

GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 6:13 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, Mr. Donald D. Campbell, Dr. Hugh C. Craft, Mr. Carl W. Gaines, Jr., Mr. Clifford M. Englande, Mrs. Katherine K. Lemoine, Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr., Mr. Joseph V. Long, Sr. and Mr. Sean K. Warner. Mrs. Darleen P. Asevedo and Mr. William H. Egan were absent.

Mrs. Dysart next welcomed Ms. Alex Schneider to present Super News for the month of December. The Super News video presented Teachers of the Year beginning with district wide winners Rickey Noto of Chalmette Elementary, Jennifer Maldonado of Andrew Jackson Middle School and Melanie Soroe of Chalmette High School. Other teachers of the year were Erica Svoboda of Arabi Elementary, Raquel Wheat of Davies Elementary, Kayla Russell of Gauthier Elementary, Tiffany Eckerle of Lacoste Elementary, Dana Martin of Meraux Elementary, Kate Williams of Smith Elementary, Matthew Presti of Rowley Alternative, Natasha Waibel of St. Bernard Middle, and Sharene Dali Trist Middle School.

Mrs. Dysart thanked Mrs. Schneider for her presentation.

Mr. Charles Cassar also appeared, in period dress, to share some news about the CHS Voices appearing in some French Quarter restaurants to sing Christmas Carols at a series of Brennan's restaurants. Mr. Cassar explained that this is a wonderful opportunity to represent our schools and our community in the finest manner beginning at the Bourbon House Restaurant and end at Antoine's Restaurant with dessert being served.

Mrs. Dysart also thanked Mr. Cassar for sharing this information with the Committee.

As Education Committee Chair, Mr. Gaines welcomed Assistant Superintendent Mary Lumetta to share some changes in the FAFSA, Free Application for Federal Student Aid, requirement. Her presentation is outlined in the handout below.

FAFSA Graduation Requirement

FAFSA®
Free Application for Federal Student Aid

One of the most prominent barriers to postsecondary education or training in Louisiana is cost. Too few students and families have the money to fund two or four year degrees or industry training program without assistance.

Louisiana students are afforded many state and federal financial aid options such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students to help combat the costs of postsecondary education and training.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- FAFSA is form prepared annually by current and prospective postsecondary students to determine their eligibility for student financial aid such as Pell grants, work study programs, and federal student loans.
- Students complete the FAFSA during their senior year of high school and again each year they are in a postsecondary institution to continue qualifying for aid. Early completion is encouraged since students may qualify for additional state or institutional aid.

Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) –

- TOPS is a scholarship program for Louisiana residents who attend any of the following institutions:
 - Louisiana public college or university;
 - schools in the Louisiana Community and Technical College System;
 - approved proprietary and cosmetology schools;
 - institutions in the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

The Louisiana Department of Education found that too few students were taking advantage of state and federal financial aid.

Additionally, students who are awarded TOPS or other state scholarships still seek additional assistance with living expenses, textbooks, and academic fees.

For these reasons, in December of 2015, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved a policy regarding postsecondary planning for graduating public high school seniors. The policy sought to increase student access to state and federal financial aid by requiring graduating seniors to either complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) application.

These policies were made effective with the start of the 2017-2018 school year and will apply to the Class of 2018.

We are working with our students to complete the FAFSA form because by completing the FAFSA, students are applying for TOPS, but completing a TOPS form does not allow students to apply for other financial aid.

Mr. Gaines thanked Ms. Lumetta for her presentation

Mr. Engle next presented a Finance Committee item concerning the Administration's request to advertise for Large Food Service Equipment bids for the period of March 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Mrs. Blum appeared before the Committee and answered all pertinent questions.

On a motion by Dr. Lewis with a second from Mrs. Lemoine, the Committee moved to recommend to the Board to approve the Administration's request to advertise for Large Food Service Equipment bids for the period of March 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Mrs. Dysart welcomed Mr. Granberry to present the Personnel changes for the month of December. Mrs. Dysart thanked Mr. Granberry for his presentation.

Dr. Craft moved on with Executive Committee business by welcoming Ms. Lumetta, Assistant Superintendent to discuss the adoption of the 2018 through 2019 School Calendar. Ms. Lumetta first congratulated the calendar committee that was formed by Mr. Dennis Bradley. She then explained that the three choices being shown to the Committee at this time have already been reviewed by all full time employees. Before students report, four

district-wide professional development/teacher preparation days are scheduled and then School will begin on August 8th in the coming year. New this year, Ms. Lumetta pointed out that Report Card Conference Day will be spread out between three days in late October this year. Classes will conclude the school year on May 24th before Memorial Day so that families can be off for that holiday. A November 1st holiday is included in the offerings and this year the fall professional development dates will occur on November 6th because of mid-term elections and January 22nd which follows the Monday Martin Luther King holiday. Ms. Lumetta stated the major differences shown on each of the options occur at Christmas and Easter. Handouts showed specific changes on colorful calendars highlighting days off. The vote by the employees shows their desire to adopt Option 1.

Mr. Gaines moved to recommend to the Board to approve the popular vote of Option 1 for the 2018-2019 school calendar. Seconded by Mr. Warner, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Dr. Craft next welcomed Mr. David Fernandez to engage in a discussion of a Homestead Exemption Audit on all St. Bernard Parish Properties being contracted by Parish Government.

Mr. Fernandez wanted to let the Committee to be aware of the possibility of Parish Government engaging the company of Assessure Systems, LLC who through a computer program, can audit property tax rolls to determine if there are ineligible exemptions within the tax rolls. This examination has the possibility of increasing tax income for the parish. Mr. Fernandez also mentioned that the cost of the audit may create a shared cost to any entity who benefits from an increased participation in the tax rolls during the first year after the audit is complete, which is one of the main reasons Mr. Fernandez wanted to share this information with the Committee. After answering all the questions of the Committee, Mr. Fernandez assured the Committee that when more information is available, he will return to present it.

Dr. Lewis left the meeting during this discussion.

Under Superintendent's recommendations Ms. Voitier stated at the Regular Monthly Meeting an agenda item will appear to consider and take action with respect to adopting a resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in School District No. 1 of the

Parish of St. Bernard, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, November 18, 2017, to authorize the continuation of special taxes therein.

On motion of Dr. Craft, seconded by Mr. Campbell, and passed by a unanimous voice vote of the members present, the meeting was adjourned.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD
DECEMBER 12, 2017

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met in a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 5:00 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, Mr. Donald D. Campbell, Mr. Carl W. Gaines, Jr., Mr. Clifford M. Englande, Mrs. Katherine K. Lemoine, Mr. Joseph V. Long, Sr., and Mr. Sean K. Warner. Mrs. Darleen P. Asevedo, Dr. Hugh C. Craft, Mr. William H. Egan and Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr. were absent.

This Special Meeting was called to allow the Board to evaluate the Superintendent.

To address the Evaluation of the Superintendent, Mr. Long offered a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Warner seconded the motion and it was passed by roll call vote of the members present with no objections.

Dr. Hugh C. Craft and Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr. entered the Executive Session shortly after the session began.

On motion of Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Englande and passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present, the Board returned to open session.

Mrs. Dysart said the Board had just finished evaluating the Superintendent and as usual Ms. Voitier had an excellent evaluation and has proven to be an exemplary leader and the Board appreciates her efforts, her dedication and her hard work.

Ms. Voitier thanked the Board and expressed her appreciation for the Board, every child and parent within the community for giving her the opportunity to serve them.

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Campbell, seconded by Dr. Craft and passed by voice vote with no objections, the meeting was adjourned.

Diana B. Dysart/s
DIANA B. DYSART
PRESIDENT

Doris Voitier
DORIS VOITIER
SECRETARY