

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 at this time all we can do is plan and prepare. Symptoms most commonly known are fever, cough and shortness of breath. The most basic precaution stated Mrs. Kerth is handwashing and do not touch your face with your hands, avoid sick people, stay home when you are sick, cover 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 and 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 wait until the Regular Monthly meeting before deciding on the possibility of recommending to the Board to approve the Renewal of Property Insurance for the period of April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. 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 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 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 School Board or 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.