

Centerville, Louisiana

April 11, 2024

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, April 11, 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, Mr. Chad M. Paradee, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso, Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis, and Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle.

Absent: Mr. Murphy J. Pontiff Jr.

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

Centerville Elementary School:

Principal Jared Ross introduced 5th grade student Zoe Bethea as Student of the Month at Centerville Elementary School.

Principal Jared Ross introduced Sarra Guillory, a high school teacher as Employee of the Month at Centerville Elementary School.

Patterson Junior High School:

Principal Lauren Rentrop introduced 5th grade student Olivia Guillot as Student of the Month at Patterson Junior High School.

Principal Lauren Rentrop introduced 8th grade student Sage Lapoint as Student of the Month at Patterson Junior High School.

Principal Lauren Rentrop introduced Raegan Sanford, a junior high school teacher as Employee of the Month at Patterson Junior High School.

West St. Mary High School:

Principal Ashley Clark introduced 12th grade student Le'Zay'Lon Brown as Student of the Month at West St. Mary High School.

Principal Ashley Clark introduced Connie Moore, a JAG specialist as Employee of the Month at West St. Mary High School.

Appearances:

Recognition of the Best in Show and first place winners of the Student Art Show.

During the month of March, students across St. Mary Parish entered their artwork into the 27th Annual St. Mary Parish Student Art Show. Artwork was displayed at the Artist's Guild in Morgan City. Ms. Courtney Andrews recognized the winners of the Student Art Show as follows:

- 1st place in Pre-K – 1st grade 2 dimensional color is Mia Moffett, a 1st grader at Bayou Vista Elementary School.
- 1st place in 2nd and 3rd grade 2 dimensional color is Nicole Rodriguez, a 3rd grader at J.S. Aucoin Elementary School.
- 1st place in 4th and 5th grade 2 dimensional color is Logan Palacio, a 5th grader at Bayou Vista Elementary School.
- 1st place in 4th and 5th grade 3D is Raiden Langley, a 4th grader at Bayou Vista Elementary School.
- 1st place in Middle School 2-dimensional color is Nyasia Bickham, an 8th grader at Morgan City Junior High School.

- 1st place in Middle School Black and White is Elvin Jordan, an 8th grader at Berwick Junior High School.
- 1st place in Middle School 3d is Allie Arthur, a 6th grader at Berwick Junior High School.
- 1st place in 2 black and white for High School is Ryan Picou, a senior at Morgan City High School.
- 1st place in high school 3D is l'nestie Scott, a sophomore at Berwick High School.
- Cecilia Garnica-Perez earned 1st place in 2-dimensional color for one of her entries and Best in Show for her other entry. She is a junior at Berwick High School.

Approval of Amended Agenda.

No amended agenda.

Approval of Official School Board Minutes.

Mrs. Dennis offered the motion and Ms. Moore offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the regular School board meeting held on March 14, 2024 and the Special Session meeting held on March 26, 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

Business Affairs:

Item 1. * Approve Proclamation(s):

*National Administrative Professionals' Week (April 21-27, 2024)

*Autism Awareness Month (April 2024)

*National Library Week (April 7-13, 2024)

*School Lunch Hero Day (May3, 2024)

*Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6-10, 2024)

*Week of the Young Child (April 6-12, 2024)

Item 2. *Discuss and take appropriate action regarding the 2024-2025 Schedule of Fees.

Item 3. * Approve modified summer work schedule.

Item 4. *Request permission to obtain proposals for a newspaper to serve as the official journal for the school board for the year commencing July 1, 2024.

Item 5. *Request permission to obtain proposals for a financial institution to serve as the fiscal agent for the school board for the year commencing July 1, 2024.

Item 6. *Request permission to obtain proposals for student and athletic insurance for the year commencing August 1, 2024.

Item 7. *Request permission to obtain proposals for group life insurance for the year commencing October 1, 2024.

Item 8. *Approve disability insurance for the period commencing October 1, 2024.

Item 10. * Approval of Library Jobber Contract with Mackin Educational Resources.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion to approve the consent agenda, as presented by Dr. Fegenbush. Ms. Jones made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

Business Affairs:

Item 9. Award Substantial Completion for Phase I Reroofing Project at Franklin Senior High School using ESSER Funds.

Ms. Jones made a motion and seconded by Ms. Moore to award Substantial Completion for Phase I Reroofing Project at Franklin Senior High School using ESSER Funds, as presented by Mr. Wiese. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 11. Discuss and approve the updated job description for Accountability Manager.

Mrs. Anslem made a motion and seconded by Mr. Paradee to approve the updated job description for Accountability, as presented by Ms. Estay. All in favor and the motion carried.

Reports

Committees:

The Discipline Committee Meeting met on March 19, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. to discuss the following:

Item 1. Discuss and/or take action to add guidelines for students who bring water bottles to school.

Proposals:

- Allow clear water bottles only,
- Ban water bottles unless there is an emergency crisis or pandemic,
- Continue to allow the principals/schools to make that decision for their school.

After discussion with administrators who were present, it was noted that there are different concerns by grade level. Measures taken currently by the school sites have been successful.

The committee recommended to continue allowing principals to make school appropriate decisions that should be included in their individual school handbooks.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and seconded by Ms. Jones to accept the Committee's recommendation. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 2. Discuss and/or take action to add conflict resolution videos to the consequences for (6- 12) grade students that violate the fighting policy.

Proposal:

During the time a student is suspended, they would have to complete Conflict Resolution videos each time they violate the Fighting Policy.

After discussion, it was noted that Conflict Resolution videos could provide a layer of intervention support.

The committee recommended that students in grades 6-12 be required to complete a Conflict Resolution video as an intervention measure for each fighting violation.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and seconded by Ms. LaSalle to accept the Committee's recommendation. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 3. Discuss and/or take action to revise the consequences for (K-5) elementary students that violate the Electronic Telecommunication Device (Cell phone) policy.

The current policy states that K-5 students are not allowed to bring cell phones to school. When students violate this policy, no student disciplinary consequences are assigned. As a deterrent, it was discussed that those consequences for grades K-5 should mirror those for grades 6-12 EXCEPT the student and parent will first receive a warning as the first level of response.

The committee voted to mirror the current 6-12 cell phone policy for K-5 EXCEPT the student and parent will first receive a warning for the first offense with no consequences assigned.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and seconded by Ms. Moore to accept the Committee's recommendation. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 4. Review and consider recommendation for Board approval of revisions to the Student Code of Conduct in order to align discipline practices to current legislation and policies.

The committee discussed revisions that were suggested for change to the Student Code of Conduct. The request was to no longer categorize infractions into 3 classes, but to now categorize them into 4 levels. No student conduct policies were impacted beyond this language change.

The committee recommended to approve revisions to the Student Code of Conduct to reference student violations as levels - not classes.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and seconded by Ms. Jones to accept the recommendation of the committee. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 5. Review and consider recommendation for Board approval of the St. Mary Parish Discipline Matrix aligned to the revised Student Code of Conduct.

The committee was presented with a Discipline Matrix that aligns with the SMP Student Code of Conduct. It was discussed that administrative input was sought and received. The new format outlines all levels of infractions by severity, identifies the code to be used for each infraction, and states the administrative response to be taken.

The committee appreciated the newly formatted document. As the document is simply a means to present the Student Code of Conduct, no board motion is required.

The School Uniform Committee met on March 20, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the following:

Item 1. Discuss and/or take action to allow Franklin Junior High School to add gold and gray uniform shirts to their school's dress code.

Proposed: Allow Franklin Junior High School to add gold and ash gray uniform shirts to their school's dress code as their school is now located on the campus of Franklin Senior High School. This request is for safety reasons and to allow both school officials to be able to differentiate between the junior high and senior high school students.

Recommendation: change Franklin Junior High School uniform shirts to gold and navy.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Anslem to accept the recommendation of the School Uniform Committee to change Franklin Junior High School uniform shirts to gold and navy. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 2. Discuss and/or take action to allow B. Edward Boudreaux Middle School to add navy and gray uniform shirts to their school's dress code.

Proposed: Allow B. Edward Boudreaux Middle School to add navy and gray uniform shirts to their school's dress code because they share the campus with West St. Mary High School. This request is for safety reasons and to allow both school officials to be able to differentiate between the junior high and senior high school students.

Recommendation: Change B. Edward Boudreaux Middle School uniform shirts from navy and white to navy and ash gray.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and seconded by Ms. Moore to change B. Edward Boudreaux Middle School uniform shirts from navy and white to navy and ash gray as recommended by the School Uniform Committee. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 3. Discuss and/or take action to ban students from being allowed to wear hoods on any type of jacket or sweatshirt.

Proposed: Ban all hoods on any type of hood or jacket. This is due to ongoing problems with students complying with the guidelines for wearing hoods.

After discussion, four principals unanimously stated no hoods.

Recommendation: To ban all hoods on any type of jacket or sweatshirt.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Griffin to ban all hoods on jackets and sweatshirts, as recommended by the School Uniform Committee.

Mrs. Anslem moved to amend the original motion on the floor to ban all hoods on jackets and sweatshirts, with the exception of allowing Pre-K through fifth-grade students to have hoods on jackets. Ms. LaSalle seconded the amendment. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 4. Discuss and/or take action to ban students from being allowed to wear shoes that "light-up."

Proposed: Ban students from being allowed to wear shoes that "light up" to prevent campus distractions and disturbances in the hallways and classrooms.

Recommendation: No action was taken on Item 4.

The Special Education Advisory Committee met on April 10, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Due to the inclement weather conditions, the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for April 10, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. was postponed for a later date.

Ms. McClarity invited everyone to attend the Special Olympics Tract Meet on Friday, April 12, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., at Patterson High School.

District III Maintenance Committee met on April 11, 2024 at 4:45 p.m.

Mr. Mancuso reported that the District III Maintenance Committee met to discuss the Morgan City High School Stadium Renovation Project, presented by Architect Carl Blum.

The Committee recommended to accept the low base bid plus alternate #1 – add the cost of replacing two existing light poles and alternate #2 – add the cost of replacing two existing light poles and foundation from GeoSurfaces, Inc. for a total cost of \$1,078,000. The low bid plus both alternates is \$63,000 or 5.8 percent below the original budget from the March 2023 meeting.

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

Staff Report

Chief Financial Officer's Report:

Sale Tax Update:

Mr. Perry reported that the sales tax collections for nine months into the fiscal year collected \$1,762,603 versus a budget of \$1,951,000 with a 9.7 percent unfavorable variance to budget.

Financial Statements (Major Funds Only):

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

Other Significant Items:

Mr. Perry provided an update on the Group Health Insurance Plan premium to claims summary updated through March 2024. When comparing claims to premiums it was estimated at 82 percent and after expense adjustments it was estimated at 92 percent loss ratio, with a year-to-date loss ratio under 95 percent.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Fegenbush reported that the St. Mary Parish Red Ribbon Committee will be accepting slogan submissions until Friday, April 19, 2024 for the 2024-2025 Red Ribbon Week campaign. The slogan contest is only open to students in grades 4-12 in all schools in St. Mary Parish.

The St. Mary Parish Special Olympics Tract Meet will be held Friday, April 12, 2024 at Patterson High School beginning at 10:00 a.m. This event is open to the public.

On Saturday, April 27, 2024, the St. Mary Parish School System will host a job fair at Franklin High School from 9:00 am to noon.

The testing window for LEAP officially starts Monday, April 15, 2024. School administrators will notify parents as to the specific testing dates that children at their sites will be tested.

Closing:

Resolutions of Respect

Ms. Estay read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Karen Berry (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.

Executive Session:

Mr. Andrew made a motion and seconded by Ms. Moore to enter into closed session. All in favor and the motion carried.

Return to Regular Session:

Mr. Paradee made a motion and seconded by Ms. LaSalle to return to Regular Session. All in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and seconded by Ms. Jones to add an agenda item for adopting attorneys from the Louisiana Attorney General's Office as co-counsel with the current counsel, subject to an inter-governmental agreement. All in favor and the motion carried.

Adjournment:

With there being no further business to address, Ms. Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Mrs. Anslem made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.