

SPECIAL MEETING  
MAY 3, 2017

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met in a Special Meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in 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, Dr. Hugh C. Craft, Mr. William H. Egan, Mr. Clifford M. Englande, Mrs. Katherine K. Lemoine, Mr. Joseph V. Long, and Mr. Sean K. Warner. Mrs. Darleen P. Asevedo, Mr. Donald D. Campbell, Mr. Carl W. Gaines, Jr. and Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr. were absent.

The Special Meeting was held to allow the Board to hear the exit report of the AdvancED External Review Team for district accreditation.

Mrs. Dysart turned the meeting over to Superintendent Voitier to introduce and welcome the AdvancED Accreditation Team to the meeting for their exit report. Ms. Voitier introduced Mrs. Virginia Massey, Lead Evaluator of the AdvancED External Review Team.

Ms. Massey introduced to the Board the following team members:

Ms. Terrie Johnson, Associate Lead from Louisiana  
Mr. Sam Buhler, Team Member from Louisiana  
Ms. Amy DiCarlo, Team Member from Louisiana  
Ms. Joy Davis, Team Member from Georgia  
Ms. Tracey Kendrick, Team Member from Florida  
Ms. Virginia Massey, Lead Evaluator from Florida

Ms. Massey thanked everyone for joining the team for this exit meeting and explained that the team members from inside of Louisiana are critical in explaining state specific acronyms and state regulations. She quickly moved right into the exit report which contains the findings of the External Review Team.

Ms. Massey explained that her presentation today is only a preliminary report with the final report being sent to the Superintendent in about a month.

She began by stating that AdvancED is the global leader in providing continuous improvement and accreditation services to over 32,000 institutions serving 20 million students worldwide. She further stated that this accreditation through AdvancED has an international protocol for institutions committed to systemic, systematic and sustainable improvement, builds capacity of the system and its school to increase and sustain student learning and stimulates and improves effectiveness and efficiency throughout the system. She notes that the external review provides a diagnostic process to stimulate and guide continuous improvement with a focus on: Impact of teaching; Capacity of leadership; and use of resources.

The professional judgement by the External Review Team results in :

- \$ Powerful Practices
- \$ Opportunities for Improvement
- \$ Improvement Priorities
- \$ Index of Education Quality
- \$ Accreditation Recommendation

For data collection, the External Review Team interviewed:

- \$ Superintendent
- \$ 9 Board Members
- \$ 15 Administrators
- \$ 34 Teachers
- \$ 1 Support Personnel
- \$ 54 students
- \$ 20 Parent/Community & Business Partners

155 Total Stakeholders

Ms. Massey first looked at the domain of Teaching and Learning Impact in which the External Review Team reviews:

- \$ Student performance results
- \$ Instructional quality
- \$ Learner and family engagement
- \$ Support services for student learning
- \$ Curriculum quality and efficacy
- \$ College and Career readiness data

The findings of the review team in this area is:

- \$ Refine, support and evaluate a formal structure that ensures all students at all levels of the school system have an adult advocate to support a student’s learning needs, thinking skills and life skills.
- \$ Integrate and evaluate district-wide structures to ensure that all instructional staff throughout the system implement strategies for digital tools/technology designed to engage all students in purposeful and authentic learning.
- \$ The team identified communication about student learning, school performance and the achievement of system and school improvement goals to stakeholders and public relations in St. Bernard Parish as exceptional.

Ms. Massey introduced the next table which she called the eleot classroom observation table. She stated that this scoring table reflects learning environments through classroom observations of approximately 20 minute time lengths. She explained that the External Review numbers reflect the scores of the St. Bernard Parish School Board. The second column reflects the AdvancED average for all school districts who were visited during the

entire previous year. Ms. Massey noted that in the first six categories St. Bernard surpassed the average.

eleot

	Learning Environments	External Review	AEN
1	Equitable Learning Environment	2.82	2.69
2	High Expectations Environment	2.88	2.80
3	Supportive Learning Environment	3.28	3.05
4	Active Learning Environment	3.04	2.93
5	Progress Monitoring and Feedback Environment	2.92	2.76
6	Well Managed Learning Environment	3.37	3.12
7	Digital Learning Environment	1.64	1.86

The next domain Ms. Massey shared was leadership capacity. She stated that the External Review Team examined:

- \$ Institutional purpose and direction
- \$ Governance and leadership effectiveness
- \$ Stakeholder engagement
- \$ Improvement Capacity
- \$ Results

The findings of the review team show:

- \$ The St. Bernard Parish School Board is highly functioning and effective governing body, which has implemented and adheres to governance policies that clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of board members and administrators in support of the district’s mission and vision.

Under Resource Utilization, Ms. Massey stated that the External Review Team examined:

- \$ Allocation and use of resources
- \$ Equity of resource distribution to need
- \$ Level and sustainability of resources
- \$ Long range capital and resource planning effectiveness

The findings of the review team showed:

- \$ The school system has a highly effective process of strategic planning which drives programs and ensures the system has the necessary human resources and first rate access and support for informational resources that support the long term needs of the school system.

In conclusion, Ms. Massey explained that each school generated an Index of Education Quality (IEQ) score as a result of each school entering their self-assessment information which was determined by the following factors:

- \$ Impact of teaching and learning on student performances
- \$ Capacity of leadership to guide and ensure effectiveness in carrying out strategic direction of institution.
- \$ Utilization of resources to meet diverse needs of students and institution.
- \$ Use as a tool for formative analysis and continuous improvement.
- \$ Connection for the conditions, processes and practices to evidence including student performance.

For the district as a whole, the table below shows the district IEQ score as a result of the visiting External Review Team.

	External Review IEQ Score	AE Network Average
Overall Score	330.08	278.03
Teaching and Learning Impact	313.49	267.91
Leadership Capacity	344.44	292.76
Resource Utilization	352.08	284.48

As a result, Ms. Massey stated that the IEQ results indicate that the institution is performing within acceptable ranges as compared to expected criteria as well as other institutions in the AdvancED network.

Ms. Massey as Lead Evaluator, on behalf of the External Review team, expressed that the External Review Team recommends to the AdvancED Accreditation Commission that the St. Bernard Parish School System earn the distinction of district accreditation by AdvancED.

Ms. Massey continued by providing notes on continuous improvement which include two areas that were specifically discussed with the Superintendent require:

- \$ Improvement priorities must be addressed within two years.
- \$ Beginning of a journey of improvement
- \$ Deliberate and strategic actions to ensure that every child, every day is being prepared and achieving success for their future.

Ms. Massey thanked the Board for the hospitality and organization in answering questions and providing information which made the External Review team’s job easy. She congratulated the entire system for this success.

Ms. Voitier thanked Ms. Massey for her report and all the team members for the work they did during the week. She credited the Supervisors, Principals, Assistant Principals and Board Members in attendance at the meeting along with all the school staff members, students and community that work together with the goal of improving the education opportunities for the children of St. Bernard Parish.

Mrs. Dysart also took the opportunity to thank the review team on behalf of the Board noting a special thank you to Ms. Voitier and Mrs. Lawrason for their hard work in making this visit so successful. She also thanked all of the hardworking members of the entire school system who contribute to the district success on a daily basis.

Ms. Voitier also shared a special thank you to Mrs. Lawrason who spear headed this successful review experience.

Dr. Craft also thanked the External Review team for their professionalism and hard work in evaluating our district.

There being no further business to discuss, on motion of Craft and seconded by Mr. Egan, the meeting was adjourned.

Diana B. Dysart/s  
DIANA DYSART  
PRESIDENT

Doris Voitier/s  
DORIS VOITIER  
SECRETARY