

SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 17, 2020

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met in a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Bernard Parish School Board Office. Following the Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, the Secretary called the roll. Present were; Mrs. Diana B. Dysart, President, Mrs. Darleen P. Asevedo, Mr. Donald D. Campbell, Mr. William H. Egan, Ms. Carly C. Jackson, Mrs. Katherine K. Lemoine, Mr. Clifford M. Englande, Mr. Shelton P. Smith, Mr. Sean K. Warner and Mrs. Rosiland R. White. Mr. Joseph V. Long, Sr. was absent.

Mrs. Dysart began the meeting by announcing that this Special Meeting was called in order to address business associated with Coronavirus happenings and to address business that was to be addressed at the March Regular Monthly Meeting. Mrs. Dysart then turned the meeting over to Ms. Voitier to address agenda item #4 – Update on School Closures.

Ms. Voitier began by stating that we as a community, state and a nation are facing some serious challenges in the days and weeks to come. As a result our Governor has closed schools until April 13, 2020 in the hopes of reducing the spread of the COVID19 virus.

She stated that one of the first considerations was feeding students meals, (breakfast and lunch), that they have come to rely on from the school cafeterias. In that area, the school lunch department answered that call by preparing lunch and breakfast to be dispersed from most of our school cafeterias between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. for pickup by adults in a drive-thru fashion for any child up to the age of 18 years old or if special needs up to the age 22. Today was the first day and an approximate total of 4000 meals today. Ms. Voitier sang the praises of the Food Service Coordinator Joni Blum and her assistant Jeanine Atkinson for getting this program up and running in such a short time. Assisting in this effort has been the Maintenance Director, Jason Dewey, curriculum Administrators and school Staff and even parish law enforcement officers.

She further stated student activities online and in paper form are being provided mostly to keep students engaged in learning. There is not any grading or testing proposed for those activities at this time. Elementary, Middle and High School students are being provided activities and opportunities that are appropriate for their particular grade level. Ms. Voitier noted that many details for specific year end instruction, events, testing and accountability have yet to be determined and will be addressed and communicated to the community as soon as possible. She also noted that many discussions and negotiations are taking place at the parish, state and national levels to arrange for waivers to make modifications to programs and policies that would normally be necessary during regular school operating hours.

Ms. Voitier ended by saying that she has been so proud of the response to this situation by the Administrators, Teachers, Secretaries, Maintenance, Custodians and Cafeteria Workers who all have contributed to handling this crisis in an exceptional way.

Mrs. Dysart thanked Ms. Voitier for her leadership and her Administration during this unusual situation. Mrs. Dysart stated that on behalf of the Board she pledged to work through this unprecedented time together in support of her leadership. Mr. Egan asked for a round of applause for all the efforts of Ms. Voitier and all of our personnel.

Mrs. Dysart moved on to address the next agenda item regarding an Emergency Resolution.

Ms. Voitier explained that in order to cover all the bases necessary to proceed with school business during this period of emergency the Board must first declare a state of emergency within the school district. She further stated that the following resolution will be the device that will allow her to proceed and make decisions on behalf of the St. Bernard Parish Schools in a timely manner.

By a joint acclamation declared by the Board Members present, the following resolution declaring a state emergency within the St. Bernard Parish Schools was adopted.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump has declared a National State of Public Health Emergency and Governor John Bel Edwards has declared a State of Public health Emergency related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Proclamation JBE 2020-27 issued on March 13, 2020 has ordered the closure of all public schools in Louisiana until April 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, JBE 2020-27 urges school districts to continue to provide meals to students and to provide distance learning opportunities to students, if the districts are able; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Education has issued guidance on the waiver of rules related to the US Department of Agriculture student meal programs and on the Louisiana laws and regulations related to distance learning; and

WHEREAS, a number of decisions will need to be made and contracts entered into by the St. Bernard Parish School System in a very compressed time frame to meet the needs of the students, teachers and families of St. Bernard Parish during the period of closure; and

WHEREAS, the St. Bernard Parish School Board believes that a special delegation of authority to the Superintendent of St. Bernard Parish

Schools is in order to provide for the most effective and efficient operation of the St. Bernard Parish School System during this State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the time sensitive nature of the circumstances created by the State of Emergency call for the suspension of the ordinary rules of the St. Bernard Parish School Board with regard to the introduction and adoption of resolutions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Bernard Parish School Board declares a State of Emergency in the St. Bernard Parish School District;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Bernard Parish School Board suspends its rules with regard to the introduction and adoption of resolutions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Bernard Parish School Board urges the Superintendent of St. Bernard Parish Schools to provide meals to students in St. Bernard Parish, to the extent of her determination that the St. Bernard Parish School District is practically and fiscally capable, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Louisiana Department of Education and the US Department of Agriculture and to designate essential personnel to provide these services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Bernard Parish School Board urges the Superintendent of St. Bernard Parish Schools to provide distance learning opportunities to the students of the St. Bernard Parish School District, to the extent of her determination that the St. Bernard Parish School District is practically and fiscally capable, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Louisiana Department of Education and to designate essential personnel to provide these services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Bernard Parish School Board delegates the authority to the Superintendent of St. Bernard Parish Schools to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution, including but not limited to the ability to make decisions with regard to student meals and the provision of distance learning, and to execute such contracts or enter such agreements as the Superintendent determines are necessary or appropriate in that regard, without the requirement to seek or obtain explicit authority from the St. Bernard Parish School Board and to designate essential personnel to perform these services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Bernard Parish School Board designates to the Superintendent the authority to: continue to pay school employees their regular compensation during the period schools are closed; adjust curriculum, work schedules, compensation, and staff assignments without any further Board approval; adjust the school calendar; apply to BESE, LDOE, and/or USDOE, or any other governmental body for waivers of regulations or requirements, the compliance of which is impacted by COVID-19; apply for waivers, grants, reimbursements, aid, and other COVID-19 related matters on behalf of the St. Bernard School Board, and to take any other action reasonably necessary to implement the above directives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the St. Bernard Parish School Board that the Superintendent of St. Bernard Parish Schools shall make good and faithful efforts to inform the members of the St. Bernard Parish School

Board of decisions, contracts, and agreements made and entered into under the authority of this Resolution;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this Resolution shall continue in effect from the date of adoption until the lifting of the State of Emergency by the St. Bernard Parish School Board.

On motion of Mr. Warner and seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board voted by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present to incorporate the March 10, 2020 General Committee Report into the minutes of the March 17, 2020 Special Meeting.

GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020

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

Mrs. Dysart began by acknowledging the presence of Mrs. Lumetta who was standing in for Ms. Voitier. Ms. Voitier, she explained, was caught in traffic on the way back from Baton Rouge but is expected to appear any moment.

Mr. Long moved to table the Super News until our next meeting due to technical difficulties. Seconded by Mr. Warner, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Mrs. Dysart next welcomed Mrs. Cheramie Kerth, Special Education Services Supervisor, Mrs. Laurie McInnis, Nurse Administrator, Alex Schneider, Communications Coordinator and Mr. Jason Dewey, Maintenance Supervisor to present information on the preparations being made as a result of the coronavirus.

Mrs. Kerth reviewed the guidance being issued regarding the virus according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Louisiana Department of Public Health (OPH) and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE). She notes that this guidance includes considerations to help administrators plan for the continuity of teaching and learning if there is community spread of COVID-19. Mrs. Schneider stated that the school district website will be available with the most current information under the health and services department. Mrs. Kerth noted that there are 647 cases of coronavirus in the United States and only 2 in the state of Louisiana. At this time there are no

cases reported in St. Bernard Parish so all we can do is plan and prepare. Symptoms most commonly known are fever, cough and shortness of breath. The most basic precautions, stated Mrs. Kerth are: handwashing and not touching your face with your hands; avoiding sick people; stay home when you are sick; covering your cough or sneeze with a Kleenex or into your elbow; and finally, if you think you are infected, call your healthcare provider.

At this time Mrs. McInnis spoke about what the nurses in the school are doing to assist in this situation. Mrs. McInnis talked about instruction on handwashing with videos, color sheets and word find activities and promoting the correct way to cough and sneeze into the elbow.

Mrs. Kerth showed the type of hand sanitizers and disinfectant wipes that are currently being used in Special Education classrooms. She next introduced Mr. Jason Dewey to address the prevention techniques used by custodial staff. He stated that crews in the schools and offices will be using chemical disinfectants for cleaning all common touch areas every day. He also stated that the Transportation department is cleaning and disinfecting buses on a daily basis. Supplies of disinfectant are more than adequate. Mrs. Kerth reiterated that the safety of the students are the top priority of her and her staff.

Ms. Voitier entered the meeting during Mr. Dewey's presentation.

After all questions and concerns were addressed, Mrs. Dysart thanked Mrs. Kerth for her presentation

Mrs. White, as Education Committee Chair, 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 2020-2021 school year. He provided the Board with handouts that contain key components of the grant. 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 \$890,694.00 which is the same as last year. 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 Mrs. Asevedo, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Ms. Voitier next presented personnel changes for the month of March. Mrs. Dysart offered congratulations to retirees who appeared on the Personnel changes, Cecile Jenevein, Annette Peyton, Angel Serigne, Kathy Pechon and Sharon Cooper. The Committee thanked Ms. Voitier for this informational presentation.

Mr. Egan as Insurance Committee Chair introduced the next agenda item which was the Property Insurance Renewal. Mr. Fernandez, Mr. Richard Clements and Mr. Tim 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, 2020 - March 31, 2021 would be \$1,625,967. Mr. Fernandez explained that this represents a 24% increase from last year due to caution within the market. Tim and Richie Clements said they may be able to negotiate for slightly lower premiums during the two weeks before the Regular Monthly meeting.

Mr. Fernandez answered all the Board's questions. Mr. Englande motioned to send the insurance item to the full Board with no recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dysart and passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Ms. Jackson, 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, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Mrs. Dysart moved to recommend to the Board to authorize the Administration to advertise for bids for the Official Journal for the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year. Seconded by Mr. Warner, 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, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Mr. Smith 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. Long, 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, 2020 to June 30, 2021. He addressed all comments and questions of the committee.

On motion of Mr. Smith, 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 for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Next Ms. Jackson addressed a request for permission to advertise for bids for paper, cleaning and custodial supplies for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Mr. Warner moved to recommend to the Board to approve the Administration's request to advertise for bid paper, cleaning and custodial supplies for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Seconded by Mrs. White, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Mrs. Blum appeared for the next agenda item to ask for permission to advertise for bid Milk for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Mrs. Dysart moved to recommend to the Board to approve the Administration's request to advertise for Milk for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Smith, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Mrs. Blum next appeared to ask permission to advertise for Requests for permission to advertise for bid Bread for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Mr. Smith moved to recommend to the Board to approve the Administration's request to advertise for bid Bread. Seconded by Mr. Warner, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Mrs. Blum also asked for permission 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 July 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020.

Mr. Long moved to approve the Administration's request to bid for the aforementioned products. Seconded by Mr. Smith, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the vendors present.

As Executive Committee Chair, Mr. Englande presented the next agenda item regarding an increase in the 2020-21 MFP. Ms. Voitier explained that with

the legislature in session and addressing the amount dedicated to the MFP it would be in our best interest to endorse the recommendation of the LSBA to adopt the resolution asking for an increase in funding of the base per pupil amount of the MFP of not less than 1.35% as presented to the Committee today.

With a motion from Mrs. Dysart and a second from Mr. Long, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present to recommend to the Board to adopt the resolution asking for an increase in funding of the base per pupil amount of the MFP by not less than 1.35%.

Mr. Englande next addressed another resolution regarding the use of TIPS for purchasing within the state by school systems. Ms. Voitier explained this system as a different version of the state bid list which can be used for comparison of prices.

With a motion from Mr. Campbell and a second from Mr. Warner, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present to recommend to the Board to adopt the resolution asking school districts to use TIPS as an additional option in the purchasing of materials and supplies.

Mr. Englande next addressed another resolution regarding Sales and Use Tax Collection and Administration. Ms. Voitier explained that this resolution pertains to opposing the state becoming the single tax collector instead of the Sheriff's office as it is in St. Bernard Parish.

With a motion from Mr. Long and a second by Mrs. Dysart the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present to recommend to the Board to adopt the resolution opposing having the state becoming the single tax collector.

Under Superintendent's Recommendations Ms. Voitier reiterated that the school system is doing everything in its power to keep our facilities clean and to make sure both staff and students are doing everything to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

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

As recommended by the Committee, Mr. Englande moved to approve the Head Start Continuation Application. Seconded by Mrs. Lemoine, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

Mr. Englande moved to approve the property insurance recommendation by the administration with multi insurer layers at a cost of \$1,442,358.00 as shown on the following schedule. Seconded by Ms. Jackson, the motion passed unopposed by a roll call vote of the members present.

St. Bernard Parish School Board
2020 Property Insurance Renewal

Company / Rating	COVERAGE LIMITS		Total Insured Value (TIV): \$483,749,785					
	ALL RISKS	NAMED STORM - 30MM	Perils	Inspection Fee	2020 Premiums	4.85% SLT	2.93% LA Citz	Sub-Total
AmRisc, LP / A, A+, AA-	\$16,666,666	\$10,000,000	All risk Incl Named Storm	\$2,500.00	\$430,537	\$21,002	N/A	\$454,039
National Fire & Marine / A+, XV	\$16,666,666	\$10,000,000	All risk Incl Named Storm	N/A	\$418,100	\$20,278	N/A	\$438,378
Velocity / AIX, AIX, AXV	\$16,666,666	\$10,000,000	All risk Incl Named Storm	\$500.00	\$418,333	\$20,313	N/A	\$439,146
RSUI Indemnity / A+ XIV	\$100,000,000 excess \$50MM	Excluded	All risk Excl Named Storm	N/A	\$100,000	N/A	\$2,600	\$102,600
	Total Risk: \$483,749,785		Totals	\$3,000.00	\$1,366,970	\$61,593	\$2,794	\$1,434,163
Liberty / A XV	\$100,000,000		Boiler Equipment Breakdown		\$8,195			\$8,195
			2020 Total Premium	\$3,000.00	\$1,375,165	\$61,593	\$2,794	\$1,442,358
			2019 Total Premium					\$1,311,382
			Incr / (Decr)					\$123,176
			% Premium Increase					9.34%

As recommended by the Committee, Mr. Warner moved to authorize the Administration to advertise for bids for the Official Journal for the fiscal year of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Smith, the motion passed with no objections by a roll call vote of the members present.

Mr. Smith, on recommendation from the Committee, moved to authorize the Administration to advertise for bids for painting and repairs of School Board vehicles for the fiscal year of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lemoine and passed without objection by a roll call vote of the members present.

On recommendation from the Committee and on motion of Mrs. White, seconded by Mr. Smith the Board voted by a unanimous roll call vote of the members present to authorize the Administration to advertise for bids for gasoline, diesel, lubricating oil, transmission fluid and anti-freeze for the fiscal year of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

As recommended by the Committee, Mrs. Asevedo moved to authorize the Administration to advertise for bids for Paper, Cleaning and Janitorial Supplies for the fiscal year of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Warner, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

As recommended by the Committee, Mr. Smith moved to approve the Administration's request to solicit bids for Milk for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Warner, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

As recommended by the Committee, Mrs. Lemoine moved to approve the Administration's request to solicit bids for Bread for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Englande, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

As recommended by the Committee, Mr. Campbell moved to approve the Administration's request to advertise 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 July 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Smith, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present.

As recommended by the Committee, and by Joint Acclimation, the Board adopted the following resolution regarding an increase in the 2020-21 MFP.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) establishes the state funding component of the K12 public education system in Louisiana and the Legislature is required to fully fund the formula;

WHEREAS, there was no increase in the base per pupil for the school years of 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14;

WHEREAS, in the 2014 Regular Session the MFP base per pupil increased from \$3,855 to \$3,961 for the 2014-15 school year;

WHEREAS, in the 2019 Regular Session the MFP base per pupil increased from \$3,961 to \$4,015 for the 2019-20 school year;

WHEREAS, had the MFP base per pupil been increased each year, since 2008 by the anticipated 2.75%, the 2020-21 MFP would be \$5,195;

WHEREAS, the Governor's Executive Budget anticipates and seeks to fund a 1.375% increase in the base per pupil of 2020-21, raising the base per pupil from \$4,015 to \$4,070;

WHEREAS, this would be the first time in over a decade that the base per pupil in the MFP was increased in two consecutive years;

WHEREAS, the St. Bernard Parish School Board has been absorbing ever increasing operational costs, from health insurance, to curriculum to align with new state standards, to increasing demands of the state accountability system, to technology, to security of students, and more recently to protection from cyber-attacks on student and employee data, without consistently increasing state funding;

WHEREAS, the potential increase in the MFP will benefit local school districts in every parish, as well as every public charter school in the state, as well as afford school districts with the ability to continue to strive toward higher teacher and support worker compensation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Bernard Parish School Board supports the proposal to increase the base per pupil funding in the MFP by not less than 1.375%;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the St. Bernard Parish School Board urges BESE to incorporate an increase in the base per pupil of not less than 1.375% in the MFP it recommends to the Legislature;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the St. Bernard Parish School Board urges the Legislature, and in particular the St. Bernard Parish Legislative Delegation, to approve an MFP with an increase in the base per pupil of not less than 1.375%;

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the St. Bernard Parish School Board directs the Superintendent to forward a copy of this Resolution to each member of the St. Bernard Parish Legislative delegation, to Chairman/Senator Cleo Fields, Chairman/Representative Ray Garofalo, and Governor John Bel Edwards.

As recommended by the Committee, and by Joint Acclimation, the Board adopted the following resolution regarding the use of TIPS for Purchasing.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the St. Bernard Parish School Board operates under the Public Bid Law, specifically LRS 38:2212.1, which governs the method for purchasing;

WHEREAS, LRS 38:2212.1(N) authorizes an alternative method of purchasing to a school system to make purchases from or through a group purchasing organization;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana School Boards Association has developed a relationship with a group purchasing organization, specifically TIPS;

WHEREAS, every school district that is a member of the LSBA has access to utilize TIPS;

WHEREAS, those school districts that have utilized TIPS have recognized calculable savings in their purchasing;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Bernard Parish School Board, establishes that it is the policy of the St. Bernard Parish School System that use of TIPS should be one of the options considered in the procurement of materials, equipment and supplies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the St. Bernard Parish School Board urges and directs the Superintendent to carry out the policy herein established and direct the administrative procurement staff to consult TIPS on all purchases and to utilize TIPS when TIPS offers the most cost-effective purchasing option;

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be provided to the Superintendent and to the administrative official who is principally responsible for procurement of materials, equipment and supplies.

As recommended by the Committee, and by Joint Acclimation, the Board adopted the following resolution regarding the Sales and Use Tax Collection and Administration.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Article VII, Section 3 of the Louisiana Constitution provides that local sales and use taxes are to be collected by a single collector in each parish;

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 3 also provides for the use of a parish commission or one of the local political subdivisions to serve as the single parish collector of local sales and use taxes;

WHEREAS, the authority to "collect" local sales and use taxes has been determined by the Courts to include the authority to administer the collection, including making decisions as to when to audit persons or businesses thought to be unlawfully evading taxation or, in some cases,

collecting sales taxes on transactions and failing to fully remit them to the local collector;

WHEREAS, School Boards serve as the single parish collector of local sales and use taxes in over thirty (30) parishes;

WHEREAS, there are interest groups that desire to amend the LA Constitution to allow the Legislature to repeal the authority of local governments to control the collection of local sales taxes and place that authority with the State, a concept often referred to as State Central Collection;

WHEREAS, State Central Collection would have the State taking possession of local tax revenues, withholding an administrative fee, then disbursing the balance down to the School Board or other local taxing authority;

WHEREAS, State Central Collection poses too great a risk that local education tax dollars will not be promptly disbursed or that the administrative fee withheld by the State may become a means of resolving State fiscal issues;

WHEREAS, repealing or diminishing the Constitutional authority for local collection of local sales and use taxes will impair the ability of those local collectors to perform the necessary function of auditing vendors to ensure compliance with the legal obligation to collect and remit local sales taxes;

WHEREAS, given the vital role that the proper, effective, and efficient collection of local sales and use taxes plays in the operation of school districts and the education of children, the Louisiana School Boards Association has always fought any efforts to repeal, reduce or constrain the authority of the local collector to collect local sales and use taxes, regardless of who has offered the proposal;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SCHOOL DISTRICT, by action of its duly elected governing authority, does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Legislature, and in particular the Legislative Delegation of St. Bernard Parish to oppose any Legislative effort that repeals, reduces or constrains the authority of the local collector to collect and administer the collection of local sales and use taxes;

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be provided to each member of the Legislative Delegation of St. Bernard Parish and the Governor of the State of Louisiana.

Under Superintendent's Recommendations Ms. Voitier noted that communication will continue with the community through our website and facebook page through notices and live posts periodically. She also assured everyone that information is being shared among all the parish, state and national agencies involved in this crisis.

Mrs. Dysart thanked Ms. Voitier for her efforts during this time and asked that the public wash their hands, stay strong and stay healthy.

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

Diana Dysart/s

DIANA DYSART
PRESIDENT

Doris Voitier/s

DORIS VOITIER
SECRETARY