Centerville, Louisiana

December 10, 2020

## PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing was held at 4:45 p.m., prior to the regular scheduled meeting of the St. Mary Parish School Board, on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana, for the purpose of review and input from the general public to discuss possible changes to the proposed Virtual Discipline Policy (JD) as recommended by the Discipline Policy Review Committee.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Ms. Sylvia K. Lockett, Mr. Kenneth E. Alfred, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Mrs. Pearl B. Rack, Mrs. Alaina Black, Mr. Roland H. Verret, and Mr. Michael E. Taylor.

Absent: Mr. Joseph C. Foulcard Jr., Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Mr. Dwight Barbier, and Mr. Wayne J. Deslatte

President Taylor called for comments from the public and from the Board to discuss possible changes to the Discipline Policy (JD) as proposed by the Discipline Policy Review.

With there being no public or board comments Mr. Alfred offered the motion, Mrs. Lockett offered the second, and the Public Hearing was adjourned.

## REGULAR MEETING

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, December 10, 2020, 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, Mrs. Pearl B. Rack, Mr. Dwight Barbier, Mrs. Alaina Black, Mr. Roland H. Verret, Mr. Michael E. Taylor.

Absent: Mr. Wayne J. Deslatte.

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:

## J. S. Aucoin Elementary School:

On behalf of the absence of principal Shantell Toups, Ms. Niki Fryou introduced 5th grader Devin Nguyen as “Student of the Month” at J. S. Aucoin Elementary School. He is accompanied by his mother, brother, aunt, and cousin. Devin loves spending time with the family, baking with his mother, taking family vacations, and playing games with his brother. He has participated in the Garden Club, Walking Club, 4-H Club, and the Mighty Lion Band where he plays the clarinet. He also plays football for Skippers, and baseball for Grizzaffi. He has worked hard to make the honor roll, and his favorite subjects are math and science. Devin’s teachers described him as respectful, helpful, and funny. He said, ”one day he would like to help people build houses.”

On behalf of the absence of principal Shantell Toups, Ms. Niki Fryou introduced Pre-Kindergarten teacher Shana Goulas as “Employee of the Month” and “Teacher of the Year” at J. S. Aucoin Elementary School. Ms. Goulas has been teaching at J. S. Aucoin Elementary School for 27 years. She has three sisters who are also educators at J. S. Aucoin Elementary School. If you were to visit her classroom, you would find her students laughing, reading, writing, counting, building, painting, and problem solving throughout the day. She spent years learning Spanish in order to provide her students with the best foundation possible. She provides instruction in both English and Spanish, making sure that none of her students are excluded. She creates an environment of love, respect, and kindness in her classroom. She is an essential part of the J. S. Aucoin family, and she is very deserving of the titles, “Employee of the Month and Teacher of the Year.”

Franklin High School:

Principal Natasha Jackson introduced 12th grader Kaitlyn Marcotte as, “Student of the Month” at Franklin High School. She is accompanied by her parents, brother, and grandmother. Kaitlin’s interests are playing softball, raising pigs, singing in the church choir, and reading. She is the president of the FFA Chapter, the captain of the softball team, and a member of the National Honor Society. Kaitlyn plans to attend Nicholls State University to major in psychology or the pre-counseling concentration. She has a 4.0 GPA (grade point average), composite ACT score of 30, she has already taken dual enrollment psychology, and History of Western Civilization part-one. She is a member of the State Championship team for the FFA Land Judging Competition, and she has also received a Highland Scholarship Award. Kaitlyn is also the “Student of Year” and will be competing on a district level.

Principal Natasha Jackson introduced Trivette McCurtis, Mathematics teacher as “Employee of the Month” at Franklin High School. Ms. McCurtis started teaching at Franklin High School in August 2004. Over the years, she had taught algebra one, geometry, algebra two, advanced math, and she is also the dual enrollment math teacher. She is the Junior Class sponsor president, the ACT Coordinator for Saturday testing, the National Honor Society sponsor, and the Math Content Leader. Ms. McCurtis is the “Teacher of the Month” and the “Teacher of the Year” at Franklin High School.

## LaGrange Elementary School:

Principal Heidi Mouton introduced 5th grader Mi’Queria Harris as, “Student of the Month” at LaGrange Elementary School. She is accompanied by her mother and sister. Mi’Queria has a very high GPA (grade point average), she enjoys watching YouTube videos, reading chapter books, and she likes to eat. She always has a smile on her face, she is a hard worker, and is truly a model student. Ms. Mouton stated that Mi’Queria has big plans for herself and she will move on to Junior High making LaGrange Elementary extremely proud.

Principal Heidi Mouton introduced Kelly Williamson, the Curriculum Facilitator as “Employee of the Month” at LaGrange Elementary School. She is accompanied by her husband. Ms. Williamson has been in education about 13 years, and she is the person behind the scenes that helps Ms. Mouton make things happen. She is really amazing, always getting things done, and she is one of the best at LaGrange Elementary School.

# Approval of Amended Agenda

There was no amended agenda.

# Approval of Official School Board Minutes

Mrs. Griffin offered the motion, Mrs. Rack offered the second and the motion carried to approve the official school board minutes from the regular meeting held on November 12, 2020.

# Approval of Consent Agenda

President Taylor 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: \*Approve policy from Forethought Consulting:

### A. \*School Board Policy (BD)

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

# Appearances:

## Recognition of St. Mary Parish School Board Christmas card artwork winners:

Dr. Bagwell recognized the St. Mary Parish School Board Christmas Card Artwork Winners as follows:

### Winning Drawing:

Alexis Couvillion, 11th grade student at Berwick High School

### Honorable Mentions:

Sophia Hastings, 8th grade student at Morgan City Junior High School

Aha Badeaux, 12th grade student at Centerville High School

Landon Linn, 5th grade student at Berwick Elementary School

Malaysia Green, 12th grade student at Morgan City High School

# Business Affairs:

## Item 2: Consider approving the Discipline Policy Review Committee’s recommendation on the proposed Virtual Discipline Policy (JD) and Policy (JDE) Expulsion.

Mr. Holmes stated that the Discipline Policy Review Committee met on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., to review, discuss, and adopt the proposed Virtual Discipline Policy and Policy (JDE) Expulsion. The discipline policy was adopted by the Discipline Policy Review Committee to effectively manage the behavior of students that received some type of Virtual Classroom Instruction, either at home or off campus locations. The revised expulsion policy would now allow parents to appeal all results of the student expulsion hearing, even if the expulsion hearing results in the student being suspended. Mr. Holmes asked the Board to consider approving the new Virtual Discipline Policy, and the new revised student Expulsion Policy.

Mr. Alfred made a motion, and Ms. LaSalle made a second to approve the Discipline Policy Review Committee’s recommendation on the proposed Virtual Discipline Policy (JD) and the new revised student Expulsion Policy.

Discussion followed where Mr. Holmes answered questions from board members. Mr. Holmes explained that the student discipline records follows them from school to school. Students are normally assigned to in-school suspension, unless there are some extenuating circumstances, then it would be an out-of-school suspension. If a student is suspended by their administrator with a pending hearing, then a decision is made at the hearing as to whether the student will be assigned to the Alternative Program or released back to their school campus on probation.

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

## Item 3. Approve acceptance of audit report for year ended June 30, 2020 as presented by

## the firm of Darnall, Sikes, Gardes and Frederick.

Mr. Chris Miller, CPA of Darnall, Sikes, Gardes & Frederick firm of Lafayette provided the Board with a financial audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. In addition to the financial audit, they also reviewed internal controls and compliances with certain laws that are applicable to the school board. A single audit was also conducted, which is a compliance specific audit in accordance with federal regulations and uniform guidance that targeted federal programs. Title I was the federal program that was audited for compliance purposes. The last part of the audit report refers to compliance testing of certain reporting requirements with the Department of Education. Mr. Miller stated in the midst of the difficulties presented in 2020, financially the school board did well. Contributing factors were an increase in the MFP, which was expected and budgeted, as well as sales taxes that outperformed expectations. Those two elements coupled with the adherence of the adopted budget for the 2019-20 school year, and the controlled spending yielded positive financial results for the year. Mr. Miller reported that the financial information received from Mr. Perry on a monthly basis is clear, concise, and accurate. There were no significant adjustments,  and a very clean opinion on the financial statements. In regard to the extensive testing of all areas, there were no deficiencies, or non-compliance findings with any of the areas evaluated. Overall, the audit was very positive.

Mr. Foulcard made a motion to approve acceptance of audit report for year ended June 30, 2020 as presented by Mr. Chris Miller. Mrs. Black made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 4: Consider appointment of auditors for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2021 –

## June 30, 2023.

Mr. Perry provided the Board with a new three-year audit engagement letter, which covers the fiscal years ending June 30, 2021, 2022, and 2023. The fee for these financial audits will be at their standard hourly rates plus other out of pocket expenses not to exceed $32,500 annually, which is unchanged from the last audit engagement approved. Mr. Perry asked the Board to approve the agreement.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion, Mrs. Rack made a second to approve the appointment of auditors for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2021, 2022, and 2023, as presented by Mr. Perry. All in favor and the motion carried.

## Item 5: Adopt Time Clock, Attendance, and Substitute package.

Mr. Derise reported that Alio has a time and attendance component, but it is not fully integrated to do substitute management. The district has been utilizing a time clock system for over the last 13 years, which does not integrate with the current mainframe payroll system and would only provide time and attendance data for Alio and not address the substitute problem. Mr. Derise recommended that the Board adopt the Frontline Education Absence and Time Solution.

After discussion from the Board, Mr. Alfred made a motion to adopt the time clock, attendance, and substitute package, as presented by Mr. Derise. Mrs. Griffin made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

Reports:

Committee Report:

Special Education Advisory Council Meeting held on December 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. McClarity provided the Board with an update on the Special Education Advisory Council Meeting held on December 8, 2020. The committee discussed having Special Olympics in the spring, and also granted Ms. McClarity permission to contact the State’s Special Olympics Committee for their approval to host St. Mary’s Special Olympics in the spring.

Compensatory education data has been conducted on eligible students resulting the emergency school closures. Letters will go out to parents in January 2021 with more information concerning compensatory education. The state may extend the LEAP Connect testing from February 2021 to March 2021, due to COVID-19. The Committee also discussed the practice test that is now available for students taking LEAP Connect, which can be accessed on the Louisiana Department of Education’s website.

# Staff Reports:

## Chief Financial Officer’s Report:

### Sales Tax Update

Mr. Perry reported that the sales tax collections for this month was $1,262,000 versus $1,235,000 budgeted, with a favorable variance of $27,000 and year-to-date favorable variance of $215,000.

### Financial Statements (Major Funds Only)

Mr. Perry stated that financial statements were not available for the last few months, due to a computer software conversion.

### Other Significant Items:

Mr. Perry indicated that the IRS 2021 mileage rates were not released. He will update the Board on mileage rates at the January 14, 2021 meeting.

Chief Technology Officer’s Report:

Mr. Derise reported that technology deployed an estimate of 6,000 electronic devices to students across the district. He indicated that every student from Pre-K though 12th should have access to a laptop. Computer technicians have been busy replacing screens and also replacing damaged devices throughout the parish. Mr. Derise informed the Board of purchasing another level of devices in the spring, which will replace damaged laptops and refurnished laptops that are currently being used by junior and senior high students.

Maintenance Department Report:

Mr. Wiese provided the Board with an update on capital funds that were set aside for the HVAC project at the Central Office Complex, which was discussed at the November 12, 2020 meeting. A total of $700,000 in capital project funding were set aside for the HVAC project for the Central Office Complex, with the anticipation of hiring an Engineering firm to oversee the project. Mr. Wiese indicated if the project can be performed in-house, there is an opportunity of saving an estimate of $225,000. The remaining funds would be consumed to renovate the Evans Medine Boardroom, add front door locking devices, and other repairs as needed at the Central Office Complex.

# Superintendent’s Report:

Dr. Bagwell reported that St. Mary Parish Schools received a generous donation of masks, through a partnership between Ochsner Foundation and the New Orleans Saints. The donation included 1,000 teacher masks, and 8,000 student masks with the New Orleans Saints logo. Congratulations and good luck to Centerville High School Bulldog’s football team in the quarterfinals for the LHSAA playoffs against Grand Lake High School on Friday, December 11th. On Tuesday, December 15th, an early release day will be held to allow schools time to meet with parents as part of the release of progress reports. Teachers will be contacting parents throughout the afternoon to aid in assisting students who are experiencing academic challenges this grading period. Additionally, on Tuesday, December 22nd, schools will dismiss early for the Christmas break. On both dates, middle and high school students will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m., elementary students will be dismissed at 1:00 p.m., and bus transportation will be provided. In closing, Dr. Bagwell wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

# 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 Lillian Graham (retired teacher) and Dianne Marsh Williams (retired assistant cafeteria manager).