

Centerville, Louisiana
December 12, 2024

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, December 12, 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, Mrs. Lindsey T. Anslem, Ms. Debra R. Jones, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Mr. Lawrence A. Guillory, Mr. Chad M. Paradee, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso, Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis.

Absent: Ms. Tammie L. Moore, and Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle.

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:

J. S. Aucoin Elementary School:

Principal Shantell Toups introduced, Sofia Alfred a 5th grader, as Student of the Month at J. S. Aucoin Elementary School.

Principal Shantell Toups introduced Gricelda Cerritos, an ESL Paraprofessional as Employee of the Month at J. S. Aucoin Elementary School.

LaGrange Elementary School:

Ms. Kendra Thomas, Dean of Students, introduced Samaya Moore, a 5th grader as Student of the Month at LaGrange Elementary School.

Ms. Kendra Thomas, Dean of Students, introduced Amanda Derouen, a Special Education Teacher as Employee of the Month at LaGrange Elementary School.

Franklin Senior High School:

Franklin Senior High School Students and Employees of the Month will be presented at the January regular school board meeting.

Appearances:

Recognition of St. Mary Parish School Board Christmas Card Artwork Winners:

Dr. Fegenbush recognized and introduced the Christmas Card Artwork Winners as follows:

- Grand Champion – Jalayiah Smith (Morgan City High School)
- K-5 winner – Parker Pisani (Berwick Elementary School)
- 6-12 winner – Sara Sanchez (Morgan City High School)

Recognition of District Students of the Year:

On behalf of Ms. Estay in her absence, Dr. Sanders recognized and introduced the District Students of the Year as follows:

- 5th grade: Mya Lasalle (Berwick Elementary School)
- 8th grade: Isaac Price (Morgan City Junior High School)

Recognition of District Teachers of the Year:

On behalf of Ms. Estay in her absence, Dr. Sanders recognized and introduced the District Teachers of the Year as follows:

- Nicole Boudreaux (Hattie Watts Elementary)
- Tina Johnson (Patterson High School)

Recognition of District Principal of the Year:

The District Principal of the Year will be presented at the January regular school board meeting.

Approval of Amended Agenda.

No amended agenda.

Approval of Official School Board Minutes.

Mrs. Griffin offered the motion, and Ms. Jones offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the regular school board meeting held on November 14, 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:****Business Affairs:****4. *Field trip(s)**

- A. *Morgan City High School, Close Up travel to Washington, D.C. Metro Area
February 2 2025 - February 7, 2025.

5. *Proclamation(s):

- A. *Louisiana School Board Member Recognition Month (January 2025)

Mrs. Anslem requested to pull Item 1 Chief Financial Officer revised job description for further discussion.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of pulling Item 1 Chief Financial Officer revised job description for further discussion, as presented by Dr. Fegenbush. Mrs. Dennis made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

Business Affairs:**Item 1. Approve revised job description:****A. Chief Financial Officer**

Mrs. Anslem made a motion to revise the job description under "Qualifications" to update the wording to read: "Bachelor's degree in the field of accounting, and MBA/CPA preferred." Delete the phrase "is a certified public accountant" from the end of the sentence. Mrs. Griffin made a second. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 2. Approve closeout change order for credits of unused allowances to Project Phase I Re-roofing at Franklin Senior High School.

Architect Jim Firmin reported that the deductive change order amount for Franklin Senior High School Phase I Roofing Project was \$8,372.10, which will reduce the current amount of \$885,000.00 to \$876,627.90 for the final contract.

Item 2 will be combined with Item 3 for consideration and voted as a single action.

Item 3. Approve closeout change order for credits of unused allowances to Project Phase II Re-roofing at Franklin Senior High School.

The deductive change order amount for Franklin Senior High School Phase II Roofing Project was \$138,882.25, which will reduce the current amount of \$2,250,206.79 to \$2,111,324.54 for the final contract.

Ms. Brent made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Anslem to approve Item 2 and Item 3 in globo for the Franklin Senior High School Project Phase I and II Reroofing change orders, as presented by Mr. Jim Firmin. All in favor and the motion carried.

Reports**Committee:**

1. The Maintenance District III Committee met on December 11, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana to discuss the following:

- A. Discussion and make any recommendations regarding MCHS stadium track equipment.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Maintenance District III Committee, to allocate up to \$70,000 of Maintenance District III funds for the Morgan City High School equipment. All in favor and the motion carried.

B. Discuss and/or take action regarding District III Phase I Reroofing Change Order No. 2.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Maintenance District III Committee and to approve Phase I Reroofing Change Order No. 2, as presented by Architect Carl Blum. All in favor and the motion carried.

C. Discuss and/or take action regarding District III Phase I Reroofing Substantial Completion.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Maintenance District III Committee and to approve District III Phase I Reroofing change order no. 2. All in favor and the motion carried.

2. The Hi-Tech Committee met on December 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana to discuss the following:

- A.** Receive updates concerning program funding
- B.** Receive updates concerning student device transitioning
- C.** Provide updates on student computer usage
- D.** Any comments or questions from the committee

On behalf of Ms. LaSalle in her absence, President Black reported that the Hi-Tech Committee received updates on all items as described above.

3. The Policy Committee met on December 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana to discuss the Following:

- 1.** Receive updates regarding the Simbli Policy Portal.

Dr. Janet Pope with Louisiana School Board Association briefly explain to the Board the process for the new Simbli Policy Portal.

2. Approve policies from Forethought Consulting as revised by Hammonds and Sill and recommendations of the Policy Review Committee:

- 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)
- K.** Employee Sick Leave Bank (GBRIBB)
- L.** Gifts and Donations (DFK)

Mr. Mancuso made a motion to approve policies in globo as described in Item 2 A-J, with suggested revisions by the Board's attorney and the recommendations of the Policy Committee. All in favor and the motion carried.

Items 2 K-L, previously tabled by the Policy Committee, were discussed and revised. Following the discussion, the committee recommended sending the policies for legal review, with potential approval scheduled for January 9, 2025, regular school board meeting.

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 \$2,080,830 versus a budget of \$2,058,333, with a favorable variance of \$22,496.

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 all three of the maintenance millages tax renewals for St. Mary Parish Consolidated School Districts were successfully passed. She expressed gratitude to stakeholders for their support.

The Louisiana Department of Education has released the official district and school performance scores. The St. Mary Parish district score improved by two points, achieving a score of 82.6 earning a "B" letter grade. Fourteen of twenty-one of St. Mary schools showed growth in their School Performance Score (SPS), and 95.7 percent of St. Mary schools achieved an "A" or "B" rating in student progress. Julia B. Maitland Elementary School saw the highest growth with a 15-point increase. Additionally, ten schools earned the prestigious Top Gains designation for exceptional growth in state assessments. Franklin Senior High School, Patterson High School, and West St. Mary High School were recognized as Opportunity Honorees.

The last day of the semester is Friday, December 20, 2024 with Christmas break starting December 23, 2024 and ending January 6, 2025. Students return on January 7, 2025, and report cards will be distributed January 8th.

In closing, Dr. Fegenbush wished students, families, and staff a peaceful and joyful holiday season.

Closing:**Resolutions of Respect**

Dr. Sanders read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Gail Lancon (retired School Chapter I Reading and EL Instructional Specialist).

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. Mancuso made a motion and seconded by Ms. Jones to enter into closed session. All in favor and the motion carried.

Return to Regular Session:

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

Adjournment:

With there being no further business to address, Mr. Mancuso made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.