

GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the St. Bernard Parish School Board Office. Following the Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, the Secretary called the roll. Members present were, Mrs. Diana B. Dysart, President, Mrs. Darleen P. Asevedo, Mr. Donald D. Campbell, Dr. Hugh C. Craft, Mr. William H. Egan, Mr. Clifford M. Englande, Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr., Mr. Joseph V. Long, Sr., Mrs. Judy W. Nicosia and Mr. Sean K. Warner. Mrs. Katherine K. Lemoine was absent.

Mrs. Dysart asked Ms. Voitier to present to the Board a new monthly component of Board Agendas called "Super News". Ms. Voitier first called attention to the handout in each Committee member's folders which lists district wide and school specific events. At this time, the "Super News" video for September 2016 was shown. The Committee applauded the efforts of Ms. Alex Schneider, Barry Lemoine and Jack Jackson for their hard work in assembling the video.

Mrs. Dysart next welcomed Mrs. Shelly Lacoste, President of the St. Bernard Reading Council and Mrs. Natalie Albers, Assistant Principal of Lacoste Elementary. Mrs. Lacoste and Mrs. Albers appeared to invite members of the Committee to join the St. Bernard Reading Council which is an affiliate of the Louisiana Reading Association and the International Reading Association.

Mrs. Lacoste explained as President of the St. Bernard Reading Council, she hopes to inspire teachers to be the best teachers they can be and to increase membership. Their first membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. at the Lacoste Elementary School Library. Mrs. Albers continued by explaining some of the benefits of joining this organization, listed some of the activities that are hosted during the year to promote reading and finally their Awards dinner at the end of the school year. She then invited all Board members to join the organization. Mrs. Albers presented certificates for the two School Board Members, Mrs. Lemoine and Mrs. Dysart, who were members last year of the St. Bernard Reading Council.

Mrs. Dysart thanked Mrs. Lacoste and Mrs. Albers for coming to the meeting tonight and for their efforts in promoting reading.

Mrs. Dysart next asked Dr. Lewis as Education Committee Chair to address the next agenda item. Dr. Lewis welcomed Mrs. Lee Anne Harlton, Curriculum Supervisor, to present the latest changes to the current Pupil Progression Plan. Those changes, as explained by Mrs. Harlton, concern 4 areas.

The first has to do with students transferring into our school district and the testing that needs to take place to determine placement of a student. Mrs. Harlton noted that she and Mrs. Lumetta, also a Curriculum Supervisor, decided that the fourth and eighth grade end of year benchmark testing will provide this information for placement.

The second area involves placement decisions for fourth and 8th grade students. Mrs. Harlton explained that each school has a Pupil Progression Team and guidelines that are to be used for promotion. Evidence to be used include but are not limited to such things as benchmark assessments, classroom assignments, etc.

The third are involves special education students. Mrs. Harlton explained that the IEP team for the school will consider many factors to determine their readiness to be promoted.

The fourth and final area involves the availability of using a waiver in fourth or eighth for Limited English Proficient students in promoting the student.

After all questions were addressed by the Committee, Mr. Long moved to recommend the Board approve the changes to the Pupil Progression Plan as presented by Mrs. Harlton tonight. Seconded by Mr. Warner, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Dr. Lewis next asked Ms. Voitier to address the next agenda item concerning enrollment. Ms. Voitier provided the Committee with a handout that displays a comparison of 2015-16 and 2016-17 enrollment numbers as of August of each year. She noted that currently our enrollment is at 7633 which is an increase of 108 students since August 25th. This includes 4 year olds, a few 3 year olds with disabilities and about a dozen students from flood affected areas. See tables below for 2015 and 2016 comparisons.

ENROLLMENT NUMBERS – AUGUST 25, 2016

School	Pre-K	K-5	6-8	9-12	Total
Arabi Elementary	79	629			708
Chalmette Elementary	89	575			664
Gauthier Elementary	67	499			566
Davies Elementary	100	741			841
Lacoste Elementary	100	802			902
Smith Elementary	44	297			341
Andrew Jackson Middle			612		612
Trist Middle			667		667
St. Bernard Middle			310		310
Chalmette High				1816	1816
Rowley Alternative			45	53	98
Totals	479	3543	1634	1869	7525

ENROLLMENT NUMBERS – AUGUST 27, 2015

School	Pre-K	K-5	6-8	9-12	Total
Arabi Elementary	87	669			756
Chalmette Elementary	80	605			685
Gauthier Elementary	63	502			565
Davies Elementary	98	709			807
Lacoste Elementary	98	776			874
Smith Elementary	40	314			354
Andrew Jackson Middle			630		630
Trist Middle			662		662
St. Bernard Middle			338		338
Chalmette High				1742	1742
Rowley Alternative			41	54	95
Totals	466	3575	1671	1796	7508

Mr. Long as Executive Committee Chair welcomed Mr. Granberry to present all Personnel Changes for September 2016. Mr. Long thanked Mr. Granberry for this presentation. Mrs. Dysart congratulated Mrs. Sandra Gerage and Ms. Otsie Ruiz on their retirements.

Mr. Egan, Chair of the Insurance Committee, welcomed Mr. Harlton, Purchasing and Insurance Coordinator and Richie Clements, our insurance agent of record from Clements Insurance, to speak to the Committee regarding the renewal of the General Liability, Automobile, and Educators Legal Liability Insurance for the period of October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017.

Mr. Harlton explained that quotes were requested from five other insurers. All declined quote for various reasons. Mr. Harlton stated that the Administration's recommendation is to stay with the current provider, LARMA (Louisiana Risk Management Agency) for a price of \$228,227.00 minus the 10 % equity refund for a net premium of \$201,140.00. Mr. Harlton stated that staying with LARMA has resulted in an equity balance of \$223,000.00. This surplus will result in a 10% equity refund toward the cost of insurance this year which amounts to \$27,087.00. Additionally he stated that LARMA allows the school district administration to have complete control over the settlement of claims. Also, LARMA's deductible is \$25,000 while the other vendors quoted as high as a \$100,000.00 deductible. Mr. Harlton addressed all questions and concerns regarding this matter from the Committee.

With a motion from Mr. Warner and a second from Dr. Lewis, the Committee voted by the following roll call vote to recommend to the Board to authorize the Administration to renew the General Liability, Automobile, and Educators Legal Liability insurance for the period of October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017 with LARMA (Louisiana Risk Management Agency) for an adjusted total price of \$201,140.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YEAS: Mrs. Asevedo, Mr. Campbell, Dr. Craft, Mr. Egan, Mr. Englande, Mrs. Dysart, Dr. Lewis, Mr. Long, Mrs. Nicosia, Mr. Warner

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Lemoine

With Mrs. Lemoine absent, Mr. Englande addressed Finance Committee business. The next agenda item was the bid tabulation for musical instruments. Mr. Hugh Harlton stated that 14 bid packets were sent out and 10 vendors submitted actual

bids. In every case, by instrument, the lowest bidder on the bid tabulation would be awarded. Mr. Cassar next joined the discussion with the Committee and talked about the current number of students now taking music in the schools. Mr. Harlton stated that while not all items that were bid will be bought, with the bid in place, if the need arises, instruments can be purchased.

After all questions and concerns were addressed, Mr. Campbell moved to approve the lowest bid on each item presented in the musical instrument bid tabulation. Seconded by Mrs. Dysart, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Mr. Englande next welcomed Mrs. Joni Blum to present the Administration's request to Advertise for bid for Spices and Seasonings (Class 2), Cereal, Dried Beans and Crackers (Class 3), Frozen Foods (Class 5), Meat and Meat Products (Class 6), Poultry and Eggs (Class 7), Seafood Products (Class 8) and Canned Goods (Class 9) for the period of January 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017. Dr. Lewis moved to recommend the Board approve the above request. Seconded by Mr. Warner, the motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Mr. Egan took a point of privilege to announce a car show event that will be held at the Docville Farm at 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 18, 2016 to benefit the Chalmette High School Band.

Under Superintendent's Recommendations Ms. Voitier reminded everyone that on Friday night is the Chalmette vs. Holy Cross Football game and after the game will be the Alumni Association's Social. Ms. Voitier also shared that at the Regular Board meeting there will be a presentation by Mr. Tommie Powell, Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance about the latest truancy efforts that are being developed in concert with the St. Bernard Parish District Attorney's office.

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion of Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Asevedo and passed by a unanimous voice vote of the members present, the meeting was adjourned.