

## GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, November 10, 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. Donald D. Campbell, 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. William H. Egan was absent.

At this time Mrs. Dysart welcomed to the audience tonight Mr. Justin Walton, a new reporter for the St. Bernard Voice and Ms. Maggie Roussell of the local teachers union, SBAE. On a point of privilege, Mrs. Dysart wanted to acknowledge the students and teachers who represented the school district in the recent Veterans Day Parade. Ms. Voitier also wanted to thank Mrs. Lee Anne Harlton, Elementary Supervisor, for coordinating the participation of teachers and students for that parade.

Mrs. Schneider was welcomed to present the November Super News. Mrs. Schneider first noted that in Board Members folders is info regarding Press Reports and Social Media activity updates. This Super News production began by highlighting the following topics: Chalmette High Ring Day, Recognition of a video production of Ms. Brynn Plaiscia, a \$25,000 donation toward the School Board Special Olympics, Accolades to the School Board Business office for an outstanding audit review, Rowley Alternative School was featured in a segment called School Spotlight and was led by Terrell Payne, a student at Rowley. Mr. Joe Cipollone, Principal at Rowley, and his teachers, highlighted the focus of Rowley this year, which is TBI – Trust Based Interventions. In another School Spotlight, students from Gauthier Elementary, Ryan Ruiz and Marlei McCloskey highlighted the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade exploration of the Country – Greece, Fairy Tales and Tall Tales were also investigated, First graders studied time, and finally other students examined to processes involved in energy. A shout out to Mr. Jason Dewey for his and his employees work to manage the recent hurricane and elections. Teacher Professional Development was also highlighted along with the presentation of completed training hours for the St. Bernard Parish School Board. Red Ribbon week was also celebrated in October with students and staff celebrating drug awareness. Mythology was also highlighted as being studied across the district.

The Super News announced the newly selected Teachers of the Year.

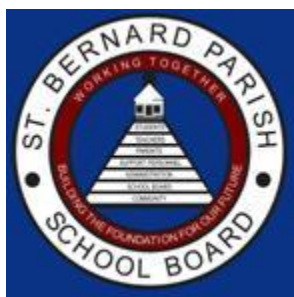
Teachers of the Year  
2020 – 2021

Bridget Derbyshire	Andrew Jackson Middle School
Alaa Alkurd	Arabi Elementary
Gabrielle Arceneaux	Chalmette Elementary
Annelise Cassar	Chalmette High
Kayla Serigne	Davies Elementary
Chelsea Hayes	Gauthier Elementary
Dina Martinez	Lacoste Elementary
Katie Green	Meraux Elementary
John Trevino	Rowley Alternative
Greg Patterson	Smith Elementary
Amber Manino	St. Bernard Middle
Sabrina Cunningham	Trist Middle

Mrs. Schneider also honored former Teacher, Administrator, School Board Member and Superintendent, Mr. Frank Auderer, who recently passed away. Ms. Voitier heralded his foresight and innovations which were instrumental in bringing the school system into the modern, premier school district it is today.

Mrs. Dysart thanked Ms. Schneider, Mr. Barry Lemoine and Mr. Jack Jackson for their work in preparing Super News.

Mrs. White as Education Committee Chair next welcomed Ms. Mary Lumetta, Assistant Superintendent, to present Tools for Online Student Safety. Ms. Lumetta presented the Committee with a handout that contained information on this topic which outlined her presentation. The handout is shown below.



# St. Bernard Parish Schools

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Board Meeting

November 10, 2020

*Vision...Effort...Success*

## ***Online Student Safety***

Good Evening,

I am here this evening to give you some information on the software we are using to help keep our students safe as they are working online more often with their curriculum. Specifically, we are using 2 pieces of software to help

Safely Deliver

- curriculum content via PowerSchool Learning Management System
- online curriculum through our virtual learning platform
- content video assistance to students via YouTube

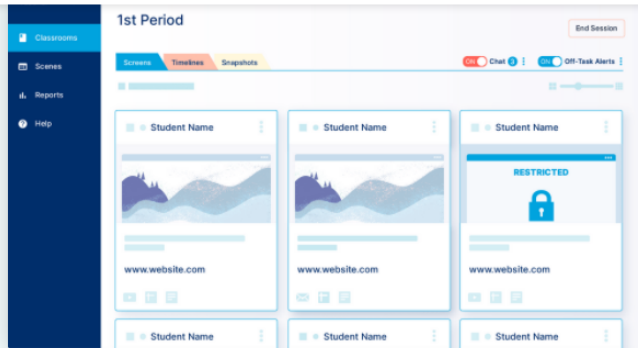
As you know, we have content filters and safeguards in place for students as they are working online, but it does happen from time to time, that some students may veer off of the current assignment or try to search something that is off topic or not appropriate when using the internet.

We also realized that while there is tremendous benefit to students learning from YouTube videos, there are also advertisements or thumbnails or preview videos that are not related to the content the teacher is trying to help the students **learn on the screen** as teachers work with students on YouTube.

For these reasons, we purchased 2 pieces of software. Our teachers have been trained and are using

- *Go Guardian software – to monitor and guide student online activity.*
- *SafeShare – to help students safely watch and share YouTube and Vimeo videos*

# Go Guardian

[Products](#)[Resources](#)[Pricing](#)[1 \(888\) 310-0410](#)[Sign in](#)

## Gain real-time views into student activity

With devices in the classroom, you can't always see what students are doing behind their screens. GoGuardian Teacher allows you to know what students are doing on their devices and whether they are off-

## Identify and correct off-task behavior

Online distractions are a frustrating part of incorporating technology in the classroom. By using automatic alerts and powerful commands, you can quickly and easily get students back on-task.

## Get students on the same page, literally

Time in class is limited, and getting your students on the same website can take up valuable instructional time. Start your class session with a set of pre-populated tabs to get your whole class on the same page quickly and provide immediate access to the resources they'll need for the lesson.

***Secondly we have SafeShare for teachers to use to share YouTube videos for students to view without advertisements or previews of upcoming videos which may be inappropriate. We are able to keep YouTube blocked for students, because when a teacher takes a YouTube video and puts it in SafeShare, the students are viewing only the video the teacher has shared with the student and the students are in Safeshare, they do not have access to all of YouTube – because some of the content on YouTube is not appropriate for students.***

## What does SafeShare do?



Watch videos without  
ads and distractions



Trim videos to show only  
the part you care about



Share directly to Google  
Classroom



Control the privacy  
settings of your videos

SafeShare makes it easy to generate web pages containing a video from YouTube or Vimeo, but without any advertisements, annotations, or links to other potentially inappropriate videos. Our "SafeViews" ensure that your viewers can watch your video free of distractions, which is especially important in an educational setting.

To create a SafeView you simply copy & paste the URL of a YouTube or Vimeo video. You can optionally select a start & end time to show only part of the video, or edit the video title and description. To share your video as a link, you can generate a short URL or QR code that you can paste anywhere. SafeShare also supports sharing through email, social networks such as Facebook, and Google Classroom.

Mrs. White and the Committee thanked Ms. Lumetta for the overview and congratulated everyone who are working so hard for fantastic results in online learning.

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

Mr. Englande who is the Executive Committee Chair next welcomed Ms. Voitier to present a revised school calendar for approval. Ms. Voitier noted that as a result of delaying the opening of school due to COVID and also the multiple storm interruptions that were experienced, there were nine missed days of school in the first semester. In this situation the School Calendar must be revised to regain the necessary class time that is dictated by the state. In order to do this, the revisions proposed would consist of pushing back the end of the first semester to January 13<sup>th</sup>; January 19<sup>th</sup> will become a school day, not a professional development day for teachers; The holidays on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> would become instructional days for students; and finally, 14 minutes will be added to each school day beginning on January 4<sup>th</sup> through the remainder of the year. These changes would allow the school system to adhere to the mandated instructional minutes.

Mr. Warner moved to recommend to the Board to approve the aforementioned revisions to the school calendar. Seconded by Mrs. Dysart, the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote of the members present.

Mr. Englande next welcomed Ms. Alex Schneider to present new and updated policies for the district.

Ms. Schneider began with policy BCAD regarding Teleconference/Remote participation in School Board Meetings. Mrs. Schneider stated that this is a new policy in response to the pandemic to allow public entities to conduct meetings through electronic means during a gubernatorial declared emergency or public health emergency affecting the public agency. School Boards must provide a mechanism for public comments electronically prior to and during the meeting. Boards must also identify and acknowledge all public comments and include them in the record of the meeting.

Mr. Warner moved to recommend to the Board approval of the new Policy BCAD – Teleconference/Remote Participation in School Board Meetings. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lemoine and approved unanimously by the members present.

Ms. Schneider next addressed the next policy change will be an update to CBD – Employment of Superintendent. This change addresses selection of an interim Superintendent and includes a list of reasons for which a School Board may place a Superintendent on Administrative Leave.

Mrs. Dysart moved to recommend to the Board approval of the update to CBD- Employment of Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith and approved unanimously by the members present.

Ms. Schneider next presented a policy to be update to DJE - Purchasing. This update will allow for purchase of materials, equipment or supplies through a qualified group purchasing organization if either the price is less than that for the same of substantially similar items on the state contract or bid list or if the same items are not on the state bid list.

Mr. Warner moved to recommend to the Board approval of the change to Policy CBD for purchase of materials, equipment or supplies through a qualified group purchasing organization if either the price is less than that for the same of substantially similar items on the state contract or bid list or if the same items are not on the state bid list. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith and approved unanimously by the members present.

Ms. Schneider then presented an update to Policy DJED – Bids and Quotations. The major change to this policy allows the contract limit for public works to be raised from \$150,000.00 to \$250,000.00.

Mr. Long moved to recommend to the Board approval of the update to policy DJED regarding the allowance of the contract limit for public works to be raised from \$150,000.00 to \$250,000.00. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lemoine and approved unanimously by the members present.

The next policy addressed by Ms. Schneider is a new policy EFC –Business Continuity and Technology Disaster Recovery. Ms. Schneider explained that this policy calls for cybersecurity training for employees and for procedures for Business and Technology recovery after a disaster.

Mr. Smith moved to recommend to the Board approval of the new policy EFC – Business Continuity and Technology Disaster Recovery. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lemoine and approved unanimously by the members present.

The next policy to be addressed by Ms. Schneider is an update to policy GBDA – Employment of Retired Personnel. This policy will now include payment options for retirees who return to active service on or after July 1, 2020 and provides for additional required notifications that the School Board must give the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) within 45 days after June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

Mr. Campbell moved to recommend to the Board approval of the update to policy GBDA – Employment of Retired Personnel. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jackson and approved unanimously by the members present.

The next policy addressed by Ms. Schneider is an update to policy IDFAB – Sports Injury Management and Concussions. Ms. Schneider explained that this policy requires a comprehensive emergency action plan for each sport located on the school's campus. New language for heat acclimation and wet bulb temperature was added.

Mr. Warner moved to recommend to the Board approval of update to policy IDFAB – Sports Injury Management and Concussions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith and approved unanimously by the members present.

The next policy addressed by Ms. Schneider is an update to policy JBH – Attendance Reports for Student Drivers. Ms. Schneider explained that this policy is basically a procedural change regarding required documentation on student attendance which used to come from the Louisiana Department of Education but now must be supplied the local school district.

Mr. Smith moved to recommend to the Board approval of update to policy JBH – Attendance Reports for Student Drivers. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dysart and approved unanimously by the members present.

The final policy addressed by Ms. Schneider is an update to policy JGCE – Child Abuse. Ms. Schneider explained that this update to this policy requires teaching or child care providers to complete an online training course provided by the Department of Children and Family Services between June 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup> annually.



Mr. Long moved to recommend to the Board approval of update to policy JGCE – Child Abuse. The motion was seconded by Mrs. White and approved unanimously by the members present.

Mr. Dysart next welcomed Mr. David Fernandez, Finance Manager, to present the revised 2020 – 2021 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 changes to the Special Revenue Funds reflected the final amounts awarded for these programs. All questions and concerns were addressed by Mr. Fernandez.

At this time, Ms. Voitier gave an update on damages sustained during the most recent hurricane, Zeta, which occurred on October 27, 2020. The largest damage occurrence was the loss of the roof of the gym at St. Bernard Middle School and minor damages also occurred at a few other school sites. Ms. Voitier projects that some damage should be covered by our own insurance and hopefully the remainder will be covered by FEMA grants and School Board Maintenance funds. Ms. Voitier also reported that a leakage occurred under the gym floor at Meraux Elementary. She is not sure if this is storm related but further investigation and mitigation is taking place.

Mr. Warner moved to recommend to the Board to approve the revisions to the 2020 – 2021 General Fund and Special Revenue Fund Budgets. Seconded by Mrs. Lemoine, the motion passed unanimously by a voice 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 by the November Regular Monthly Meeting to assist in the Special Meeting in December for the Superintendent's Evaluation. Ms. Voitier also noted that upcoming Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

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