

GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 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. William H. Egan, Ms. Carly C. Jackson, Mrs. Katherine K. Lemoine, Mr. Clifford M. Englande, Mr. Joseph V. Long, Sr., Mr. Shelton P. Smith, Mr. Sean K. Warner and Mrs. Rosiland R. White. Mr. Donald D. Campbell was absent.

On a point of privilege Mrs. Dysart welcomed a few guests in the audience who are educators and working on their continuing education by attending the meeting tonight, they are; Ms. Aleen LeBeouf and Ms. Tessy Guerrere. Ms. Dysart also welcomed Ms. Jessica Janneck, a teacher from CHS, who attended the meeting tonight as a SBAE member. Mr. Englande next asked for a moment of silence in memory of former School Board Member Mr. Bobby Torres who recently passed. After the moment of silence, condolences were extended to the family and friends of Mr. Torres.

Mrs. Dysart addressed the first agenda item concerning a presentation from the officers of the St. Bernard Reading Association. Ms. Tessie White-Stein and Ms. Magen Arabie thanked the Board for their past support of this organization. The Reading Association Officers reminded the Board Committee Members of the yearly activities of the Association and their support for reading research, reading development and advancement of literacy. Ms. White-Stein and Ms. Arabie presented certificates to each Board Member to celebrate their membership over the past two years and invited Board Members to continue their membership by joining tonight.

Mrs. Dysart, along with other Committee Members, praised the Reading Association officials for their efforts to promote reading and for their appearance here at the meeting tonight.

Mrs. Dysart next invited Ms. Alex Schneider to present Super News. Alex first reviewed the October Communications report showing recent news articles and social media activity and statistics from the District Facebook Account. She also congratulated Andrea Morningstar who teaches the Television Production class at Chalmette High and will be a new member to the videography team.

The Super News brought to the Board tonight included; Fairy tales and Tall tales being studied by 2nd graders which included costumes, food and murals, Hurricane Laura fundraisers by parish schools, Music curriculum keyboards for students, cultural arts program being featured on GO Coast, Chalmette Elementary presentation by students Victoria Rice and Keyah Mitchell who highlighted CES's celebration of Diversity each month with October being focused on World Peace Day and National Hispanic Heritage Month, the courtyard garden refreshment and science and music experiments, Chalmette High students, Dallas Blackmore and Melanie Corral updated viewers on the football team, spirit teams, volleyball, cross country and swim teams and upcoming ring day along with ACT testing and participation in the prestigious back stage technical theatre pilot exam as part of the theatre and technical program. Also celebrated was the Kiwanis Club donation of an American and Louisiana State Flag to Chalmette Elementary School.

Mrs. Dysart thanked Ms. Schneider, Barry Lemoine and Jack Jackson for their time and energy in producing the Super News.

Mrs. Dysart 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 again take place in the month of October 2020. The theme this year is "The Power to be Drug Free." Mr. Cassar noted that activities and speakers will be presented throughout the school system.

Mrs. Dysart and the Committee thanked Mr. Cassar for his efforts in this area and for his presentation tonight.

Mrs. Dysart addressed the next agenda item requesting that the School Board Training Certificates for 2019 be included in the minutes of the October 27, 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting. Ms. Voitier explained that the certificates in their packets show that each Board Member has received the required six (6) hours of yearly training in accordance with ACT 705 passed by the Louisiana Legislature in 2010 and explained that School Board Member training certificates are being included in the minutes to publish those certificates in our official journal.

With a motion from Mr. Smith and a second from Mr. Long, the motion to recommend to the full Board to include the School Board Training Certificates for 2019 in the minutes of the October 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting passed unanimously by a voice vote of the members present.

As Education Committee Chair Mrs. Lemoine welcomed Assistant Superintendent, Mary Lumetta, to update everyone on the Virtual School status. Ms. Lumetta stated that at the height of virtual school participation there were over 2500 students enrolled. She continued on saying that while the high school students are still engaged in their first semester of the year, elementary and middle school have completed a nine (9) week semester and as of today are entering the second nine (9) week period. The number of students still enrolled in virtual school for the remainder of the high school semester and the second nine (9) week elementary and middle school is 1625. This number represents 16.1% of the total elementary school enrollment; 16.5% of middle school enrollment and 35.5% of the high school enrollment. All questions concerning this matter were addressed by Ms. Voitier and Ms. Lumetta.

Mrs. Lemoine thanked Ms. Lumetta and Ms. Voitier for their efforts in keeping up with all the challenges associated with this new type of educational setting.

Mr. Long as Chair of the Executive Committee welcomed Ms. Voitier to present the Personnel changes for October 2020. Mrs. Dysart thanked Ms. Robin Calecas for her years of service upon her retirement. Mr. Warner moved to recommend to the Board to approve the leaves without pay for Ms. Isabel Gonzalez of Chalmette High and Ms. Jackie Duchane of Arabi Elementary. Seconded by Mr. Egan, the motion passed by a voice vote of the members present.

Mr. Warner as chair of the Finance Committee addressed the next agenda item regarding a request for permission to solicit requests for proposals for telecommunications services. Mr. Fernandez explained that the current 36 month contract with a 24 month extension expires on June 30, 2021. The E-Rate grant procedures require that the new signed contract must be in place by December 31, 2020 in order to qualify for funding. The new contract will commence on July 1, 2021. Mr. Fernandez states that the proposals will also be for 36 months with an optional 24 month extension.

Mrs. Dysart moved to recommend to the Board to approve the Administration's request to solicit requests for proposals for telecommunication services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Long and passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Mr. Warner continued with Finance Committee business by welcoming Mrs. Joni Blum to present the Administration's request to Advertise for bid 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, 2021 – June 30, 2021. Mr. Smith moved to recommend the Board approve the above request. Seconded by Mrs. White, the motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote of the members present.

Under Superintendent's Recommendations, Ms. Voitier mentioned that the Audit Report for the 2019-2020 fiscal year will be presented at the October Regular Monthly Meeting. She also mentioned that CHS Ring Day is Friday, October 16th on the football field at CHS with students allowed 2 guests per students to sit in the stands. Ms. Voitier also mentioned that on Sunday, November 8th will be the annual Veterans Day Parade with elementary students taking part.

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