

GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 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, Mr. Clifford M. Englande, President, Mrs. Darleen P. Asevedo, Mr. Donald D. Campbell, Mrs. Carolon H. Craft, Mr. William H. Egan, Mr. Carl W. Gaines, Jr., Mrs. Diana B. Dysart, Mrs. Katherine K. Lemoine, Mr. Shelton P. Smith and Mr. Sean K. Warner. Mr. Joseph V. Long, Sr. was absent.

On a point of privilege, Mr. Englande presented a plaque from the Board to Mrs. Carolon H. Craft, to honor the service of her husband, the late Dr. Hugh C. Craft, for being a member of the St. Bernard Parish School Board for over 24 years. Mrs. Craft thanked the Board for the gift and the high praise received regarding Dr. Craft and his influence on education in St. Bernard Parish and all around the state of Louisiana.

Ms. Voitier introduced this month's Super News in the absence of Mrs. Schneider, Ms. Voitier first noted that in Board Members folders is info regarding Press Reports, scheduled Board Member filming and upcoming events including the CHS Christmas show on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and Christmas at Docville on December 8<sup>th</sup>. This Super News production first gave paid respects to Dr. Hugh C. Craft and continued by highlighting the following topics: CHS Ring Day, Superior Ratings from LMEA for the Chalmette High Band and Charmers during a recent marching assessment and CHS Homecoming. Arabi Elementary was highlighted for a segment called School Spotlight and was led by students, Joel Augustine and Alex Alford, where they raved about the Arabi Chorus and the Arabi Angels dance team at the Sugar Fest, Boo on the Bayou and the Islenos Festival. Arabi students also participated in Starbase activities for fifth graders, Greek Fest, which coincided with the ELA unit on mythology for second graders, Science lab activities for all students, an African drum and dance company visit through a grant from the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, Early explorers concert at the Chalmette High Theatre presented by the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Career Day class activities which featured Arabi Parents and the Readers Around the World activity presented by the local Kiwanis Club Members. Red Ribbon Week presented a mock crash at St. Bernard Middle School. While at the middle school, Super News invited students Alyza Alfonso and Denim Bell to present their School Spotlight. Alyza began by presenting information on their

SSR (Silent Sustained Reading) program which takes place for 10 minutes in their homeroom period, Denim built on that theme by presenting information on the Accelerated Reading Tests that complement the SSR initiative. Other activities highlighted included the Moms and Muffins, Dads and Donuts and Grandparents and Grits which invites the community in to share the welcoming attitude of the school. Teachers of the Year were chosen at each school with district wide winners announced, they are; Erin Johnston for Elementary, Sharon Landry for Middle and Chris Dier for High School. Cheramie Kerth, Supervisor of Special Education Services and School Board Member Katherine Lemoine were recognized by the BPW as Model Working Women for their outstanding contribution to Education and for their work in the community. Special mention was also made about the Christmas Program at CHS on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, Christmas at Docville on December 8<sup>th</sup>, a presentation of the Nutcracker Suite at the Maumus Center Planetarium on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and finally a reminder about the upcoming General Meeting of the CHS Alumni on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Englande welcomed Mr. Fernandez, Finance Manager, to address the Board regarding the 2017-2018 Financial and Compliance audit report. He introduced Mr. Mickey Simon who is a representative of the independent auditors from the firm of Laporte CPA's and Business Advisors. Mr. Simon thanked the Board for their continued confidence in Laporte as their auditors and then introduced Mr. Mickey Simon who thanked the Board, Ms. Voitier, Mr. Fernandez and the Business Office Staff for their cooperation and hard work during the audit. He stated the result of this audit was an unmodified opinion which is the highest level of assurance that can be offered on an audit. Mr. Simon then reviewed some of the pertinent information involved in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Ms. Voitier thanked Mr. Simon for his report and congratulated Mr. Fernandez and all of the business office staff who contributed to this unmodified opinion on the Financial Report. The Board members echoed this sentiment in congratulating Mr. Fernandez and his staff for their fine work, especially in the preparation of the Financial Report.

Mr. Cassar next appeared to present to the Committee an update on Cultural Arts activities that are taking place in the schools. Before he began with that schedule he reiterated the fantastic achievement of Mr. Jason Rusk, Chalmette High Band Director, and Ms. Jill Mitchell, Charmer Director, in accomplishing the Superior rating for every facet of their LMEA performance in that local competition. He

also mentioned that after the recent professional development for teachers in November, class sets of instruments went to each fifth grade class in the parish.

Concerning December Cultural Arts Activities, Mr. Cassar stated that starting on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> will be the Christmas at the St. Bernard Parish Government Complex. Also, on December 1st will be the Los Islenos Bonfire program, Chalmette High School will also have their annual Christmas Program on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and on December 8<sup>th</sup> will be the Docville Children's Christmas Festival. Board Members are invited to attend that festival on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. to judge artwork done by students which will be sent to the upcoming Louisiana School Board Association Conference in February 2019. Finally, Mr. Cassar was proud to announce that on Saturday, December 15, 2018 the New Orleans Symphony Chorus will present Handel's Messiah. Members of our own CHS Voices will be featured during this presentation. One additional note Mr. Cassar offered was that students from our schools have been invited to experience the reenactment of the 204<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans on Friday, January 11, 2019.

Mr. Englande and the entire Committee thanked Mr. Cassar for his presentation and additional thanks were offered to the teachers and students participating in these cultural arts activities.

Mrs. Lemoine, as Education Committee Chair, presented the next agenda item regarding an update on Head Start. Dr. Raviotta appeared before the Education Committee to provide the Head Start update and Annual Report. Dr. Raviotta presented items that are mandated to be presented to the Head Start governing board, which is the School Board. In the series of handouts to be presented Dr. Raviotta began with the Head Start Program Annual Report. This Annual Report consists of the following information; Funding of the program, budgetary expenditure projections for those funds, total number of children and families served, results of the most recent program audit, percentage of students who received medical and dental exams, parent involvement information and the final component is how they approach the readiness of students for kindergarten.

Other handouts offered were; Head Start Program Information Report that gives enrollment, staff qualifications, etc.; The Summary Narrative of Spring Data which refers to the assessment of improvements made by students during the school year; Health Report for each school Head Start classrooms; Head Start Governing Body Roles and Responsibilities; Head Start Program Goals and Head Start correspondence regarding waivers for bus child restraint systems and monitors.

Dr. Raviotta thanked all of the Head Start administrators, teachers and staff for their hard work and professionalism on a daily basis. He addressed all questions from the Committee. Mrs. Lemoine thanked him for the presentation and his hard work within the Head Start Program.

On motion of Mr. Warner and seconded by Mrs. Asevedo, the Committee voted unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present to recommend the Board receive the official Head Start Annual Report and Update.

Mrs. Lemoine next welcomed Ms. Mary Lumetta, Assistant Superintendent, to present the Fall 2018 Accountability Scores. Ms. Lumetta reminded the Committee that the state is using a new scoring system for the schools and the district, so, for this fall only, in order to make reasonable comparisons, the state released results by the old scoring system and the new scoring system. The handout that Ms. Lumetta provided shows results calculated by the 2017 and 2018 formulas to provide that comparison. The “Top Gains” designation highlights student progress for the year at a school and the majority of the district schools scored an A or a B for the school year with Rowley Alternative receiving a C.. Ms. Lumetta also announced that four of our schools were recognized as “Top Gains Schools.” Those schools are Arabi Elementary, Davies Elementary, Gauthier Elementary and Smith Elementary. Equity honoree scores in subgroup for students with disabilities went to Davies Elementary and Chalmette High received recognition for several subgroups including English Language Learner subgroup, Hispanic subgroup, Students with Disabilities subgroup, Economic Disadvantaged subgroup and Black subgroup.

Ms. Voitier noted that next year the review of our Alternative School should be a more successful one because of new standards that will be in place for just such a school. Ms. Lemoine and the Committee thanked Ms. Lumetta for the overview and congratulated everyone who worked so hard for these fantastic results.

### Fall 2018 Accountability Scores

St. Bernard Parish	2017 Score Old Formula	2018 Score Old Formula
	98.3	99.4

2018 Grade New Formula	2018 Score New Formula
B	81.1

School	2017 Letter Grade Old Formula	2018 Letter Grade Old Formula		2018 Letter Grade New Formula
Chalmette High	A	A		A
Andrew Jackson Middle School	B	B		C
St. Bernard Middle School	C	C		C
N.P. Trist Middle School	B	B		B
Arabi Elementary School	C	B		C
Chalmette Elementary School	C	C		C
Joseph Davies Elementary School	A	A		B
J.F. Gauthier Elementary School	B	B		B
Lacoste Elementary School	B	B		B
Arlene Meraux Elementary School		C		C
W. Smith Jr. Elementary School	C	C		C
C.F. Rowley Alternative School	F	F		F

Next, Mr. Englande welcomed Ms. Voitier to present the personnel changes for the month of November. Mr. Englande thanked Ms. Voitier for the personnel review.

Mrs. Dysart covering for Mr. Long who is the Executive Committee Chair next welcomed Mrs. Cheramie Kerth, Supervisor of Special Education, to present a new policy – JGCF – Behavioral Health Procedures as mandated by ACT No. 696 of the 2018 Regular Session, House Bill No. 766. The overview of this policy as explained by Mrs. Kerth are procedures and parameters in which Behavioral Health Providers must follow to be able to visit schools to evaluate students when necessary. Mrs. Kerth reviewed handouts that explained the necessity of this policy, the procedures within this policy, and the required timeline for implementation of the policy along with all necessary permission and information forms that are required upon approval of any Behavioral Health Provider to evaluate any student.

Mr. Warner moved to recommend to the Board approval of the Policy JGCF – Behavioral Health Procedures. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaines and approved unanimously by the members present.

Mrs. Dysart as Finance Committee Chair welcomed Mrs. Joni Blum to present the bid tabulation for Spices and Seasonings (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 January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019.

Mr. Smith moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the lowest bidder on each item on the aforementioned bid tabulation. Seconded by Mrs. Lemoine, the motion passed with no objections by a roll call vote of the members present.

Mr. Dysart next welcomed Mr. David Fernandez, Finance Manager, to present the revised 2018 – 2019 General Fund and Special Revenue Fund budgets. Mr. Fernandez noted that the changes in the General fund reflect year end encumbrances and fund balances and current staffing. Mr. Fernandez pointed out that the changes to the Special Revenue Funds reflected the final amounts awarded for these programs.

Mr. Warner moved to recommend to the Board to approve the revisions to the 2018 – 2019 General Fund and Special Revenue Fund Budgets. Seconded by Mr. Englande, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Under Superintendent's Recommendations Ms. Voitier mentioned that the Superintendent's Evaluation forms are being handed out tonight. Those forms

should be completed and turned in to assist in the Special Meeting in December for the Superintendent's Evaluation.

On motion of Mrs. Asevedo, seconded by Mr. Campbell, and passed by a unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned.