

## GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT

### TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 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. Diana B. Dysart, President; 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, Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr., Mr. Joseph V. Long, Sr., and Mr. Sean K. Warner. Mrs. Katherine K. Lemoine was absent.

Mrs. Dysart welcomed Mrs. Alex Schneider to present the March edition of Super News. Topics covered included: Upcoming Special Olympics on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Bernard Parish School Board Lions Club Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, Celebrating Our School Community Banquet on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, St. Bernard Day at the Capital on Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, Chalmette High School Graduation on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, Mardi Gras parades which occurred in the schools, CHS band parading in Disneyworld, CHS Charmers who competed in California and won that national competition, Junior Beta attendance in Lafayette, Louisiana, Epic Assemblies presentation to middle and high school students, CHS boys basketball district championship and final four appearance, Kenny Nguyen as a National Merit Finalist, Testing season in April and May, report card distribution on March 23, 2017, Pre-school registration, Arlene Meraux Elementary School construction and new elementary school districts, Natalie Albers appointment as Principal of the new Arlene Meraux Elementary School. Teacher features that included David Bellard of Chalmette High, Jessica Grenner of Davies Elementary, Felicia Butler of Arabi Elementary and Andrea Licciardi, Assistant Principal at Andrew Jackson. Additional recognition was given to Kylie Bordelon for winning the regional student of the year and will now compete for the State student of the year in April.

Mrs. Dysart thanked Mrs. Schneider for her informative presentation and Mr. Barry Lemoine and Mr. Jack Jackson for their work on the video presentation.

Dr. Lewis addressed Education Committee business which began with an update by Superintendent Voitier on the Louisiana ESSA Draft Plan and would be followed with an update on the outcome of Louisiana's Special Legislative Session.

Ms. Voitier began by calling Committee Members attention to the handout she has provided which is the framework for the current Every Student Succeeds Act, and she noted that the framework document is 23 pages long while the actual state plan is over 100 pages long. She also noted that this version of the document does not have significant changes from the original version that was offered a few months ago. One of those changes is in the area of Leading Indicators which was not well received and was replaced by Interest and Opportunities which is courses that every school should offer like languages, art, music, etc. This area still contains a great deal of uncertainty.

Ms. Voitier also highlighted the fact that the submission deadline is either April 3rd or September 18<sup>th</sup>. The Louisiana Superintendent is pushing for the April 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline and wants the BESE Board to approve the document on May 29th but Ms. Voitier states that most Superintendents are not in support of that.

One concern of Ms. Voitier is the effect these new standards would have on the school grading scores. Ms. Voitier stated that the rollout for the majority of this new system is projected to be the 2017-2018 school year with the remaining areas to follow.

Along with the impending roll out of the program is the concern that it would be required for a student to score mastery to be considered proficient. Ms. Voitier stated that this scoring element would create a tremendous drop in student and school scores. The high school test scoring is equally concerning due to raised ACT standards along with the scoring involved in the high school cohort graduation rates. Ms. Voitier says that discussions continue to tweak this document and the possibility of a more realistic grading scale.

The final point Ms. Voitier made that concerns her is federal funding and how much the state can withhold from school districts. The new plan indicates the state would withhold a larger percentage than currently exists.

Overall, Ms. Voitier notes that the ESSA Draft Plan addresses funding, the accountability program and potential changes in raising standards, teacher preparation programs, struggling schools and re-directing funds to those schools. Ms. Voitier says that feedback is still being provided regarding the plan and changes are still possible with many people hoping to wait for a later submission date which might allow for some positive changes to the document.

After all questions and concerns were addressed and expressed on this topic, Ms. Voitier continued on to address the outcome of Louisiana's Special Legislative Session. Ms. Voitier stated that K-12 education was fortunate to be spared large cuts during the Special Session. She did note that while cuts to the MFP are not forecasted, school systems will definitely be negatively impacted by an increase of the employer portion for the employee retirement system.

Dr. Lewis next welcomed Dr. Charles Raviotta, Curriculum Supervisor, to speak to the Board regarding the Head Start Continuation Application.

Dr. Raviotta said he would be seeking the approval of the Head Start Continuation Application for the 2017-2018 school year. He provided the Board with a copy of the actual application which includes the budget information and a program narrative. He further stated that all available funds from Head Start and other funding sources were to be used in the universal 4-year old pre-school program. Dr. Raviotta then pointed out some particulars noted in the Head Start Application such as the fact that we are funded to serve 112 students, with a federal contribution of \$846,367.00 which is an increase over the last 2 years. Dr. Raviotta also noted to the Committee that updates on the budget, enrollment, health reports and meals for the pre-school are sent to the Board members on a monthly basis with their Board News. He also passed out updated developmental assessment data for the students in the pre-k classrooms and the Press Release regarding the pre-school application dates and process. Once all questions and concerns from the Committee were answered by Dr. Raviotta he asked that the Committee recommend to the Board to approve the Head Start Continuation Application.

Mr. Warner made a motion to recommend to the Board to approve the Head Start continuation application. Seconded by Dr. Craft, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Mr. Granberry next presented personnel changes for the month of March. Mrs. Dysart offered congratulations to three retirees who appeared on the Personnel changes, Lynette Roland, Thelma Aymond and Lydia Crank. The Committee thanked Mr. Granberry for his informational presentation.

Mr. Egan as Insurance Committee Chair introduced the next agenda item which was the Property Insurance Renewal. Mr. Fernandez and Mr. Richard Clements of Clements Insurance Services, Inc., approached the podium to explain our most recent property insurance package. The total cost of property insurance for the period of April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018 would be one million eighty one thousand three hundred seventy three dollars and forty five cents(\$1,081,373.45). Mr. Fernandez explained that this represents a decrease from last year.

Mr. Fernandez answered all the Board's questions. Dr. Lewis motioned to recommend to the Board to approve the Renewal of Property Insurance for the period of April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dysart and passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

In the absence of Mrs. Lemoine, Mr. Englande acting as Finance Committee chair welcomed Mr. Fernandez back with a request for permission to advertise for Bids for the Official Journal for the publication of all minutes and public notices for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

Dr. Craft moved to recommend to the Board to authorize the Administration to advertise for bids for the Official Journal. Seconded by Mr. Long, the motion passed without objection by a roll call vote of the members present.

Mr. Fernandez then requested permission to advertise for bids for painting and repairs for school board vehicles for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

Mr. Warner moved to recommend to the Board to authorize the Administration to advertise for bids for painting and repairs for school board vehicles. Seconded by Mr. Gaines, the motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present.

Mr. Fernandez next requested permission to advertise for bids for gasoline, diesel, lubricating oil, anti-freeze and transmission fluid for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. He addressed all comments and questions of the committee.

On motion of Dr. Lewis, seconded by Mrs. Asevedo the Committee voted by a roll call vote of the members present with no objections to recommend to the Board to authorize the Administration to advertise for bids for gasoline, diesel, lubricating oil, anti-freeze and transmission fluid.

Mr. Fernandez next requested permission to advertise for bid for new school buses.

Mr. Gaines moved to recommend to the Board to approve the request by the Administration for permission to advertise for new school buses. Seconded by Mr. Long, the motion passed by a roll call vote of the members present.

Next Mr. Englande welcomed Mrs. Joni Blum to request permission to advertise for bids for paper, cleaning and custodial supplies for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

Mr. Long moved to recommend to the Board to approve the Administration's request to advertise for bid paper, cleaning and custodial supplies. Seconded by Dr. Lewis, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

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, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

With a motion by Dr. Craft 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 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, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

Mr. Englande continued 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, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

With a motion by Mr. Campbell 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 Milk and Milk products for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Next, Mrs. Joni Blum presented the Administration's request to bid for Bread and Bread Products for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

With a motion from Mr. Warner and a second from Mr. Gaines 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, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Under Superintendent's Recommendations Ms. Voitier is hoping to have the CHS district boys basketball champs appear at the next Regular Monthly Meeting.

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