

Centerville, Louisiana

December 14, 2023

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, December 14, 2023, 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. 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.

District I seat is currently vacant.

Invocation

Ms. Estay 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.

Recognition of District Teachers of the Year:

Ms. Estay recognized and introduced the District Teachers of the Year as follows:

- Elementary Teacher of the Year Rebecca Nguyen of J.B. Maitland Elementary.
- Junior High Teacher of the Year Amy Gilliam of Franklin Junior High.
- High School Teacher of the Year Bobbye Jo “BJ” Castaneda of Berwick High.

Ms. Estay recognized and introduced the New Teachers of the Year as follows:

- New Elementary School Teacher of the Year Shelbi Fontenot of Berwick Elementary.
- New High School Teacher of the Year Tyra Newcomb, the Jobs for American Graduates Teacher.

Recognition of district principal of the year:

Ms. Estay recognized and introduced Ms. Kiante Gunner of Bayou Vista Elementary School as the district principal of the year.

Introduction of Students and Employees of the Month:

J. S. Aucoin Elementary School:

Principal Shantell Toups introduced 5th grader Dylan Bibian as Student of the Month at J. S. Aucoin Elementary School.

Ms. Angelica Zavala EL paraprofessional was unable to attend today’s meeting due to personal circumstances. Despite her absence, Principal Shantell acknowledged Ms. Angelica Zavala as Employee of the Month at J. S. Aucoin Elementary School.

LaGrange Elementary School:

Principal Heidi Mouton introduced 5th grader Kendal Hawkins as Student of the Month at LaGrange Elementary School.

Principal Heidi Mouton introduced Shana Longman, 2nd grade ELA teacher, as Employee of the Month at LaGrange Elementary School.

Franklin Senior High School:

Principal Natasha Jackson introduced 12th grader Kayla Smith as Student of the Month at Franklin Senior High School.

Principal Natasha Jackson introduced Jacinta Verret, physical education teacher, athletic director, as Employee of the Month at Franklin Senior High School.

Appearances:

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

Dr. Fegenbush recognized the winners of the St. Mary Parish School Board Christmas Card artwork as follows:

- K-5 winner Timothy Truong II, 3rd grader of Centerville School.
- 6-12 winner Ja'Layah Smith, 11th grader of Morgan City High School.
- grand prize winner Geraldine Nobles, 9th grader of Morgan City 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 November 9, 2023. 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:

Business Affairs:

Item 2. *Authorize RFP or negotiation process for property insurance for the year commencing April 1, 2024.

Item 3. *Authorize RFP or negotiation process for workers compensation insurance for the year commencing May 1, 2024.

Ms. LaSalle 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.

New Business:

Personnel:

Item 1. Discuss and take action if needed regarding revised policy.

- A. School Board Member Compensation and Expense (BBBE)

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and seconded by Mr. Mancuso to approve the School Board Member Compensation and Expense policy (BBBE). All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 4. Award substantial completion to Centerville School Roofing Project II using ESSER Funds.

Ms. Jones made a motion and seconded by Mr. Pontiff to approve the substantial completion of Centerville School Roofing Project II using ESSER Funds. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 5. Award substantial completion to Franklin Junior High School Roofing Project using ESSER Funds.

Ms. Jones made a motion and seconded by Ms. Moore to approve the substantial completion of Franklin Junior High School Roofing Project using ESSER Funds. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 6. Discuss and take necessary action on bids received for Maintenance District III Roofing Project of Morgan City High School, Morgan City Junior High School and J. S. Aucoin Elementary using ESSER Funds.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Dennis to approve the low base bid plus deductive alternate 1 (delete cost of reroofing the front canopy at Morgan City High School) and alternate 2 (delete the cost of reroofing the Field House at Morgan City High School) to Morcore Roofing, LLC of Roanoke, LA for a total cost of \$2,499,000 for Maintenance District III

Roofing Project for Morgan City High School, Morgan City Junior High School and J. S. Aucoin Elementary using ESSER Funds, as presented by Mr. Wiese. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 7. Approve Declaration of Vacancy in Position of School Board Member, District I, St. Mary Parish School Board and Proclamation calling for a Special Election to fill such vacancy.

President Black read aloud the Declaration of Vacancy as follows:

DECLARATION OF VACANCY IN POSITION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, DISTRICT 1, ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD AND PROCLAMATION CALLING SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL SUCH VACANCY

WHEREAS, due to the passing of Joseph Foulcard, Jr. on December 9, 2023, a vacancy now exists in the office of School Board Member, District 1, St. Mary Parish School Board; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 18:602 requires that the St. Mary Parish School Board formally declare the vacancy in its membership and appoint an individual to fill the vacancy until a special election can be conducted in accordance with the requirements of law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED that the St. Mary Parish School Board does hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: The School Board hereby declares that, due to the passing of Joseph Foulcard, Jr., the office of School Board Member, District 1, St. Mary Parish School Board, is vacant.

SECTION 2: A special election shall be held for the purpose of electing a qualified individual to fill the vacancy in the office of School Board Member, District 1, St. Mary Parish School Board.

SECTION 3: Any qualified person desiring to become a candidate for the office shall file a notice of candidacy, accompanied by a qualifying fee or a nominating petition, as required or authorized by law, with the appropriate election official in the manner and form and under the procedures and conditions set forth in the Louisiana Election Code during the period commencing Wednesday, July 17, 2024 and ending at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 19, 2024.

SECTION 4: The special election shall be held and conducted under the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code.

SECTION 5: The primary election shall be held November 5, 2024, and the general election, if necessary, shall be held December 7, 2024, at the times and places and in the manner prescribed by law.

SECTION 6: The Secretary of State, Commissioner of Elections, Parish Board of Election Supervisors, Clerk of Court, Registrar of Voters, and all other persons charged with any power, function, right, duty or responsibility in conducting elections in the jurisdiction of the vacant position described herein are hereby authorized, requested, directed and empowered to exercise every lawful function and to do every act necessary to conduct the special election, to cause the returns to be made, to canvass and promulgate the results, and to perform all related and incidental functions.

SECTION 7: Superintendent Buffy S. Fegenbush (or her designee) will take all action necessary to immediately publish this proclamation in the School Board’s official journal.

SECTION 8: Superintendent Buffy S. Fegenbush (or her designee) will send a copy of this proclamation to the Clerk of Court for the 16th Judicial District and to the Secretary of State by registered or certified mail no later than twenty-four (24) hours after this proclamation is issued.

RESOLVED by the St. Mary Parish School Board at its regular school board meeting on the 14th day of December 2023.

Buffy S. Fegenbush
Board Secretary

Alaina L. Black
Board President

Ms. Moore made a motion and seconded by Ms. Jones to approve Declaration of Vacancy in Position of School Board Member, District I, St. Mary Parish School Board and Proclamation calling for a Special Election to fill such vacancy. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 8. Appoint a representative to temporarily fill the seat of District I, School Board Member until the Special Election.

Ms. Moore made a motion to appoint Ms. Guienzy M. Brent, who resides at 821 10th Street, Franklin, Louisiana 70538, as representative to temporarily fill the seat of District I, School Board Member until the Special Election. Ms. Jones made a second to the motion. All in favor and the motion carried.

Committees:

Establish a Policy Review Committee.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Anslem to establish a Policy Review Committee. 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 five months into the fiscal year collected \$1,600,000 versus a budget of \$1,548,000, with a \$52,000 excess of revenues over 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 indicated that the IRS mileage rates for 2024 will be 0.67 cents per mile, which is currently 65.5 cents per mile. The new mileage rates will be posted on the School Board's website.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Fegenbush reported as a result of the move to block scheduling for high schools' students enrolled in courses that require LEAP testing must take the exam at the end of the semester. Results from all exams taken should be received before students leave for the holiday break. Parents are encouraged to review testing results and to reach out to school counselors with any questions they may have.

Dr. Fegenbush was extremely proud to once again congratulate Ms. Kiante Gunner who has been named as St. Mary Parish Principal of the Year. Ms. Gunner is the principal of Bayou Vista Elementary School, the top school that had a performance score of 92.7 in the parish.

December 21, 2023, marks the last day of school before the Christmas break. High schools will be released at 12:30 p.m. and elementary schools will be released at 1:00 p.m. The Christmas break officially begins to December 22nd; students will return to school after the holidays on January 8, 2024.

In closing, Dr. Fegenbush wished everyone happy holidays, "May we all remember that the greatest gift to be received is the time we are able to spend with those we love."

Resolutions of Respect

Ms. Estay read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Audrey Alleman (retired elementary school teacher) and Joseph C. Foulcard, Jr. (former elementary physical education teacher and an active school board member).

Executive Session:

Request to enter into executive session, pursuant to La. R. S. 42:17 (A) (3), to discuss the development of course of action regarding security personnel, plans, or devices, and the assessment and implementation of any such plans or procedures.

Board Entered Executive Session:

With a motion from Mr. Mancuso and a second from Ms. Moore the Board entered into Executive Session. All in favor and the motion carried.

Closing:

Adjournment:

With there being no further business to address, Mrs. Griffin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.