

Centerville, Louisiana

May 9, 2024

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 5:30 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. Guienzy M. Brent, Ms. Tammie L. Moore, Mrs. Lindsey T. Anslem, Ms. Debra R. Jones, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Mr. Murphy J. Pontiff Jr., Mr. Chad M. Paradee, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso, Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis.

Invocation

Mr. Holmes gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

President Black led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Introduction of Students and Employees of the Month

Berwick Elementary School:

Principal Debbie Domingue introduced 5th grade student Graham Richard as Student of the Month at Berwick Elementary School.

Principal Debbie Domingue introduced Laine Mayon, a curriculum facilitator as Employee of the Month at Berwick Elementary School.

M.E. Norman Elementary School:

Principal Ronica LaPoint introduced 5th grade student Noelle Cheramie as Student of the Month at M. E. Norman Elementary School.

Principal Ronica LaPoint introduced Laura Cortez, a Pre-K teacher as Employee of the Month at M. E. Norman Elementary School.

St. Mary Parish Alternative Program:

Principal Paul Broussard introduced Tamika West, a teacher as Employee of the Month at St. Mary Parish Alternative Program.

Appearances

Recognition of 2024 Top Word-Millionaires in St. Mary Parish.

Ms. Sarah Broussard introduced the following 2024 Top Word Millionaires as follows:

Elementary: Torin Bearb, 5th grader, Patterson Junior High School

Secondary: Stanley Aucoin, 8th grader, Berwick Junior High School

Recognition of Nurse Lydia Duval as the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) semifinalist for School Health Service Provider (Nursing).

Nurse Lydia Duval was the St. Mary Parish School Health Service Provider of the year, who has now made it as the LDOE semifinalist for School Health Service Provider. She has been in education for 29 ½ years and she is a member of many organizations.

Approval of Amended Agenda.

No amended agenda.

Approval of Official School Board Minutes.

Ms. LaSalle offered the motion and Mrs. Griffin offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the special session meeting held on April 8, 2024, and the regular school board meeting held on April 11, 2024. All in favor and the motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda.

President Black stated that Board Members can remove any of the items on the consent agenda for further discussion in the regular proceedings. Dr. Fegenbush read aloud the items on the consent agenda as follows:

New Business

Item 3. *Award Bids:

- A. *Child Nutrition Department Items: Eggs, Juice, Milk, Produce, Dry and Canned Foods, Frozen Foods and Meat, Paper and Cleaning, Small Kitchen Equipment

Item 4. *Advertise for Bids:

- A. *Permission to advertise custodial supplies.
- B. *Permission to advertise for playground equipment at Bayou Vista Elementary School.
- C. *Permission to advertise for all-weather track replacement at Franklin Senior High School, Patterson Senior High School, and Berwick Senior High School.

Item 9. *Field Trip(s):

- A. *Berwick High School Band travel for Sound of Pride Stage Performances with the National Heritage Festival in Dallas, Texas.

Item 10. *Approve Cooperative Agreement between the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service to assure continued informal educational programming from the LSU AgCenter in support of 4-H Youth Development.

Ms. Moore made a motion to approve the consent agenda, as presented by Dr. Fegenbush. Mr. Mancuso made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

Business Affairs:

Item 1. Discuss and consider recommendations for the use of Differentiated Compensation Allocation Funds (#007) starting fiscal year 2024-2025.

- A. Teacher Leader Supplements.
- B. Undergraduate Resident Teacher, Recruitment and Retention Supplements.
- C. Reimbursements for Recruitment and Retention.
- D. Value-Added Model (VAM) Stipend Bonus.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and seconded by Ms. Jones to approve recommendations for the use of Differentiated Compensation Allocation Funds (#007) starting fiscal year 2024-2025 for Item 1 A, B, C, and D, as presented by Ms. Estay. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 2. Receive Group Health Insurance Premium to Claims Summary Report.

Mr. James Perez of DJW Insurance Agency, Inc. provided the Board with a Group Health Insurance Plan premium to claims summary updated through April 2024. The year-to-date loss ratio was estimated to be under 85 percent and after expense adjustments a 93 percent loss ratio, which is a good start especially when compared to last year's data.

He explained self-funding options and prescription drug rebates should the St. Mary Parish School Board decides to go self-funded in the future.

Item 5. Award substantial completion for the chiller replacement at West St. Mary High School/ B.E. Boudreaux Middle School using ESSER Funds.

Ms. Moore made a motion to postpone the substantial completion for the chiller replacement at West St. Mary High School/ B.E. Boudreaux Middle School using ESSER Funds, until the June 13, 2024, regular school board meeting. Ms. Brent All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 6. Consider funding the replacement of the floor tile in the boy's gym lobby including Down the hallway to the front office areas with ceramic tile, 2540 sqft "District III Special Projects List" in the amount \$58,000 at Morgan City Junior High School.

Item 7. Consider funding the replacement of the carpet in front offices and the principal’s office with ceramic tile, 1460 sqft “District III Special Projects List” in the amount \$34,000 at Morgan City Junior High School.

Mr. Mancuso stated that he would like to defer Item 6 and 7 until next month’s meeting and schedule a Maintenance District III Committee Meeting, which would allow time to explore different flooring options for the project.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Dennis to defer Items 6 and 7 to the Maintenance District III Committee to be scheduled later in the meeting under Committee Reports at a time agreeable for members. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 8. Except change order #1 for Reroofing Phase I at Berwick High School, Berwick Junior High School, and Patterson High School in the amount of \$ 27,491.50 using ESSER Funds.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and seconded by Ms. Moore to except change order #1 for Reroofing Phase I at Berwick High School, Berwick Junior High School, and Patterson High School in the amount of \$ 27,491.50 using ESSER Funds, as presented by Mr. Wiese. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 11. Consider and take action regarding a Resolution of Support of Litigation Challenging New Title IX Regulations.

Mrs. Anslem read aloud the Resolution as follows:

ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
Centerville, Louisiana

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LITIGATION CHALLENGING NEW TITLE IX REGULATIONS

RESOLUTION

BE IT FOREVER KNOWN, that by official action taken at its meeting of May 9, 2024, the St. Mary Parish School Board (sometimes referred to as the “Board”) adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education has issued a final rule, titled “Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance” (“Final Rule”);

WHEREAS, the Final Rule dramatically changes Title IX regulations and acknowledges it will increase complaint investigations;

WHEREAS, the Final Rule will disadvantage the Board by increasing its obligations, compliance costs, and liability risks;

WHEREAS, the Board believes the Final Rule is contrary to federal law and will be detrimental to students, parents, and employees;

WHEREAS, the Board believes the Final Rule, is directly contrary to existing state law, as well as laws currently being considered by the Louisiana Legislature;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Education, and the States of Mississippi, Montana, and Idaho sued the federal government on April 29, 2024, challenging the Final Rule, *Louisiana v. U.S. Department of Education*, No. 24-cv-563 (W.D. La.); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the vote reflected herein below, the St. Mary Parish School Board does hereby elect to support the State of Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Education in the *Louisiana* litigation against the United States Department of Education and other federal defendants to challenge the Final Rule.

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned Secretary-Treasurer of the St. Mary Parish School Board, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted at its Regular Board Meeting of May 9, 2024, at which time a quorum was present and that same is in full force and effect.

Dated at Centerville, Louisiana
this 9th day of May, 2024

Buffy S. Fegenbush Ed. D., Secretary -Treasurer
ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and seconded by Mr. Mancuso to approve the Resolution of Support of Litigation Challenging New Title IX Regulations.

After discussion, Dr. Fegenbush stated regardless of the resolution, the St. Mary Parish School Board will continue as a system to safeguard the rights of all St. Mary Parish students and make sure they come to school in a setting that is safe and healthy.

All in favor and the motion carried.

Reports

Committees:

1. Maintenance District II Committee

Mrs. Griffin reported that the Maintenance District II Committee met on April 23, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. and approved \$921,720 of Maintenance District II funding and \$700,000 of Capital funding on the 2024-2025 Special Projects for District II schools. Each site was reviewed with amendments occurring in some instances and approved individually. No transfers were needed from the Maintenance Funds into the Capital Projects Funds.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and seconded by Ms. LaSalle to approve recommendations of the Maintenance District II Committee, as presented by Mr. Wiese. All in favor and the motion carried.

2. Maintenance District I Committee

Ms. Moore reported that the District I Maintenance Committee met on April 23, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. and approved \$515,495 of District I Maintenance funding and \$490,000 of Capital funding on the 2024-2025 Special Projects for District I schools. Each site was reviewed with some amendments occurring in some instances and approved individually. No transfers were needed from the Maintenance Funds into the Capital Projects Funds.

Ms. Moore made a motion and seconded by Ms. Jones to approve recommendations of the Maintenance District I Committee, as presented by Mr. Wiese. All in favor and the motion carried.

3. Maintenance District III Committee

Mr. Mancuso reported that the Maintenance District III Committee met on April 30, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. and approved \$815,235 of Maintenance District III funding and \$605,000 of Capital funding on the 2024-2025 Special Projects for District III Schools. Each site was reviewed with amendments occurring in some instances and approved individually. No transfers were needed from the Maintenance Funds into the Capital Project Funds.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Dennis to approve recommendations of the Maintenance District III Committee, as presented by Mr. Wiese. All in favor and the motion carried.

Schedule Maintenance District III Committee Meeting

Mr. Mancuso, chairperson of the Maintenance District III Committee scheduled a meeting for Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room to discuss flooring at Morgan City Junior High School as described in agenda Items 6 and 7.

4. The Special Education Advisory Council Committee

Ms. McClarity reported that the Special Education Advisory Committee met on May 8, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room.

Ms. Jennifer Collins Lanceslin, the executive director of Community of Friends, Inc. in Baldwin, LA, discussed the importance of transition for students with intellectual disabilities after high school.

Ms. Sandra Saucier shared information and provided a list of events that the Brittany's Project offers throughout the year which serves students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Testing has begun and will be ending by May 17th.

Special Olympics was held on Friday, April 12th at 10:00 a.m., at the Patterson High School Track in Patterson, Louisiana. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The scheduling of the upcoming Special Education Advisory Council meetings will be finalized at a later date.

Schedule Technology Committee Meeting

Ms. LaSalle, chairperson of the Technology Committee scheduled a meeting for Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room.

Staff Report:

Chief Financial Officer's Report:

Sale Tax Update

Mrs. Voisin reported that 10 months into the fiscal year the sales tax is 7 percent favorable compared to year-to-date sales tax budget. April's sales tax collections were \$254,000 or 13 percent favorable.

Financial Statements (Major Funds Only):

The Board was provided financial statements for major funds only to review at their leisure.

Other Significant Items:

The 2024 millage rates will be adopted at the June 13, 2024 regular school board meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Fegenbush reported in celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week, the St. Mary Parish School Board is filled with gratitude for exceptional teachers and staff.

Summer school will be held this year across the district to assist students who may need additional support in order to move to the next grade level. Schools have been contacting families of those who may need to attend, to relay important information about specific dates and times. Please reach out to the school administration if you have any questions.

After this week, St. Mary Parish schools officially have two weeks left for the 2023-2024 school year. The last full day of school is May 22nd, with only students needing makeups to attend on the 23rd and report card day is May 24th.

Numerous events are being organized on school campuses to recognize and celebrate students' accomplishments, with senior graduation being the highlight.

Resolutions of Respect

Mr. Holmes read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Gwendolyn Harris Charatin (retired school cafeteria technician) and Louise Smith (retired elementary school teacher).

Strategy session and/or action concerning pending litigation*

*As authorized by La.R.S. 42:17(A)(2), there may be an executive session to discuss strategy in litigation entitled "Boudreaux, et al vs. School Board of St. Mary Parish," bearing Civil Action No. 6:65-11351 on the docket of the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana.

Entered Executive Session:

Mrs. Anslem made a motion and seconded by Ms. Brent to enter executive session to discuss the pending litigation as stated above. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 11).

Yes: Mr. Chad M. Paradee, Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso, Mr. Murphy J. Pontiff Jr., Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Mrs. Lindsey T. Anslem, Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis, Ms. Debra R. Jones, Ms. Guienzy M. Brent, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Ms. Tammie L. Moore.

All in favor and the motion carried.

Ended Executive Session:

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and seconded by Ms. Brent to exit the executive session. All in favor and the motion carried.

Adjournment:

With there being no further business to address, Mr. Pontiff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.