

GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met in a Regular Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Bernard Parish School Board Office. Following the Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, the Secretary called the roll. Present were, Mrs. Darleen P. Asevedo, Mr. Donald D. Campbell, Mr. William H. Egan, Mr. Clifford M. Englande, Mrs. Katherine K. Lemoine, Mrs. Diana B. Dysart, Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr., Mr. Joseph V. Long, Mr. Ronald J. Nicosia and Mr. Sean K. Warner. Dr. Hugh C. Craft was absent.

In the absence of Board President Craft, Mrs. Dysart presided over the General Committee Meeting. Mrs. Dysart also acknowledged Mrs. Lawrason's presence at the Board table tonight, filling in for Superintendent Voitier. Mrs. Dysart noted that Ms. Voitier was absent today because of her appointment by new Governor John Bel Edwards to the Louisiana State Board of Education for Secondary and Elementary schools.

On a point of privilege, Mr. Joe Long noted that he had spoken to Dr. Craft today, who had been recently hospitalized, and said that he was in good spirits and that he was happy to announce that he had been appointed to the President-elect position with the Louisiana School Board Association due to the fact that no one opposed him for that position. Mrs. Dysart, on behalf of the Board, wished Dr. Craft a speedy recovery and congratulations on his new position in the LSBA.

Mrs. Dysart also wished the new President of St. Bernard Parish and new Council Members who were sworn in today good luck and congratulated the school students who participated in that ceremony who represented themselves very well. Mr. Nicosia also noted that the choirs that performed and the other students were fantastic.

Mrs. Asevedo announced that the Jazz Band from Chalmette High will be on the radio at noon on Tuesday on WWOZ.

Mrs. Dysart began to address the agenda by welcoming Ms. Alex Lapres, Communications Coordinator, to update the Committee on the new website. Ms. Lapres noted that work has been going on since July to create this new website. Today she wanted them to preview the new assets and features of the new website.

Ms. Lapres stated that the Goal of the Website is to strengthen relationships with key stakeholders through direct and positive communications. The Highlights of the New District Website are:

1. High demand content is easy to access through static universal icons.
2. Content is organized by target audience.
3. Key achievements and accomplishments are highlighted on slideshow.
4. District Announcements and news are relevant and informative.
5. Upcoming events are up to date and synched to calendars.
6. School Board Meetings' agendas, minutes and videos are organized and easy to access.
7. Finding our schools is simple with our new maps and directions features.
8. Contacting district and school leaders are simple.
9. Staying connected with the amazing things happening in our district is straightforward through our communication page and e-newsletter sign-ups.
10. All embedded components of the website can be translated making important and critical information accessible to all parents.
11. By creating an account, stakeholders will be able to personalize the website and access restricted materials.

Ms. Lapres expects to launch the District website to launch sometime in February. Phase II of the website containing School WebPages is expected to go live next spring.

After all questions and concerns were addressed by Ms. Lapres, the Committee thanked her for her presentation.

As Chair of the Education Committee, Dr. Lewis welcomed Dr. Charles Raviotta to discuss the St. Bernard Parish Early Childhood Network. While no Board action is required for this agenda item, Dr. Raviotta noted that there is much important information to be shared with them.

Since 2012, Act 3 was passed with a purpose of achieving a statewide integrated early childhood network to establish uniform standards of readiness for kindergarten. The ACT charged BESE to; 1. unify the system of child care centers licensed and unlicensed, some in public and some in private schools, Headstart and other publicly funded providers to set high expectations for those providers, 2. Align public funding with performance to support high quality providers and to 3. Provide clear information to parents about their choices about their day care needs

and to fully implement this by the 2015-2016 school year. To achieve this, all daycare licensing was moved from the Department of Health and Hospitals to the Louisiana Department of Education.

Dr. Raviotta went on to explain the requirement of all publicly funded centers in the St. Bernard Parish community to participate in a cohort to achieve ACT 3 compliance and belong to the St. Bernard Parish Early Childhood Network. The list of participating agencies includes 11 different childcare centers in St. Bernard Parish.

As the Lead Agency for the St. Bernard Parish Early Childhood Network, we are required to be the fiscal agent for the group. Any monies that flow to the associated centers flow through the School Board Business Office. We also engage all network partners by meeting once a month. Teacher evaluations take place twice for each teacher in the network. The schedule of observations is managed by the Lead Agency also. We also lead the planning and implementation of coordinated enrollment beginning with the 2016 – 2017 school year. The Lead Agency also assumes responsibility for Tracking of Time services which is a finger scan system of tracking children's enrollment and coordinates Training and Support for the centers. Requirements and Functions of the Centers in regard to the ACT is the responsibility of each Center itself. The Centers support their teachers and staff on using birth to 5 early learning and development standards, use class observations and to use Teaching Strategies Gold to measure student progress. They must also participate in class observations and in the letter grade profile system and in the network coordinated enrollment process.

Supporting Partners include:

- Nunez Community College
- St. Bernard Parish School Board Employees Lions' Club
- St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office Community Outreach
- St. Bernard Parish Fire Department Outreach
- Agenda for Children

Dr. Raviotta next presented an example of a Rubric with Key Building Blocks to Achieving a Unified System showing collaborative leadership, teacher support and coordinated enrollment. Examples of Performance Profiles by Network and Center were also presented to Committee members. His final information included the funding for the implementation of the Network. It is as follows:

2014 – 15

- * \$20,000 Start-up Funds
- * \$6,500 Technology

2016 – 16

- * \$80,000 Remaining Funding

Most of the money was directed toward training, technology and materials and supplies.

After all questions and concerns were addressed by Dr. Raviotta, the Committee thanked him for his presentation.

At this time, Dr. Lewis addressed the next agenda item regarding public comment regarding the St. Bernard Parish Early Childhood Network Cohort 3 Coordinated funding request for the 2016-17 school year. No one appeared to present concerns or comments regarding the coordinated funding request for the St. Bernard Parish Early Childhood Network. The Summary of the Coordinated Funding Request is shown below:

| Coordinated Funding Request Summary | 2015-2016 Seats | 2016-2017 Request | Change |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------|
| LA4 | 274 | 280 | 6 |
| NSECD | 0 | 40 | 40 |
| PreK Expansion Grant | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Allocated CCAP Seats Infants | 16 | 27 | 13 |
| Allocated CCAP Seats Toddlers | 36 | 65 | 31 |
| Allocated CCAP Seats Threes | 27 | 53 | 29 |
| Allocated CCAP Seats Total | 79 | 145 | 73 |

As Finance Committee Chair, Mrs. Lemoine welcomed Mr. Hugh Harlton, Purchasing and Insurance Coordinator, to present the Administration's request for permission to sell surplus buses.

After all questions and concerns were addressed by Mr. Harlton, Mr. Campbell moved to approve the Administration's request to sell surplus buses. Seconded by Dr. Lewis, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Mr. Granberry appeared to present the personnel changes for the month of January 2016. Mr. Granberry pointed out that a Leave without pay would require a vote from the Committee. Mrs. Dysart moved to grant the Leave without pay for Harriet Broussard. Seconded by Mr. Warner the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present. Committee members were sure to send best wishes to Mr. McInnis and Mr. Alonzo who appeared on the list of Personnel Changes under resignations because both of them would be moving to influential positions in parish government.

As Executive Committee Chair, Mr. Long addressed the next item concerning the Resolution declaring the date, time and place of the General Committee and Regular Monthly Meetings for the year 2016.

Mrs. Lemoine moved to recommend to the Board to approve the resolution. With a second from Mrs. Asevedo, the Committee voted unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present to recommend to the Board to approve the Resolution stating date, time and place of the General Committee and Regular Monthly Meetings for the year 2016.

Mr. Long continued with Executive Committee Business by inviting Mr. David Fernandez to present a Resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in School District No. 1, Parish of St. Bernard, State of Louisiana to authorize the levy of an ad valorem tax. Mr. Fernandez explained the cost to taxpayers for a 5.5 mil currently levied ad valorem tax and ask the public to re-dedicate the millage to maintain school district buildings.

Mr. Englande moved to approve the Administration's request to approve a resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in School District No. 1, Parish of St. Bernard, State of Louisiana to authorize the levy of an ad valorem tax dedicated to maintaining school district buildings. Seconded by Mrs. Lemoine, the motion passed unanimously by the roll call vote shown below.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dr. Craft

Under Superintendent's Recommendations, Mrs. Lawrason informed the Committee that the following items would be on the agenda of the January Regular Monthly meeting.

- Election of Officers
- Signature Resolutions

Mrs. Lawrason reminded all that this Friday, January 15th would be the Grand Opening of the Maumus Center in Arabi and tickets are still available to attend.

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