

GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2016

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, August 9, 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, Mrs. Katherine K. Lemoine, Mr. Clifford M. Englande, Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr., Mr. Joseph V. Long, Sr., Mrs. Judy W. Nicosia and Mr. Sean K. Warner.

Mrs. Dysart asked for a point of privilege to recognize the birthdays of fellow Board Members, Mr. Joe Long and Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr.

Dr. Henderson Lewis also asked for a point of privilege to pass along the success of a recent Andrew Jackson High School Staff and Administration reunion celebrating 50 years since the schools inception. Dr. Lewis noted that it was a great reunion of colleagues.

Mrs. Dysart took an additional point of privilege to express her happiness about the success of the opening of the new school year. She noted that the recent employee rally at the Civic Center was enjoyed by all and the first day of school, which was today, seems to have been extremely successful. Mrs. Dysart also thanked everyone who contributed to the success of those happenings.

Mrs. Dysart next turned the meeting over to Ms. Voitier so that she could introduce Mrs. Alex Schneider to present the first agenda item, Super News.

Mrs. Schneider shared two exciting projects, the first being Super News, which is an abbreviation of the PEN TV hindsight program which is produced three times a year to highlight the previous months best news from the district. Mrs. Schneider noted that the intention of Super News, which is short for news from the Superintendent, is to incorporate a lot of the information that is used for the show Hindsight into the School District's website and Facebook page. The Super News production will be available at the beginning of each month on the website and the Facebook page after it has first been presented to the Board at their monthly Committee Meeting. Hindsight will still be presented every few months with more in depth versions of the Super News stories. At this time, Mrs. Schneider played the August installment and very first Super News video which included summer activities such as Owl Fun Camp, Summer Swimming lessons, the production of Beauty and the Beast and more.

The second project focused on the launch of the individual school websites. Mrs. Schneider noted that on these school websites each teacher a biography of the teacher and can include homework assignments, calendars and announcements. She also noted that for the high school in particular, the many school and student activities such as athletic team schedules and school dances/activities, etc. will be very helpful for families.

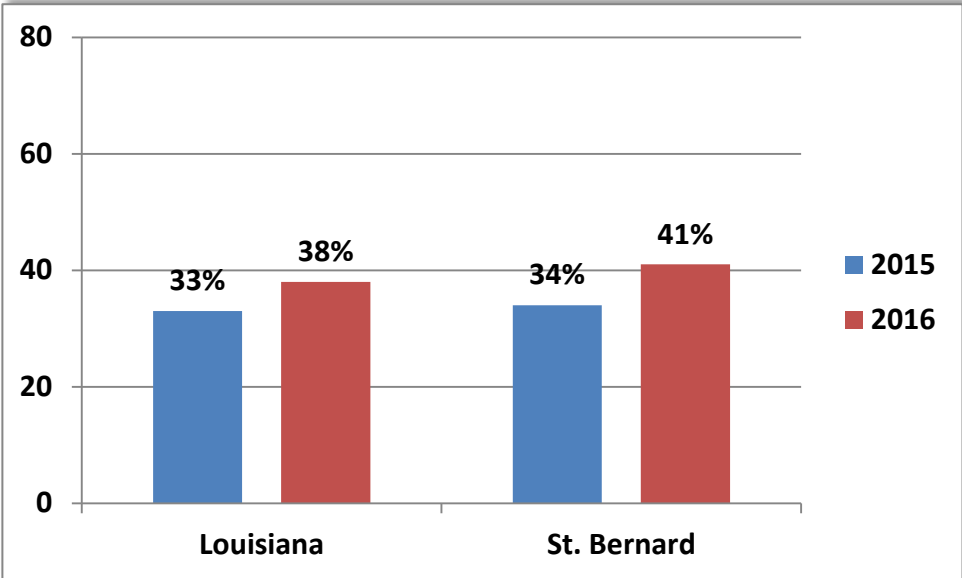
After all questions were fielded by Mrs. Schneider, many of the Committee members thanked Mrs. Schneider for her hard work and sharing of information.

Mrs. Dysart next welcomed Mrs. Lumetta to present an update on Test Scores. Mrs. Lumetta shared with the Committee that the state has released test data on three different tests, LEAP, ACT and AP. Her presentation included the following information.

2015 - 2016 Testing Overview

In grades 3-8, the percentage of St. Bernard students reaching the state's new proficiency goal of Mastery or above grew from 34% to 41%, a gain of 7 points.

**Percentage of Students in Grades 3-8
Scoring Mastery or Above in 2015 and 2016**



State Rankings

- 8th Grade Math 5th in the State % Mastery or Above
- 8th Grade Math 5th in the State % Advanced
- 5th Grade Science 7th in the State % Mastery or Above
- Algebra EOC – 5th in the State % Proficient
- Algebra EOC – 5th in the State % Excellent
- Geometry EOC – 7th in the State % Proficient
- Geometry EOC – 7th in the State % Excellent
- Advanced Placement – 14th in the State % Tests Taken with Score of 3 or higher
- ACT Composite increase from 19.2 to 19.6 - Most growth in area

With no questions or comments regarding this information, Mrs. Dysart thanked Ms. Lumetta for her presentation and applauded our students and teachers fine performance on these tests.

Mr. Paul Granberry, Supervisor of Personnel, presented the August 2016 personnel changes for the Committee’s review. Mrs. Dysart congratulated Mrs. Joan Duplessis on her retirement and thanked her for her years of service.

Mr. Englande served as chairperson for the following item to be addressed by

the Finance Committee.

Mr. Englande invited Mr. Fernandez to present the resolution to adopt the 2016 Ad Valorem millages as determined by the Legislative Auditor and the Louisiana Tax Commission. After all questions and concerns were addressed by Mr. Fernandez, Dr. Craft moved to recommend to the full Board to approve the Administration's request to adopt the resolution for the 2016 Ad Valorem millages. Seconded by Mr. Campbell, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Mr. Fernandez next presented the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the Committee's approval. He explained that the questionnaire is completed each year at this time in conjunction with the district's annual financial audit. The questionnaire basically states that the district is in compliance with all state laws and must be approved by the Board prior to the audit so that it may be submitted to the auditors for inclusion in their opinion.

Mr. Warner moved to recommend to the Board to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire. Seconded by Dr. Lewis seconded the motion which passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Under Superintendent's Recommendations, Ms. Voitier spoke about the construction on Paul Dr. in front of Davies Elementary and mentioned that the Sheriff's Department had done a good job of re-routing traffic to facilitate a smooth flow during the opening of school today. Ms. Voitier noted that the construction should be completed by the end of September. With the cooperation of the Sheriff's Department, the surrounding neighborhood, staff and parents, Ms. Voitier hopes that this situation is adequately being resolved until the construction is completed. Ms. Voitier also mentioned that the issues related to the abundance of people in the car rider line at Lacoste Elementary is also being monitored in the hopes of making improvements to the flow of traffic there. Finally, Ms. Voitier reminded the Committee and the viewing public of the upcoming Day of Reflection Breakfast on Friday, August 26, 2016. Tickets are on sale now for \$10.00 each.

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

For informational purposes, Mr. Paul Granberry appeared before the Board to present the Personnel changes for the month of August 2016. Congratulations and Thanks were offered for both Joan Duplessis and Mr. Ronnie Gremillion on their upcoming retirement.

**ST. BERNARD PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF AUGUST 23, 2016**

CHANGES FOR BOARD MEMBERS INFORMATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY:
PERSONNEL CHANGES - TEACHERS

APPOINTMENTS

Britni Nation

Chalmette Elementary-Elementary Teacher
(Temporary Assignment)

Sean Niehus

Rowley Alternative-High School Teacher

	(Temporary Assignment)
David Svoboda	Chalmette High School-High School Teacher
	(Temporary Assignment)
LaMinda Pilie	Smith Elementary-Special Education Teacher
	(Temporary Assignment)
Aleshia Riley	Andrew Jackson Middle-Elementary Teacher
	(Temporary Assignment)
Wendell Cruice	Chalmette High School-High School Teacher
	(Temporary Assignment)
Marilyn Donoho	Chalmette High School-High School Teacher
	(Temporary Assignment)
Margot Ballina	Special Education-Speech Therapist
	(Temporary Assignment)

RESIGNATIONS

Allison Miller	Chalmette Elementary-Elementary Teacher 8/1/16
Janette Patterson	Chalmette High School-High School Teacher 8/5/16

MEDICALS

Casey Browne	Davie Pre-School-Pre-K Teacher
	(JoAnn Serigne replaced Casey Browne)
Michelle Daussin	Davies Elementary-Elementary Teacher
	(Casie Belaire replaced Michelle Daussin)
Susan Deffes	St. Bernard Middle-Principal
Mary Pedesclaux	Gauthier Pre-School-Pre-K Teacher
	(Rachel Walsh replaced Mary Pedesclaux)

SUPPORT PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS

Karen Cantrell	Bus Driver-Bus Garage
Tina Dewint	Andrew Jackson Middle-Part-Time Cafeteria Tech

TRANSFERS

Sirera Young	From Gauthier-Part-Time Cafeteria Tech to
	Davies-Cafeteria Tech
Jonel Perez	From Davies Pre-School-Family Service Worker to
	Smith Elementary-Paraeducator

PERSONNEL CHANGES- 8/23/16 CONT'D

SUPPORT PERSONNEL (continued)

RESIGNATIONS

Emily Recker	Chalmette Elementary-Paraeducator 8/1/16
Andrell Petite	Transportation-Bus Driver 8/4/16
Katrice Green	Lacoste Elementary-Paraeducator 8/4/16

FAMILY LEAVE

Anne Marie Nunez	Lacoste Elementary-Paraeducator
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RETIREEES

Joan Duplessis	Administration Office-Custodian 9/10/16
Ronald Gremillion	Maintenance Department- Maintenance III 9/16/16

As recommended by the Committee, Mrs. Asevedo moved to adopt the 2016 Ad Valorem millages. The motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, passed by the following roll call vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2016 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the St. Bernard Parish School Board:

MILLAGE

School District – Constitutional Millage	3.83 mills
School District – Operational	9.44 mills
School District – Operational	3.06 mills
School District – Operational	19.39 mills
School District – Debt Service	5.50 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Bernard, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2016, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the board meeting held on August 23, 2016, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

St. Bernard Parish School Board, Parish of St. Bernard, Louisiana, this 23rd day of August, 2016.

With a recommendation from the committee, and as moved by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Englande, the Board voted by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for submission to the auditors for inclusion in their opinion of the district's annual financial audit.

Under items to be placed on the September General Committee Meeting.

At this time, Mrs. Dysart expressed her condolences to all of the people experiencing the recent flooding around the Baton Rouge area. Ms. Voitier noted that she has been in touch with many of the Superintendent's from that area. She also stated that many community members and employees of our school system have already lent aid to the area of damage. Ms. Voitier relayed that through our own experience we are aware that miscellaneous items donated that must be stored and sorted are not as helpful as a cash donation. That having been said, Ms. Voitier is coordinating a fundraiser for cash to assist the affected area schools in buying specific items they need. In addition to these funds, St. Bernard School buses have been used by National Guard troops to move people in the affected areas, sports teams have been provided with team supplies to allow competitions to proceed as scheduled and the School Board has participated in the efforts to raise funds through the Louisiana School Board Association.

Under Superintendent's Recommendations, Ms. Voitier responded to Mrs. Dysart's request to research a recent study that showed Louisiana as being ranked very low educationally. Ms. Voitier found the report from Wallet Hub, a personal finance website that gives information such as credit scores and many types of "best of" and "worst of" lists on many subjects, including school systems of each state. Ms. Voitier noted that there were many agencies who have objected to these studies as not being quite as comprehensive as they should be. Ms. Voitier provided the Board with information regarding the website and the organization itself and the actual report. In reading the criteria provided by the journalist who wrote the article, Ms. Voitier determined that in her opinion, the article lacked credible criteria and substance and should not be held in high regard.

Mrs. Dysart thanked Ms. Voitier for her research into this topic.

At this time, Ms. Voitier reported that the opening of school was very smooth, all students, up to and including pre-school, have reported. She also noted that the Day of Reflection Breakfast will take place on Friday, August 26th with tickets still available and the Chalmette High School Football Jamboree will take place that same evening.

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

Mrs. Diana B. Dysart/s

Doris Voitier/s

Mrs. Diana B. Dysart
President

Doris Voitier
Secretary