

## GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, February 14, 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. Diana B. Dysart, President; 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, Mr. Joseph V. Long, Sr. and Mr. Sean K. Warner. Mrs. Darleen P. Asevedo was absent.

Mrs. Dysart began the meeting with a Happy Valentine's Day to everyone. On a point of privilege, Mr. Englande mentioned the Board's recent attendance of the annual Louisiana School Board Association Conference and congratulated Dr. Hugh Craft who was sworn in as President of that organization and Mrs. Katherine Lemoine for being sworn in as District I representative. Also highlighted at the LSBA Conference was a Chalmette High video which was chosen as the winner of a video contest and received \$2,500 for Chalmette High and Ms. Voitier for being a friend to Public Education. Mr. Egan also noted Dr. Henderson Lewis for his speech at the LSBA Conference which he attended both as a member of our Board and as the Superintendent of the New Orleans public schools.

Mrs. Dysart next introduced the agenda item regarding Committee Assignments for the Board for the next calendar year. Copies of the assignments were provided to the Committee Members to review, any changes to this list will be made at the Regular Monthly Meeting.

Mrs. Dysart next welcomed Mr. Albert Carey to present an overview of the status of the construction on the new Arlene Meraux Elementary School. The construction photos showed the school with completed exterior finishes and exterior roads and parking around the school. Interiors appear to be near to completion with floor work being done in most halls.

After completing his presentation, the Committee thanked Mr. Carey for the information and for his hard work in managing the construction of the new school.

Mrs. Dysart next welcomed Ms. Alex Schneider to present the February edition of Super News. Ms. Schneider reviewed a few upcoming activities in the schools including a presentation by Mr. Arnie Fielkow of the National Basketball Retired

Players Association who will speak to students at CHS about culture and community, the McDonald's All-American Pep Rally honoring student Mitchell Robinson and other athletes and upcoming Mardi Gras Celebrations at each of the schools. The actual Super News video with host Barry Lemoine and guest host, parish-wide Elementary Teacher of the Year, Kelsey Klein, presented the aforementioned topics as well as: the St. Bernard Parish AP program being recognized as a program of distinction by the College Board and the LDOE; Placement of two School Board Members to LSBA Offices; Board Member Henderson Lewis, Jr. was noted for his recent appearance in New Orleans Magazine as one of the most important people for his role as New Orleans Superintendent; Mitchell Robinson's naming to the McDonald's All American Team; Kelly Plaiscia was named as an inductee to the St. Bernard Parish Sports Hall of Fame; and the CHS Charmers named as 2017 State High Kick Champions. Teacher Features highlighted Rebecca Wood of St. Bernard Middle, Telya Lopez of Smith Elementary, Jodie Georgusis of Chalmette Elementary School and Ms. Gerry Russo of Arabi Elementary. Emi Gonzalez, a fifth grade student at Lacoste Elementary, was mentioned for his prize winning essay in the Martin Luther King essay contest. Congratulations were also offered to Board Members Diana Dysart and Mr. Cliff Englande who were re-elected to their posts of President and Vice-President respectively on the School Board. Ms. Voitier was congratulated for her recognition by the LSBA as being a friend of Public Education in Louisiana and finally, recognition was given to Hunter Bell and Shelby Christmas who were voted Mr. and Ms. Chalmette at the recent Annual Titles Dance.

Mrs. Dysart thanked Ms. Schneider for her presentation.

As education chair, Mr. Carl Gaines welcomed Ms. Lee Anne Harlton and Ms. Mary Lumetta to present information regarding the Summer Reading Program for the summer of 2017.

Ms. Lee Anne Harlton and Ms. Mary Lumetta informed the Committee of the existence of a summer reading program for all students entering third grade through twelfth grade but this year there will be a push to expand its presence by providing the summer reading list of books to all school libraries and purchasing extra copies of each book for easy accessibility for students. The list will also be provided to the parish library to assist their consumers in accessibility. In addition to better accessibility to the books, Davies Elementary will be open during June in the summer and will allow students to check out summer reading books and take the required Accelerated Reader test which is good for those students who read the books early in the summer, these tests if not taken during the summer will be

offered at school during the first two weeks of school.

Upon completion of their presentation, all questions were addressed by Mrs. Harlton and Ms. Lumetta. The Committee thanked them for their time.

Dr. Craft as Executive Committee Chair asked Ms. Voitier to address the agenda item concerning the Administration's recommendation for the redistricting of Elementary Schools.

Ms. Voitier opened by saying how excited everyone is regarding the opening of our new Arlene Meraux Elementary School which will be ready to receive students in August of 2017. She stated that redistricting was required for the new elementary school opening. Ms. Voitier called attention to a packet in Committee Members folders which outline the old district lines, the proposed new district lines and a map with the new lines displayed. She also stated that Smith Elementary and Gauthier Elementary have no changes to their district lines, the changes are in the Arabi, Chalmette, Lacoste and the newly created Meraux Elementary lines.

Parents will be notified of the new district lines by having the new lines delivered to parents by sending packets home with students in the elementary schools, a call will go out to all parents of the elementary schools to tell them that the proposed changes are being sent home along and that maps will be present in each elementary school and the School Board Central Office to display the proposed lines for next year.

Uniform concerns and exit year student concerns were addressed by stating that previous school uniforms will be allowed at any student's new school and any student entering their fifth grade school year or "exit" year of school may opt to stay at their school for their exit year as long as they provide their own transportation to and from school.

Finally, Ms. Voitier stated that a public hearing will take place on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at the District's Central Office for concerned citizens to voice their concerns and input into these line changes.

Dr. Lewis moved to send this item to the Board without a recommendation pending the results of the public hearing on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Seconded by Mr. Long, the motion passed by the following roll call vote.

## ROLL CALL VOTE:

YEAS: Dr. Craft, Mr. Egan, Mr. Gaines, Mr. Englande, Mrs. Dysart, Mrs. Lemoine, Dr. Lewis, Mr. Long and Mr. Warner

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Campbell

ABSENT: Mrs. Asevedo

Mrs. Dysart next asked Mr. Granberry to present to the Committee, for informational purposes, the list of Administrators who were up for a two year renewal of their performance contracts which are due to expire on June 30, 2017. Also presented to the Committee were the recommendations for renewal. Mr. Granberry answered all questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Granberry next went on to present the Personnel Changes for February 2017 for review by the Committee. Mr. Granberry addressed all comments and questions of the Committee.

As Finance Committee chair Mr. Englande welcomed Mr. David Fernandez to present the Administration's request for proposals for ELA and Math Curriculum materials. With a motion from Dr. Craft and a second from Mr. Warner the Committee voted unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present to recommend to the Board to approve the Administration's request for proposals for ELA and Math Curriculum materials.

Mr. Englande continued with Finance Committee business with Mrs. Blum to present the Administration's request to advertise for bid for Small Food Service Equipment (Class 13) for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. With a motion from Dr. Lewis and a second from Mrs. Lemoine the Committee voted unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present to recommend to the full Board to approve the Administration's request to advertise for bid for Small Food Service Equipment (Class 13) for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Under Superintendents' Recommendations Ms. Voitier reiterated the upcoming visit from Arnie Fielkow and the McDonald's All-American Pep Rally honoring student Mitchell Robinson and other spring athletes. She also asked everyone to

watch for schools to appear in the upcoming Mardi Gras parades. Mr. Warner congratulated the CHS basketball team on winning district last night.

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