

Centerville, Louisiana

November 14, 2024

The Regular School Board Meeting was called to order by President Black.

Administer Oath of Office to School Board Member:

Morgan Guillory, the Assistant District Attorney of the St. Mary Parish Civil Division, administered the Oath of Office to her father, Mr. Lawrence A. Guillory, who was sworn in as District VII School Board Member of the St. Mary Parish School Board. During the special ceremony, Mr. Guillory was joined by his wife, Stacey Guillory; his daughter, Sarra Guillory; and the former School Board Member of District VII, Mr. Murphy Pontiff, Jr.

Regular Session:

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, November 14, 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. Lawrence A. Guillory, 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.

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

Hattie Watts Elementary School:

Dr. Brianna Comeaux introduced Aaleyah Allen, a 4th grade student, as Student of the Month at Hattie Watts Elementary School.

Dr. Brianna Comeaux introduced Nicole Boudreaux, a 4th grade teacher, as Employee of the Month at Hattie Watts Elementary School.

Morgan City Junior High School:

Principal Amber Monceaux introduced Isaac Price, an 8th grade student, as Student of the Month at Morgan City Junior High School.

Principal Amber Monceaux introduced James Naverre, Head Custodian, as Employee of the Month at Morgan City Junior High School.

West St. Mary High School:

Principal Suzette Charpentier introduced Kelsey August, a 12th grade student, as Student of the Month at West St. Mary High School.

Principal Suzette Charpentier introduced Trinity Weber, Bookkeeper, as Employee of the Month at West St. Mary High School.

Appearances:

Recognition of newly appointed positions:

Ms. Estay recognized and congratulated the new appointee as follows:

- Chase LeBouef - Dean of Students at Morgan City High School

Recognition of VAM teachers.

Ms. Estay introduced and congratulated the VAM teachers as follows:

- Nicole Boudreaux
- Shannon Jaet
- Alyssa Rhodes
- Janine Hoang
- Lani McElroy
- Shantay Womble
- Heather Crappell
- Maybelle Klein

- Megan Vinning
- Angela Kulka
- Jennifer Ross
- Renata Colar
- Mary Gilmore
- Leah Becnel
- Rekeisha Triggs
- Shannon Duplantis
- Nicole Pellerin
- Chaquilla Coleman
- Crystal Knope

Provide a Brief Informational Presentation on Healthcare Tax Initiative.

Mr. Bill Bourgeois with the St. Mary Parish Hospital Service District # 2 briefly explained the purpose of the hospital proposal on the December 7, 2024 ballot. If passed, this proposition will reinstate the 9-mill investment that the community paid in the past to support the hospital. It will provide a community investment of \$3.4 million per year for a 10-year term. Only voters in East St. Mary: Wards 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, and part of Ward 4 can vote. Early voting will be Friday, November 22, 2024 to Saturday, November 30, 2024 at the St. Mary Parish Annex Building, 301 Third Street, Morgan City, Louisiana. Main voting day is Saturday, December 7, 2024 at your regular polling stations.

Approval of Amended Agenda.

No amended agenda.

Approval of Official School Board Minutes.

Ms. Moore offered the motion and Ms. LaSalle offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the regular school board meeting held on October 10, 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:

Item 1. *Review of policies from Forethought Consulting:

- A. *Notification of School Board Meetings (BCBB)
- B. *School Board Meeting News Coverage and Broadcasting (BCBJ)
- C. *Employment of Superintendent (CED)
- D. *Personnel Records (GAK)
- E. *Use of pronouns and Given Names (GAMK)
- F. *Recruitment (GBC)
- G. *Sex Education (IDBA)
- H. *Health Education (IDB)
- I. *Education of Students with Exceptionalities (IDDF)
- J. *Student Health Services (JGC)

Item 5. *Approve banking resolutions authorizing signatories at various schools as a result of recent appointments.

Item 6. Proclamation(s):

- A. *National Special Education Day (December 2, 2024)

Item 7. *Field Trips:

- A. *Berwick High School, Close Up Travel to Washington, D.C. Metro Area February 2-7, 2025.

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

Business Affairs:

Item 2. Approved revisions to job description:

A. Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Anslem made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Griffin to table revisions to the Chief Financial Officer position until a later date, as presented by Ms. Estay. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 3. Discuss and/or take action on index increase for Chief Accountant.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and seconded by Mr. Mancuso to approve the index for the Chief Accountant position from 1.35 to raising the index to 1.45, as presented by Ms. Estay. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 4. Approval of Purchase of Three Route Buses Equipped with Air Conditioning and Camera Systems.

Ms. Jones made a motion and seconded by Ms. Moore to approve the purchase of three route buses equipped with Air Conditioning and Camera Systems for a total cost of \$418,488.03, as presented by Mr. Louis. All in favor and the motion carried with Mrs. Griffin voting nay.

Reports

Committees:

Set date and time for the following committee meetings:

- **Maintenance District III Committee:** December 11, 2024 at 4:30 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, LA.
- **Technology Committee:** December 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, LA.
- **Policy Review Committee:** December 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, LA.

Staff Report

Chief Financial Officer's Report:

Sale Tax Update:

Mr. Perry reported that the sales tax collections for four months into the fiscal year collected were \$4,821,735. This was a one-time unusually high payment for an audit.

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 past couple of weeks have been exciting, celebrating school-level winners for Teacher Support and Student of the Year, as well as recognizing district-level winners for the St. Mary Parish School System.

Congratulations to Centerville, Franklin, Patterson, and West St. Mary High schools for making it to the first round of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) football playoffs.

All eligible voters are encouraged to participate in the special election for the Maintenance District I, II, and III tax renewals, scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2024.

In closing, Dr. Fegenbush wished everyone a restful and joyous Thanksgiving break.

Resolutions of Respect:

Ms. Estay read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Carolyn Breaux (retired elementary school teacher), Helen Clark (retired language arts teacher, Bernie "BJ" Jones, Jr. (former head custodian), Patricia Landrum (retired staff development coordinator), Joyce Dubois Miller (retired school cafeteria manager), and Gertie Parro (retired school migrant advocate).

Student Expulsion Appeal:

- A. A public body may hold an executive session pursuant to R.S. 42:16 for one or more of the following reasons:

(7) Discussions between a city or parish school board and individual students or the parents or tutors of such students, or both, who are within the jurisdiction of the respective school system, regarding problems of such students or their parents or tutors; provided however, that any such parent, tutor, or student may require that such discussions be held in an open meeting.

Agenda item: Discuss and take any needed action regarding the above noted executive session.

The parents requested a private meeting, which proceeded into an Executive Session.

Enter Closed Session:

With a motion from Mr. Mancuso and a second from Ms. Moore, the Board went into closed session to discuss the student expulsion appeal. All in favor and the motion carried.

Return to Regular Session:

Ms. LaSalle moved that the Board return to regular session. Ms. Jones gave a second and the meeting resumed. All in favor and the motion carried.

Statement Issued:

President Black reported that the Board has concluded its deliberations in Executive Session regarding the student expulsion appeal.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and seconded by Mr. Mancuso to accept the decision of the Child Welfare Supervisor, Kenneth Holmes. A roll call was taken as follows:

Yes: Ms. Guienzy M. Brent, Ms. Tammie L. Moore, Ms. Debra R. Jones, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Mr. Lawrence A. Guillory, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, and Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso.

No: Mrs. Lindsey T. Anslem, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin

Abstain: Mr. Chad M. Paradee

Absent: Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis

Motion passed with roll call vote (**summary:** Yes=7, No=2, Abstain =1, and Absent=1)

Adjournment:

With there being no further business to address, Mr. Mancuso made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Ms. Jones made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.