

Centerville, Louisiana

February 8, 2024

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, February 8, 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.

**Absent:** Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis.

**Invocation**

Mr. Holmes gave the Invocation.

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

Ms. Estay led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Introduction of Students and Employees of the Month.**

**Centerville Middle/High School:**

Principal Jared Ross introduced 8<sup>th</sup> grade student Icis Gant as Student of the Month at Centerville Middle School.

Principal Jared Ross introduced 12<sup>th</sup> grade student Maci Pellerin as Student of the Month at Centerville High School.

Principal Jared Ross introduced Nicole Pellerin, a middle school teacher as Employee of the Month at Centerville Middle School.

**Bayou Vista Elementary School:**

Principal Kiante Gunner introduced 5<sup>th</sup> grade student Alise Geisler as Student of the Month at Bayou Vista Elementary School.

Principal Kiante Gunner introduced Paige Thomas, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher as Employee of the Month at Bayou Vista Elementary School.

**Morgan City High School:**

Principal Lacie Quintanilla introduced 12<sup>th</sup> grade student Michelle Beals as Student of the Month at Morgan City High School.

Principal Lacie Quintanilla introduced Robin Mason, U.S. history teacher as Employee of the Month at Morgan City High School.

**Approval of Amended Agenda.**

No amended agenda.

**Approval of Official School Board Minutes.**

Ms. Moore offered the motion and Mrs. Anslem offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the regular school board meeting held on January 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**

**Personnel:**

President Black requested to table Item 1C Gifts and Donations (DFK) policy until further notice.

Hearing no objections from the Board, Item 1C was tabled until further notice.

**Item 1.** \*Approval of policies from Forethought Consulting as revised by Hammonds and Sills.

- A. \*Administrative Records (CN) TABLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
- B. \*Grants (DFF)
- C. \*Gifts and Donations (DFK)
- D. \*Use of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and Cardiac Emergency Plan (EBBH)
- E. \*Probation (GBG)
- F. \*Parent Conferences (IHAD)
- G. \*School Wellness (JGB)
- H. \*Student Health Services (JGC)
- I. \*Sick Leave (GBRIB)
- J. \*Employee Sick Leave Bank (GBRIBB)

**Item 4.** \*Approval of Amendment NO. 2 to Temporary Easement, Servitude, and Right-of-Way Easement, for Monitoring and Access.

**Item 8.** \*Permission to advertise for Library Jobber Contract.

**Item 9.** \*Approval for Amendment to 2023-2024 Pupil Progression Plan.

**Item 10.** \*Approval of Field Trip Date Change Request for Franklin Junior High School Student Council travel to Historical Sites in Atlanta, Georgia on May 19-22, 2024.

**Item 14.** \*Proclamations:

- A. \*Read Across America Day (March 2, 2024)
- B. \*National School Breakfast Week (March 4-8, 2024)

Ms. LaSalle made a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda, excluding Items 1B, 1I, 1J, as presented by Dr. Fegenbush. Ms. Brent made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

**Business Affairs:**

**Item 1.** Approval of policies from Forethought Consulting as revised by Hammonds and Sills.

- B. Grants (DFF)

Mr. Mancuso pulled Item 1B for further discussion.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and Ms. Moore made a second to approve Item 1B by amending the first paragraph under Suggestion addition, which states the School Board shall be notified of all grants ***by the next regular School Board meeting after the grant application has been submitted.*** All in favor and the motion carried.

- I. Sick Leave (GBRIB)

Due to recent questions and concerns raised regarding the impact of Item 1I and 1J on school board employees, Mr. Paradee asked to pull both items from the consent agenda for the policy committee to reevaluate and address both policies comprehensively.

After discussion of Item 1I, Mrs. Griffin made a motion and seconded by Ms. LaSalle to approve the Sick Leave (GBRIB) policy as presented. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

**Yeas:** Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Mr. Murphy J. Pontiff Jr., and Mrs. Alaina L. Black.

**Nays:** Ms. Guienzy M. Brent, Ms. Tammie L. Moore, Mrs. Lindsey T. Anslem, Ms. Debra R. Jones, Mr. Chad M. Paradee, and Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso.

**Absent:** Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis.

**Abstain:** None

The motion failed with four yeas, six nays, one absent, and no abstains.

Mr. Paradee made a motion and seconded by Ms. Jones to table Item 1I regarding the Sick Leave (GBRIB) policy until the policy committee meets. The motion was carried, with Mrs. Griffin and Ms. LaSalle voting nay.

**J. Employee Sick Leave Bank (GBRIBB)**

Mr. Paradee pulled Item 1J for further clarification.

Ms. Moore made a motion and seconded by Mr. Paradee to table Item 1J regarding the employee sick leave bank (GBRIBB) until the policy committee meets to reevaluate the policy. The motion was carried, with Ms. Griffin voting nay.

**Item 2.** Request to revise the designated school colors of Franklin Junior High School from (Royal Blue and Gold) to Gold and Garnet.

Ms. Jones made a motion and seconded by Ms. Brent to approve changing the school colors of Franklin Junior High School from Royal Blue and Gold to Gold and Garnet, as presented by Dr. Fegenbush. All in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 3.** Request to change the mascot of Franklin Junior High School from Rattlers to Hornets.

Ms. Jones made a motion and seconded by Ms. Moore to approve changing the mascot of Franklin Junior High School from Rattlers to Hornets, as presented by Dr. Fegenbush. All in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 5.** Approve designation of funds.

**A.** \$3,000,000 for future technology and approve subsequent release of designated funds in the amount of \$1,500,000 for technology upgrades.

Ms. Moore made a motion and seconded by Ms. LaSalle to approve \$3,000,000 for future technology, as presented by Mr. Perry.

Ms. LaSalle stated that she will be scheduling a technology committee meeting soon.

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

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and Ms. Moore made a second to approve subsequent release of designated funds in the amount of \$1,500,000 for technology upgrades, as presented by Mr. Perry. All in favor and the motion carried.

**B.** \$3,000,000 for potential future self-funded group health plan.

Mrs. Anslem made a motion and seconded by Ms. Jones to approve the amount of \$3,000,000 for a potential future self-funded group health insurance plan, as presented by Mr. Perry. All in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 6.** Approve audit engagement letter for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024-June 30, 2026.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Griffin to approve the audit engagement letter for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024-June 30, 2026, as presented by Mr. Perry. All in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 7.** Discuss and take appropriate action regarding the maintenance tax renewals.

Mr. Perry indicated that the St. Mary Parish School Board have three ad valorem taxes for the maintenance districts and one sales tax that will be up for renewal very soon.

Regarding the maintenance taxes, guidance is needed to proceed with the renewal process. The Board will need to establish the millage amount to be renewed and the election ballot date.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and seconded by Ms. LaSalle to place the Consolidated School Maintenance District II tax renewals on the December 2024 election ballot at the millage rate of 12.73 mills.

Mr. Mancuso amended the main motion and seconded by Ms. LaSalle to include Ward 6 Special School Maintenance District III renewal on the December 2024 election ballot at 12.53 mills.

Ms. Jones amended the motion and seconded by Ms. Moore to include Consolidated School Maintenance District I tax renewal on the December 2024 election ballot at 12.42 mills.

The final motion on the floor would include Consolidated School Maintenance District I, II, and III tax renewals on the December 2024 election ballot at each district's current millage rate. All in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 11. Approval of Make-up Day Due to Districtwide Closures (High Schools)**

Ms. Moore made a motion and seconded by Ms. Jones to approve make-up day for high schools due to districtwide closures, as presented by Dr. Sanders. All in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 12. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office-Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative Program and St. Mary Parish School Board.**

Mrs. Anslem made a motion and seconded by Ms. Brent to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office-Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative Program and St. Mary Parish School Board, as presented by Dr. Sanders. All in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 13. Consider funding repairs at St. Mary Alternative Program to lift and stabilize the concrete Slab in the Multi-Purpose Building in the amount of \$32,500.00 funded by All District Maintenance Funds.**

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and seconded by Mr. Mancuso to funding repairs at St. Mary Alternative Program to lift and stabilize the concrete Slab in the Multi-Purpose Building in the amount of \$32,500.00 funded by All District Maintenance Funds, as presented by Mr. Wiese. All in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 15. Permission to negotiate future bus leases and or purchases.**

Mrs. Giffin made a motion and seconded by Mr. Pontiff to grant permission to negotiate future bus leases and or purchases, as presented by Mr. Perry and Dr. Fegenbush. All in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 16. (DELETE) Discuss and take appropriate action regarding the 2024-2025 schedule of student fees.**

Item 16 was deleted from the agenda until further notice.

**Reports**

**Staff Report:**

**Chief Financial Officer's Report:**

**Sale Tax Update**

Mr. Perry reported that the sales tax collections for seven months into the fiscal year collected \$2,500,000 versus a budget of \$1,950,000.

**Financial Statements (Major Funds Only):**

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

**Other Significant Items:**

None

**Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Fegenbush reported that the St. Mary Parish public schools Majority-to-Minority (M-to-M) transfer window is now open. The St. Mary Parish public school system invites parents of students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade to participate in the Majority-to-Minority student transfer program. This transfer allows the student whose race is the majority of his or her residential transfer to a school where the students race is in the minority at the receiving school. Transportation is provided at no cost to families. For additional information, visit the St. Mary Parish public school's website to apply or call the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance at the Central Office Complex for assistance.

Professional school counselors are recognized as part of National School Counseling Week held February 5-9, 2024. National School counseling week highlights the tremendous impact St. Mary Parish school counselors have in helping students achieve school success and plan for careers.

February 9<sup>th</sup> students will be released early for parent teacher conferences. Parents are encouraged to reach out to the school site to establish a conference time if needed.

The Mardi Gras holiday begins Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Students are off for the entire week and will return to school on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

February is nationally recognized as African American or Black History month. As a nation we celebrate the achievements, contributions, and resilience of our culture individuals who have been an integral part of who we are all today. In recognition and celebration of Black History Month many programs and events are taking place in St. Mary Parish School's this month. A flyer of events has been posted on the St. Mary Parish School's district website.

**Closing:**

**Resolutions of Respect**

Ms. Estay read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Diana Aleman (retired school cafeteria technician) and the late Sandra Blanco (retired school nurse).

**Adjournment:**

With there being no further business to address, Mr. Mancuso made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.