatre, talented art, and gifted. He enjoys playing football, basketball, and baseball. Tyren is a very giving, fun, and compassionate person. He is a team player, who is always looking for ways to help, and encourage his fellow peers.

 Principal Tonya Hills introduced Pre-Kindergarten Roxanne Smith as “Employee of the Month” at Raintree Elementary School. She is accompanied by her husband, who she wants to express her appreciation for all that he has done and continues to do, to support her in her career choice. Mrs. Smith is the Pre-Kindergarten teacher where she has taught for almost twelve years. Before coming to Raintree, she taught at Mary Hines Elementary and Foster Elementary. She has 21 years of teaching experience. In her free time, she likes to travel, loves to read, and teach. Early Childhood education has always been her focus because she believes that creating a positive learning environment, both socially and cognitively, for a young child’s first education experience will better help form the foundation for how they will approach their lifelong educational journey.

# Approval of Amended Agenda

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mrs. Rack made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

# Approval of Official School Board Minutes

 Mr. Barbier made a motion to approve the public hearing minutes held before the regular meeting on December 10, 2020 at 4:45 p.m. Ms. LaSalle made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

 Ms. Lockett offered the motion, Mrs. Rack offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the regular meeting held on December 10, 2020. 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:

## Item 1: \*Approval of revised policies from Forethought Consulting:

###  A. \*Suspension (JDD)

###  B. \*Sick Leave (GBRIB)

###  C. \*Teleconference /Remote Participation in School Board Meetings (BCAD)

## Item 4: \*Authorize RFP or negotiation process for property insurance for the year commencing April 1, 2021.

## Item 5: \*Authorize RFP or negotiation process for workers compensation insurance for the year commencing May 1, 2021.

## Item 8: \*Permission to allow the United States Department of Agriculture to remove feral pigs for 16 Section land known as Cypremort Point 420 acres over a period of five years.

## Item 9: \*Permission to fund a new electrical service for the Crowell Elementary building estimated cost $20,000.

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

# Business Affairs:

## Item 1D: Emergency Family and Medical Leave (EFMLA) and Emergency Paid Sick Leave (COVID-19 Pandemic) (GBRIBC)

 Dr. Bagwell explained that the provisions of this policy based on the Families First Coronavirus (FFCRA), which was enacted by the Unites States Congress had expired on December 31, 2020. She asked that the Board approve extending the provisions until June 30, 2021.

 Mrs. Rack made a motion to approve the Emergency Family and Medical Leave (EFMLA) and Emergency Paid Sick Leave (COVID-19 Pandemic) (GBRIBC) until June 30, 2021. Mr. Verret made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 2. Receive information and take appropriate action in support of St. Mary Excel’s Resolution of Support for a National Estuarine Research Reserve Designation in St. Mary Parish.

 Ms. Catherine Holcomb, Ms. Margaret Theriot, and Ms. Kelly Lind Boudreaux representing St. Mary Excel, presented a PowerPoint presentation with a brief explanation on the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) system. A meeting will be held at the Morgan City Municipal Auditorium on Friday, January 22, 2021 at 9 a.m. with further details. They asked the Board to consider approving the resolution of support for a National Estuarine Research Reserve Designation in St. Mary Parish.

 ­­­­­­­­­­Mr. Taylor commented that this program would fit very well with public education, and he thinks it would be a great asset for St. Mary Parish. Mr. Taylor then moved to approve St. Mary Excel’s Resolution of Support for a National Estuarine Research Reserve Designation in St. Mary Parish. Ms. Lockett made a second.

 Mr. Foulcard stated that his brother Albert Foulcard met with President Carter at the White House in 1979 to discuss this same program, and that the fishing pier at Burns Point was named in honor of Albert Foulcard.

 With no further discussion. All in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 3: Set day, time, and place for Regular Monthly School Board Meeting.

 Mrs. Rack inquired if the meetings in May would interfere with graduations. Mr. Alfred stated that graduations are not scheduled on the same day of the board meeting.

 Mrs. Rack moved that the regular monthly school board meeting of the St. Mary Parish School Board be held on the second Thursday of each month, at 5:00 P.M., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex.  Ms. LaSalle gave a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 6: Proclamations:

###  A. Louisiana School Board Member Recognition Month (January 2021):

 Dr. Bagwell read aloud the Louisiana School Board Member Recognition Month Proclamation for January 2021 as follows:

~Louisiana School Board Member Recognition Month~

 Whereas, the education of Louisiana’s school-aged children is the foundation upon which the economic, social, and intellectual capital of our state is built; and

 Whereas, locally elected school boards play an important and vital role in a representative democracy and an ever-changing world, and decisions made by local boards of education directly influence instruction in Louisiana’s public schools; and

 Whereas, these decisions affect the present and future lives of children, and, also set direction to prepare all students to be competitive in a local, state, national, and global 21st century economy; an

Whereas, local school board members work with parents, businesses, education professionals, all elected officials and other community members to create the educational visions we want for our students; and

 Whereas, this year’s theme – *SCHOOL BOARDS MATTER! Navigating to Success* – reflects the relevance of local school board members as they advocate for public education with local, state, and federal leaders; an

 Whereas, the true commitment of local school board members was evident in their work to implement and maintain a safe environment for all students, faculty, staff, and administrators amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

 Whereas, School Board Recognition Month provides an opportunity to build stronger relationships between the thousands of people in Louisiana who champion the mission of public education and school board members; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the St. Mary Parish School Board recognizes the contributions of the state’s local school boards to the academic success of its public-school students and expresses its sincerest recognition to the local school board members for their focus on the well-being and achievement of children throughout the state; and be it finally

 Resolved, that the St. Mary Parish School Board declares January 2021 as School Board Member Recognition Month and encourages local school districts and community leaders to appropriately recognize our state’s dedicated school board members.

 Mrs. Lockett made a motion to approve the Louisiana School Board Recognition Month for January 2021, as presented by Dr. Bagwell. Mrs. Griffin made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

###  B. Louisiana Literacy Week (January 25-29, 2021).

 Mrs. Fryou asked that the Board approve the Louisiana Literacy Week Proclamation for January 25-29, 2021.

~PROCLAMATION~

WHEREAS, Louisiana Literacy Week has been proclaimed in recognition of the vital importance of literacy in our lives, schools, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the St. Mary Parish School Board affirms the system’s dedication toward improving literacy among all its students; and

 WHEREAS, the ability to read and write is the gateway to educational excellence and a key to success in our democratic society; and

 WHEREAS, the ability to read is fundamental to leading a full and productive life, in our knowledge-based society; and

WHEREAS, illiteracy is causing irreparable damage to our society and for those who are unable to read with sufficient skill to function in today’s world; and

WHEREAS, the constant battle against illiteracy calls for concerted efforts on behalf of all stakeholders to take action and mobilize all necessary resources to address our community’s literacy needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, the week of January 25-29, 2021 is recognized as

 Literacy Week in St. Mary Parish focusing on the development of literacy and instilling in our young people an appreciation for the gift of reading.

I hereby certify the above is a true and correct copy of a proclamation adopted by the St. Mary Parish School Board in Regular Session on January 14, 2021.

 Mr. Barbier made the motion to approve the proclamation declaring the week of January 25-29, 2021, as Louisiana Literacy Week.  Ms. LaSalle made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

###  C. National African American History Month (February 2021).

 Mr. Stadalis read aloud the National African American History Month Proclamation for February 2021 as follows:

~National African American History Month~

WHEREAS, the month of February has officially been declared as National African American

History Month; and

 WHEREAS, the St. Mary Parish School Board recognizes the significant contributions that

African Americans have made to this great nation; and

 WHEREAS, it is critical that as an educational institution we acknowledge the pivotal role African Americans have played in our nation’s history along with their many contributions to present and future generations of Americans;

 NOW LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED that the St. Mary Parish School Board acknowledges and fully supports observance of National African American History Month by St. Mary Parish educators and students. The Board advocates that observances develop an appreciation and awareness of the historical role of America’s ethnic groups and their unique contribution to its history.

Signed this day of January 14, 2021.

 Mrs. Rack made a motion to approve the National African American History Month Proclamation for February 2021. Ms. LaSalle second, all in favor the motion carried.

###  D. National School Counseling Week (February 1-5, 2021).

 Dr. Fegenbush stated that the National School Counseling Week will be nationally recognized this year during the week of February 1-5, 2021.  Sponsored by the American School Counselor Association.  The week seeks to highlight the unique contribution of school counselors, and the tremendous impact they have in helping students achieve school success and planning for a career.  Dr. Fegenbush asked that St. Mary Parish join the nation and recognize the professional school counselors, and proclaim February 1-5, 2021, as National School Counseling Week.

~Proclamation~

WHEREAS, school counselors are employed in public and private schools to help students reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, school counselors are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents as these traits relate to career awareness and development; and

WHEREAS, school counselors help parents focus on ways to further the educational, personal, and social growth of their children; and

WHEREAS, school counselors work with teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set realistic goals for themselves; and

WHEREAS, school counselors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can enhance and complement comprehensive school counseling programs and help students become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive developmental school counseling programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in school;

Therefore, St. Mary Parish School Board do hereby proclaim February 1-5, 2021, as National School Counseling Week.

 Mr. Barbier made a motion to approve the proclamation declaring the week of February 1-5, 2021, as National School Counseling Week, as presented by Dr. Fegenbush.  Ms. Lockett gave a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## 7. Permission to advertise for bids:

###  A. Hunting and Trapping Lease Possum Bayou (Section 16, Township 16 South,

 Range 11 East).

 Mr. Wiese indicated that the 640 acres Possum Bayou Hunting and Trapping Lease is for one-year, with the option to renew from year-to-year nine times for a maximum lease term of ten years. The current annual lease payment is $26,600. He asked the Board for permission to advertise bids for the Possum Bayou Hunting and Trapping Lease.

 Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve to advertise for bid hunting and trapping lease Possum Bayou (Section 16, Township 16 South, Range 11 East). Mr. Foulcard made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

Staff Reports

## Chief Financial Officer’s Report:

### Sales Tax Update

Mr. Perry reported that sales tax collections for the month of December 2020 was $1.192 million, down $43,000 from what was budgeted. Overall collections are up $172,000 year-to-date.

### Financial Statements (Major Funds Only)

 Financial statements were not available.

### Other Significant Items:

 Mr. Perry reported that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has released its mileage reimbursement rate for business travel for the calendar year 2021. The new rate of 56.0 cents per mile is effective January 1, 2021. The Board does not need to take action.

 In reporting on annual funding received from the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP), Mr. Perry stated that St. Mary lost about 445 students between the February 1st and October 1st counts in 2020, due to COVID-19. The St. Mary Parish School System will receive $443,000 less per month from now until June for a total of $2.6 million, which is less than the school system budgeted. Mr. Perry said it is difficult to fund those types of cuts this late in the year because most of the expenditures are salary benefits, and schedules are set.

 Ms. Rack inquired if COVID-19 was possibly the cause of the 445 lost students in St. Mary. Dr. Bagwell responded that it is possible because of the movement of people, maybe for employment purposes or whatever, as COVID-19 began to shut down industries or small businesses.

 Ms. LaSalle expressed that she does not see how it is related to COVID-19. Mr. Perry responded that it is questionable since so many school districts are having the same issues. He said hopefully the state will look at this and freeze the funding and not reflect it.

## Superintendent’s Report:

Dr. Bagwell reported that schools are beginning the process for annual state testing and performance score calculations following the administration of the fall semester high school LEAP 2025 assessment, training of test administrators for the English Language Proficiency and LEAP Connect Tests, and completion of the state’s Interest and Opportunities survey.

 On January 27th, schools will issue report cards for the 2nd nine weeks grading period as the district begins its spring semester.

 Congratulations to the students in grades 5, 8, and 12 who were selected by their school as “Student of the Year.” The annual competition to choose the St. Mary Parish Student of the Year was held this week and showcased the highly talented and scholarly students we have in our district. The winners will be presented to the board following completion of the regional and state level competition and include Briar Gorman (5th grader at Wyandotte Elementary), Mallory Menard (8th grader at Berwick Jr. High), and Abby Williams (12th grader at Berwick High).

 On Monday, January 18th schools will close in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She encourages students to spend time in remembrance of the extraordinary contributions that Dr. King, and many others made to our nation particularly their legacy of social justice and service.

## Other Business as Allowed by Act 131.

 None

# Closing:

## Resolution of Respect

 With there being no further business to address, the meeting adjourned out of respect for the late Al Jewett Belaire (retired supervisor of child welfare), Phillip McCarty (retired middle school math teacher), Marie Keith Rhodes (retired school principal), and EvaDell LaCoste Tabor (retired cafeteria technician).