

## GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 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. Darleen P. Asevedo, Mr. Donald D. Campbell, Dr. Hugh C. Craft, Mr. William H. Egan, Mr. Carl W. Gaines, Jr., Mr. Clifford M. Englande, Mrs. Katherine K. Lemoine, Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr. and Mr. Sean K. Warner. Mrs. Diana B. Dysart and Mr. Joseph V. Long, Sr. were absent.

With Mrs. Dysart being absent, Mr. Englande took over to chair tonight's meeting and welcomed Ms. Alex Schneider to present Super News. Alex first made an announcement regarding some upcoming activities including, Chalmette High School's Ring Day on Thursday, October 12, 2017, next she announced that this Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 12:30 p.m. four Chalmette High School students will be participating in the Donald W. Wood, Sr. Vocal Competition, which is an opera competition held on the Tulane University campus. She also stated that the Chalmette High Homecoming will be held on Friday, October 20, 2017 with the court being presented at halftime and finally she announced that Report Card Conference Day will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at each school site. High School conferences will run from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Middle School conferences will run from 4:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. and Elementary School conferences will run from 4:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. With announcements completed, Ms. Schneider presented this month's Super News.

The Super News brought to the Board tonight highlighted Chalmette High School's Owl Week and the Pep Rally that is held at the conclusion of this celebratory week, Parent involvement at the schools with school activities such as Elementary school Grandparent Days and St. Bernard Middle's "Dad's and Donuts" and "Mom's and Muffins" breakfasts, CHS Opera competition students, Brevin Lasalle, Taydem Trevino, Kai Buie and Kayla Gonzalez, Planetarium shows at the Maumus Center and student performances at the Old Arabi Sugar Fest. Teacher Features included Maria Genovese at Gauthier Elementary, Randy Bradley, ESL teacher at the middle schools and volunteers Eva Forbes and Kathy Fisher of Chalmette Elementary School.

Mr. Englande praised our Cultural Arts program and thanked Ms. Schneider, Barry Lemoine and Jack Jackson for their time and energy in producing the Super News.

Mr. Englande next welcomed Mr. Charles Cassar to present information concerning the upcoming Red Ribbon Week. Mr. Cassar noted that the national and local effort to reduce drug activity will take place from October 23 – 31, 2017. The theme this year is “Your future is key, so stay Drug Free.” Mr. Cassar noted that rally activities and speakers will be presented throughout the school system during this week. Mr. Cassar was also proud to announce that the Metropolitan Human Services District will soon be offering services to adolescents in the St. Bernard Parish area.

Mr. Englande thanked Mr. Cassar for his efforts in this arena and for his presentation tonight.

A short break was taken for a photo of Board Members to highlight their support of Red Ribbon Week.

Mr. Englande next asked Mr. Gaines to chair the Education Committee item with Mrs. Harlton presenting a discussion of Elementary Curriculum and Intervention Programs. The topics she covered are shown in her handout below.

## **Elementary Curriculum**

### **ELA Tier 1**

#### **CORE KNOWLEDGE** for Grades K-2

This series is focused upon teaching students to read with the skills necessary to become fluent.

#### **WIT/WISDOM** for Grades 3-5

This series is scaffolded for struggling students, ELL students and includes challenging activities for advanced students

**\*\*Both series also include good questioning techniques, text dependent questioning, and writing which aligns to state testing.**

For grades 2-5, we have integrated *Ready Common Core* passages and questioning which align with our district and state testing.

### **Math**

#### **Eureka curriculum** for Grades K-5.

This curriculum is also scaffolded for struggling students, ELL students and includes challenging activities for advanced students. Math incorporates many ELA standards by students explaining and justifying answers. Eureka Math builds in complex reading through word problems.

### **Data Collection**

We collect data on a regular basis to pinpoint specific deficits and work through intervention time to correct these issues.

For ELA, data is collected through **classroom assessments** and also through:

**STAR EARLY LITERACY** diagnostics **in K** for math and reading

**STAR READING and STAR MATH** for 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grades

**Scholastic Reading Inventory** for Grades 2-5 which provides the LEXILE level of the student

### **Intervention**

During intervention time, the focus is to group students according to the data collected to remediate deficiencies.

The major resources used for intervention are:

**THE CLASSROOM TEACHER** – groups and works with students as indicated by data

**LEXIA** for Grades K-5 -- places students where they are on the reading progression

**ZEARN** for Grades K-5 -- a teaching tool and also a tool for skill building which aligns with Eureka math.

**Read Works Digital** –challenging activities for advanced students

Any other intervention the teacher feels will help students

### **Social Studies**

Social studies is document based instruction and provides questioning which incorporates a wealth of ELA standards for reading and writing.

### **Science**

Labs in each school have been established with materials to do hands- on activities.

Science also references reading standards by requiring students to explain and write about their discoveries.

### **Strategies**

Classroom teachers incorporate a variety of strategies to help students understand the complex text questions that are required. Two of these many strategies include:

**CUBES** for math (**C**ircle important numbers, **U**nderline the question, **B**ox math action words, **E**valuate steps to take, **S**olve and check) and **RACER** for reading- **R**estate, **A**nswer, **C**ite, **E**xplain, **R**evise.

### **Chrome Books/ iPads**

Mr. Gaines thanked Mrs. Harlton for her presentation.

Mr. Granberry presented the Personnel changes for October 2017. Mr. Englande acknowledged retiree Audrey Sino of Gauthier Elementary and thanked her for her years of service.

Under Superintendent's Recommendations, Ms. Voitier mentioned that the Audit Report for the 2016-2017 fiscal year will be presented at the October Regular Monthly Meeting.

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