

ST. MARTIN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

NOVEMBER 3, 2021

BREAUX BRIDGE, LOUISIANA

MINUTES

The St. Martin Parish School Board convened on this day at 4:50 P.M. at the Administrative Office with the following members present: Messrs. Richard Potier, President, Steve Fuselier, Jimmy Durio, Russel C. Foti, Mike Clay, Frederic Stelly, Floyd Knott, Mark Hebert, Mrs. Wanda B. Vital and Ms. Edna M. Johnson.

ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order by Richard Potier, President. Mr. Allen Blanchard, Jr., Superintendent, opened the meeting with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Melanie Belle, Teacher at Stephenville Elementary, was recognized as the October Employee of the Month sponsored by Southern Scripts.

On the motion of Mr. Hebert, seconded by Mrs. Vital, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda items:

- a) Minutes of the following meetings:
 - 1) Finance Committee Meeting of October 6, 2021
 - 2) Regular Meeting of October 6, 2021
- b) Request for Industrial Tax Exemption for Peppers Unlimited of Louisiana, Inc.
- c) Awarding the Parks Primary Playground project to the low bidder, Teacher's Pet, in the amount of \$52,800. The project is being funded by Parks Primary/Parks Middle/Catahoula/Stephenville Bond District
- d) Request for permission to advertise to conduct an auction of the old discarded/disabled school buses
- e) Request for permission to take proposals on the electrical work associated with the new St. Martinville High School athletic field lighting

On the motion of Mr. Foti, seconded by Mr. Fuselier, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Finance Committee recommendations:

- a) Keep the hourly rate as is for Hammonds, Sills, Adkins, Guice, Noah & Perkins, LLP (Special Counsel)
- b) Contracting with The Family Tree for Mental Health Consultant Services for Head Start
- c) Adding interim principals to bank accounts

On the motion of Mr. Foti, seconded by Mrs. Vital, and carried, the Board approved the Head Start Policy Council recommendations:

- a) Election of new officers
- b) Bylaws
- c) New hires
- d) Policy Council meeting dates/times
- e) 2021-2022 Application Budget (including non-federal share match waiver) (Approved by the Board during August 2021 meeting)

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ABSTAINED: Mr. Hebert

A motion was made by Mrs. Vital and seconded by Ms. Johnson to accept staff's recommendation regarding COVID procedures, as follows:

- Continue to wear the mask on the bus and use the three foot rule with parental choice for close contacts on the bus
- Masks become voluntary in buildings and follow the LDH recommendations using the 6 foot quarantine rule
- If quarantine numbers begin to rise beyond acceptable rates, reinstate the mask mandate for 10 days (by school) and allow the numbers to decline. Revisit the numbers and go back to voluntary mask wearing as numbers decline.

A substitute motion was made by Mr. Knott to make masks voluntary. Mr. Knott withdrew his substitute motion.

A substitute motion was made by Mr. Durio to accept staff's recommendation, except reinstate the mask mandate for 10 days (by school) if the numbers begin to rise beyond 10% instead of 5%. The substitute motion died for lack of a second.

The original motion was then voted on and unanimously carried.

Board Member Floyd Knott discussed Early Start-Head Start.

On the motion of Mr. Foti, seconded by Mr. Hebert, and unanimously carried, the Board went into Executive Session.

On the motion of Mr. Hebert, seconded by Mr. Foti, and unanimously carried, the Board came out of Executive Session.

On the motion of Mr. Foti, seconded by Mr. Hebert, and unanimously carried, the Board approved compromise settlement in the matter entitled "Global Synthetics Environmental, LLC vs. SMPSB, Docket No. 705465, 19th Judicial District, Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana."

No action was necessary for the pending litigation, Thomas v. St. Martin Parish School Board, Civil Action No. 11314 (W.D.La.).

On the motion of Mr. Hebert, seconded by Mr. Foti, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned.

SECRETARY

PRESIDENT