

Centerville, Louisiana

October 10, 2024

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, October 10, 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. Chad M. Paradee, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso, Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis.

District VII: Vacant.

Invocation

Mr. Holmes gave the Invocation.

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

Torin Bearb, 6th student of Patterson Junior High School led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Introduction of Students of the Month:

Bayou Vista Elementary School:

Principal Kiante Gunner introduced 5th grade student Caysn Crappell as Student of the Month at Bayou Vista Elementary School.

Principal Kiante Gunner introduced Daira Moffett, an EL paraprofessional as Employee of the Month at Bayou Vista Elementary School.

W. P. Foster Elementary School:

Dr. Angela Steward introduced 5th grade student Ryleigh Small as Student of the Month at W. P. Foster Elementary School.

Dr. Angela Steward introduced Stanley Williams, a resource teacher as Employee of the Month at W. P. Foster Elementary School.

Patterson Junior High School:

Principal Lauren Renthrop introduced 5th grade student Alyssa Mills as Student of the Month at Patterson Junior High School.

Principal Lauren Renthrop introduced 6th grade student Torin Bearb as Student of the Month at Patterson Junior High School.

Principal Lauren Renthrop recognized Belynda Vinning, a health and physical education teacher as Employee of the Month at Patterson Junior High School. Ms. Vinning was unable to attend the meeting.

Appearances:

Recognition of newly appointed positions:

There were no newly appointed positions for the month of October.

Provide information on School-based Health Clinics in St. Mary Parish Schools.

On behalf of Dr. Gary Wiltz of Teche Action Clinic in his absence, Dr. Fegenbush stated that Dr. Wiltz will be asking to attend the November 14, 2024 regular board meeting to determine whether or not the Board would approve a potential Teche Action Clinic Student Health Center at the Franklin Junior High/Franklin Senior High site that is being renovated.

Dr. Wiltz also extended an invitation to everyone to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at B. Edward Boudreaux Middle/West St. Mary High School. The event will celebrate the opening of the new West St. Mary Student Health Clinic, which has transitioned from the outside building to its new location inside the school.

Approval of Amended Agenda.

No amended agenda.

Approval of Official School Board Minutes.

Mrs. Griffin offered the motion and Ms. Moore offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the regular school board meeting held on September 12, 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:

Business Affairs:

Item 3. *Approve property and casualty insurance consultant contract renewal.

Item 10. *Proclamation(s):

A. * National Veteran’s Day (November 2024)

B. *National Native American Heritage Month (November 2024)

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

Item 1. Approve Declaration of Vacancy in Position of School Board Member, District 7, St. Mary Parish School Board and Proclamation calling 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 7, ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD AND PROCLAMATION CALLING SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL SUCH VACANCY.

WHEREAS, due to the resignation of Honorable Murphy Pontiff, Jr. on September 30, 2024, a vacancy now exists in the office of School Board Member, District 7, 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 resignation of Honorable Murphy Pontiff, Jr., the office of School Board Member, District 7, 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 7, 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, January 29, 2025 and ending at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 31, 2025.
- 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 March 29, 2025, and the general election, if necessary, shall be held May 3, 2025, 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 10th day of October, 2024.

<hr style="width: 100%;"/> Buffy S. Fegenbush Board Secretary	<hr style="width: 100%;"/> Alaina L. Black Board President
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Mr. Mancuso made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Anslem to approve Declaration of Vacancy in Position of School Board Member, District 7, St. Mary Parish School Board and Proclamation calling for a Special Election to fill such vacancy. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 2. Appoint a representative to temporarily fill the seat of District 7, School Board Member until the Special Election.

President Black indicated that there were seven candidates for the District 7, School Board Member position.

President Black read aloud a message from one of the candidates, Mr. David Hanagriff as follows:

“After realizing the number of highly qualified applicates, I am withdrawing my name for consideration to fill the vacant seat of Mr. Pontiff . My intent was to offer myself to help serve the people of St.Mary Parish. I appreciate the School Boards consideration.”

The Board was provided a ballot with a list of the remaining six (6) candidates. A majority of six (6) votes are required to appoint a candidate to fill the District 7 vacancy. In the event that no candidate receives the majority of six (6) votes, the top two candidates will be voted on again. Votes were read aloud by Superintendent Fegenbush and verified by each board member. Votes were tallied and recorded as follows:

- **Carla Broussard-Pellerin:** two (2) votes (Ms. Guienzy M. Brent and Ms. Debra R. Jones)
- **Almetra Franklin:** one (1) vote (Ms.Tammie M. Moore)
- **Lawrence Guillory:** three (3) votes (Mrs. Lindsey T. Anslem, Mr. Chad M. Paradee, and Mr. Andrew Mancuso)
- **Craig Pellerin:** 0 votes
- **Glenn Pellerin:** four (4) votes (Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis)
- **F. Peter Soprano:** 0 votes

Since no candidate received a majority of six votes, the top two candidates, Lawrence Guillory and Glenn Pellerin, will proceed to a runoff vote. The votes are recorded as follows:

- **Lawrence Guillory:** seven (7) votes (Mrs. Lindsey T. Anslem, Ms. Guienzy M. Brent, Ms. Tammie M. Moore, Ms. Debra R. Jones, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Mr. Chad M. Paradee, and Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso)
- **Glenn Pellerin:** three (3) votes (Ms. Marliyn P. Lasalle, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, and Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis)

Mr. Lawrence Guillory received seven (7) votes, and Mr. Glenn Pellerin received 3 votes in the second round.

With the majority vote of the entire membership of the Board, Mr. Lawrence Guillory who resides at 9744 Highway 182, Franklin, Louisiana 70538, was appointed as the Interim School Board Member, District 7, until the special election on March 29, 2025 or the general election, if necessary, on May 3, 2025.

Item 4. Provide an update and recommendation on self-funded Commercial Group Health plan proposal.

Mr. James Perez presented the Board with a self-funded alternative to the fully insured plan, which would not affect the premiums of the employees or board contributions.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Anslem to remain fully insured on the Commercial Group Health plan for this year, as presented by Mr. Perez. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 5. Accept change order #2 for Morgan City High School Stadium Renovations.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and seconded by Ms. Moore to approve change order #2 for Morgan City High School Stadium Renovations, as presented by Mr. Carl Blum. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 6. Award substantial completion to Morgan City High School Stadium Renovations.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Anslem to approve substantial completion of Morgan City High School Stadium Renovations, as presented by Mr. Carl Blum. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 7. Accept change order #3 for Reroofing at Berwick Junior High School, Berwick High School and Patterson High School.

Mr. Paradee made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Anslem to approve change order #3 for Reroofing at Berwick Junior High School, Berwick High School and Patterson High School, as presented by Mr. Carl Blum. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 8. Award substantial completion for Reroofing at Berwick Junior High School, Berwick High School, and Patterson High School.

Mrs. Griffin made a motion and seconded by Ms. Brent to approve substantial completion for Reroofing at Berwick Junior High School, Berwick High School, and Patterson High School, as presented by Mr. Carl Blum. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 9. Award substantial completion for Phase II roofing at Franklin Senior High School using ESSER Funds.

Ms. Moore made a motion and seconded by Ms. Jones to approve substantial completion for Phase II roofing at Franklin Senior High School using ESSER Funds as presented by Mr. Jim Firmin. All in favor and the motion carried.

Reports

Committees:

1. The Special Education Advisory Committee met on September 23, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana.

Ms. McClarity reported that new Council members were recognized for the Special Education Advisory Committee. Principal Brianna Comeaux accepted the nomination as the new committee chairperson. Ms. Almetra Pierce-Stanbury provided a presentation of the April Dunn Act regarding high school students and student transitioning from eighth grade to ninth grade.

The committee discussed the installation of cameras regarding campus safety measures in schools, which is almost completed.

Ms. McClarity extended an invitation to everyone to attend and join the students for the Special Olympics Bowling event on October 25, 2024, at Steelwood Lanes in Morgan City.

2. The Policy Committee met on September 23, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana to discuss the following policies from Forethought Consulting as revised by Hammonds and Sill.

Mr. Mancuso reported that the Policy Committee reviewed the following policies, which are now being presented for the full Board's approval.

- A. Qualifications for School Board Members (ABCB)
- B. School Board Member Continuing Education (BBBC)

- C. Notification of School Board Meeting (BCBB)
- D. Contracts and Compensation (GBA)
- E. Sick and Extended Leave (GBRIB)
- F. Employee Sick Leave Bank (GBRIBB)
- G. Corporal Punishment (JDA)
- H. Student Healthy Services (JGC)
- I. Immunizations (JGCB)
- J. Administration of Medication (JGCD)
- K. Behavior Health Services for Students (JGCFA)

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Anslem to approve the revisions of Item 2 A-K with the exception of Item 2 F policy GBRIBB, which will be discussed separately. All in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and seconded by Ms. Moore to table Item 2 F regarding Employee Sick Leave Bank (GBRIBB) to allow for recommendations from a Regional School Human Resource Meeting, which is scheduled for later this month. 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 three months into the fiscal year were 6.4 percent unfavorable for the month and 1 percent unfavorable year-to-date, which is not a significant concern.

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 Red Ribbon Week events will be celebrated starting the week of October 21st.

October 1st enrollment counts indicated that 6928 students are enrolled for grades K through 12, with an additional 313 Pre-K students for a total of 7221 students enrolled, which has a decrease of 280 students from the previous year. St. Mary's public schools' enrollment has declined by an estimate of 740 students since 2021.

The annual St. Mary Parish College and Career Fair will be held on Wednesday, October 23rd at the Berwick Civic Center.

As previously announced, 17 of 22 school sites including the Alternative Program received safety grants from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness. The remaining five sites were approved this week. This increases the total of the safety grant to \$1,065,000.

Report cards were distributed to students on October 10, 2024. Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on October 11, 2024. Parents and guardians that have concerns are encouraged to contact the school to schedule an appointment with their child's teacher.

St. Mary Parish schools will be closed on October 14-15, 2024, for Fall break.

Closing:

Resolutions of Respect

There were no Resolutions of Respect.

Adjournment:

With there being no further business to address, Ms. Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Mrs. Anslem made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.