

## GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 6:15 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, Mrs. Katherine K. Lemoine, Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr, and Mr. Sean K. Warner. Mr. Joseph V. Long, Sr. was absent.

On point of privilege, Mrs. Dysart asked for a moment of silence to honor current School Board Member Mr. Ronald J. Nicosia who recently passed away. Condolences were extended to all the friends and family of Mr. Nicosia on behalf of the St. Bernard Parish School Board. Mrs. Dysart spoke of his strong leadership, friendship and dedication to the people of St. Bernard, especially the children. Mrs. Dysart noted that he will be missed by many.

Mrs. Dysart next introduced the agenda item regarding Committee Assignments for the Board for the next calendar year. Copies of the assignments were provided to the Committee Members to review, any changes to this list will be made at the Regular Monthly Meeting.

As education chair, Dr. Henderson Lewis welcomed Mrs. Gena Asevedo, Maumus Center Director, to update the Committee on the Maumus Center Planetarium activity.

Mrs. Asevedo explained that students began attending planetarium sessions on February 1, 2016. She also explained that before student attendance began, she took the guide for statewide assessments for every grade level and determined what concepts were being taught that could be addressed in the planetarium. She then correlated those to the GLE's and next generation science standards and prepared a lesson and from that lesson she built a show using the correct information and terminology for their level. Each lesson is grade specific. Mrs. Asevedo made sure that each thing that they experience in the planetarium is either a review of something they have learned or is something they are currently learning in class. She states that the planetarium is interactive in the sense that the students ask questions and she speaks as the lesson goes on. Over 700 students and staff have passed through the planetarium as of today, Tuesday, February 16,

2016. The feedback from students and teachers have been very positive.

Upon completion of Mrs. Asevedo's presentation, all questions were addressed and accolades were shared for her good work and success.

Mrs. Dysart next allowed Mr. Granberry to present to the Committee for informational purposes, the list of Administrators who were up for a two year renewal of their performance contracts which are due to expire on June 30, 2016. Also presented to the Committee were the recommendations for renewal. Mr. Granberry answered all questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Granberry next went on to present the Personnel Changes for February 2016 for review by the Committee. Retiree Sandra Boehm was acknowledged and thanked for her years of service. Mr. Granberry addressed all comments and questions of the Committee.

As Finance Committee chair Mrs. Lemoine welcomed Mrs. Joni Blum to present the Administration's request to bid for Bread and Bread Products for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. With a motion from Mr. Warner and a second from Dr. Lewis the Committee voted unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present to recommend to the Board to approve the Administration's request to bid for Bread and Bread products for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

Mrs. Lemoine continue with Finance Committee business with Mrs. Blum to present the Administration's request to bid for Milk and Milk products for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. With a motion by Mr. Warner and a second from Mr. Campbell, the Committee voted unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present to recommend to the Board to approve the Administration's request to bid for Milk and Milk products for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

Mrs. Blum next presented the Administration's request to bid for Spices and Seasoning (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 July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. With a motion by Mr. Warner and a second from Mrs. Dysart, the Committee voted unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present to recommend to the Board to approve the Administration's request to bid for Spices and Seasoning (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 July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

On a point of privilege Mrs. Lemoine thanked Ms. Blum for setting up the opportunity, through the Legislative Shadowing initiative, for Board Members to visit and work in cafeteria's throughout the parish.

Mrs. Dysart mentioned that the Board had just returned from the Louisiana School Board Association conference which was held in Baton Rouge. She noted that during the convention Board Members received their required training for the year of 2016, met with the new Governor and many legislators at the Capitol and urged them to maintain funding for K12 education and also helped to vote our own Dr. Hugh Craft into the position of President-elect of the Louisiana School Board Association.

Under Superintendents' Recommendations Ms. Voitier stated that the site for the new Meraux Elementary School is looking good and the bid opening will take place on March 1<sup>st</sup>. She also stated that on Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> at Chalmette High is Special Olympics from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 and is open to the public. Parish wide on March 5<sup>th</sup> will be the Relay for Life which is attended by many of our school personnel.

Mr. Warner took a point of privilege to personally state that he considered Mr. Nicosia is a "Class Act" and extended his condolences to Mr. Nicosia's family. Ms. Voitier echoed those sentiments stating that he was a hands on member of the Board who was fierce in his dedication to the students of the St. Bernard School system. Mr. Englande stated that services will be Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Bernard Memorial.

Mr. Warner also offered that the Rotary Club's Spelling Bee will take place on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at Chalmette High School. It is a literacy fundraiser for the Rotary Club to give dictionaries to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in the parish. Mrs. Dysart noted that regarding literacy, Literacy week for Lacoste Elementary this week and many officials and the public will be reading at the school.

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