

GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met in a General Committee Meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 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, Mr. Clifford M. Englande, President, Mr. William H. Egan, Ms. Carly C. Jackson, Mrs. Katherine K. Lemoine, Mrs. Diana B. Dysart, Mr. Joseph V. Long, Mr. Shelton P. Smith, Mr. Sean K. Warner and Mrs. Rosiland R. White. Committee Members absent were Mrs. Darleen P. Asevedo and Mr. Donald D. Campbell.

Mrs. Dysart asked for a point of privilege to recognize educators and students who passed away during the recent holiday break. She first mention Mrs. Cathy Dauterive who was the first valedictorian of Andrew Jackson High School and later became an outstanding math teacher at A.J., next she remembered Jimmy Hebert, a Chalmette High Alumni who also became a teacher at both A.J. and CHS and finally Devin Hill, a former CHS student. After a moment of silence was observed for these individuals, condolences were extended to all their family and friends.

Mr. Englande next welcomed Ms. Alex Schneider to present Super News. Ms. Schneider first noted that in the January Communications report is some of the press coverage that occurred during January along with some of the most popular Facebook posts and analytics associated with January posts. Additional info provided concerned the analytics associated with our School Board website homepage during the 2019 calendar year. Ms. Schneider shared some breaking news, 6 Senior Music students made the Louisiana Music Educators Association District Honor Band and will be in a concert this Sunday at Tulane University at 2:00 p.m.

Moving on to Super News, Mr. Lemoine began with a review of some holiday events that took place in December such as the Neighborhood Christmas Caroling by district Elementary School staff, CHS Voices in French Quarter venues, CHS Variety Christmas Show, Handel's Messiah by the New Orleans Symphony Chorus, New Orleans Civic Symphony's winter concert and the Docville Farm's Children's Festival.

In school spotlight, Arabi Elementary was featured with two students, Evan Dobson and Isabella Gonzales, highlighting activities from their school, such as; the Youth Run Nola running club who participated in the Gleason Classic fun run, Dashing through the Dome at the Superdome and the Turkey Trot held at Arabi School and are planning a fundraising run at Torres Park with other runs also planned in the future. Another activity Arabi is proud to participate in is their Annual Multicultural night which shares the many cultures represented within the school student body, other multicultural activities take place in the art and music programs at the school. Second grade students also enjoyed a walking field trip to the nearby Coffee House. Students sipped on hot chocolate and created original opinion compositions as part of their experience. Community Partners were also mentioned for their donations or contributions beginning with the Old Arabi Neighborhood Association, the St. Bernard Volunteers for Families and Children, Associated Terminals, C.O.P.S. (Caring Officers Provide Smiles), St. Bernard Business and Professional Women's Club, P.A.L (Perpetual Abundance of Love) and the St. Bernard Community Center. Another partnership with Kiwanis is the K-Kids who took on projects such as gathering socks for the homeless during "Socktober", cleaning the school playground and organizing the school's lost and found and fundraising with their Christmas candy-grams. Congratulations were offered to Evan Dobson on being chosen Arabi's Student of the Year.

Posse' Scholarships were announced and 5 students from Chalmette High were chosen as recipients. The Posse' Foundation is a non-profit organization that identifies and recruits student leaders from public high schools to form multicultural teams called Posse's. These teams take part in an intensive training for enrollment to top tiered universities nationwide. This Year's Posse Winners are:

Jezuete LaFuente
Illinois Wesleyan

Logan Brewer
Illinois Wesleyan

Angel Chavarria
Villanova

Kris-Lynn McGee
Villanova

Lina Abdellatif
Notre Dame

Other scholarships recently announced are Cindy Solis who earned a Questbridge Scholarship to Notre Dame and Connor Kenny who received an appointment to West Point.

The Battle of New Orleans Celebration recently took place with living history re-enactments at the commemoration.

Another School Spotlight came from two students, Evan Jacob and Alex Jorns, of Andrew Jackson Middle School, who shared news from their school such as; Hamburger and Heroes luncheon where students honor a special adult in their lives by inviting them to lunch at school, Holidays had the A.J. Chorus busy at the school holiday concert, Docville and several venues around the city including the Royal Sonesta Hotel under the direction of Meg Lancaster the A.J. Teacher of the Year, Congratulations were also offered to Alex Jorns the A.J. Student of the Year. A.J. volleyball team under the guidance of Coach Crook led the team to 9-2 record and won the New Orleans Metro Fall Classic and the New Orleans Metro Championship. The team also did a cancer prevention fundraiser for the custodian of the school Ms. Yvette Caillouet.

Board Members highlighted during this Super News focused on Mr. Sean Warner of District 4 and Ms. Carly Jackson of District 6. Mr. Warner has served on the Board since 2010. Mr. Warner states that his father, Dr. Thomas Warner, worked for the school system since before he was born and his uncle, Wayne Warner has been at Chalmette High for 50 years so when the opportunity came to run for his Board seat he jumped in with both feet. He is most proud of the school system recovery after Hurricane Katrina but a personal moments like when his daughter, who graduated from Andrew Jackson High, swore him in to office and when his son graduated from Chalmette High and when his youngest daughter, who was salutatorian graduated on stage from Chalmette High are cherished memories. He continues to serve because he loves serving his community and belonging to a top notch organization which is true of the St. Bernard Parish School System.

Ms. Jackson moved to St. Bernard Parish because of the outstanding school system. She states that when the Board Member seat became available she was excited to run in order to give her service back to the community. She enjoys being able to bring suggestions and ideas of the community and students to the

Board for consideration. Ms. Jackson appreciates the tight knit community, low crime and stable real estate values and the amazing public schools.

Smith Elementary qualified for two grants to incorporate nutritional education into the classroom as part of our districts wellness policy. The projects help students learn about nutrition and make the connection between the growing of food and eating healthy.

Congratulations were shared for Coach Butch Stockton who recently achieved his 700th win as a Chalmette High Basketball Coach.

The Chalmette High School Band made history recently taking part in the transport of the core stage of the space launch system rocket from Michoud to Stennis destined to be the most powerful rocket in the world with a mission to the moon in the plans.

Students of the Year were named, they are:

Evan Dobson – Arabi Elementary School
Layla Serpas – Chalmette Elementary School
Alivia Nevels – Lacoste Elementary School
Madelyn Lauga – J. F. Gauthier Elementary School
Isabella Held – Davies Elementary School
Aaron Funez – Arlene Meraux Elementary School
Danae Meyers – W. Smith Elementary School
Alex Jorns – Andrew Jackson Middle School
An Tran – St. Bernard Middle
Aniya Harris - N. P. Trist Middle School
Lina Abdellatif – Chalmette High School

Mr. Englande and the Committee thanked Ms. Schneider, Mr. Lemoine and Mr. Jackson for the Super News.

At this time, Mr. Englande acknowledged some guests in the audience, they were Mr. Jay Robicheaux of St. Charles Parish School Board, Ms. Elizabeth Frost and Ms. Dorothy Hills of Chalmette Refining.

Mr. Warner addressed the next agenda item as Education Committee Chair concerning the FAFSA form completion by high school students. Mr. Warner welcomed Assistant Superintendent, Mary Lumetta and Ms. Holly Landry, Counselor from Chalmette High School, who presented the following information regarding FAFSA as a Graduation Requirement.

St. Bernard Parish Schools
Board Meeting
January 2020
Vision...Effort...Success

FAFSA Graduation Requirement

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- FAFSA is form prepared annually by current and prospective postsecondary students to determine their eligibility for student financial aid such as Pell grants, work study programs, and federal student loans.
- Students complete the FAFSA during their senior year of high school and again each year they are in a postsecondary institution to continue qualifying for aid. Early completion is encouraged since students may qualify for additional state or institutional aid.

Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) –

- TOPS is a scholarship program for Louisiana residents who attend any of the following institutions:
 - Louisiana public college or university;
 - schools in the Louisiana Community and Technical College System;
 - approved proprietary and cosmetology schools;
 - institutions in the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

TOPS was instituted to help combat the costs of postsecondary education and training.

The Louisiana Department of Education found students who were awarded TOPS or other state scholarships were still in need of additional assistance with living expenses and other academic fees.

For these reasons, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved a policy regarding postsecondary planning for graduating public high school seniors to increase student access to state and federal financial aid by requiring graduating seniors to either complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) application.

This policy was made effective with the start of the 2017-2018 school year and applies to the Class of 2018 and beyond.

We are working with our graduating seniors to complete the FAFSA form because by completing the FAFSA form, students are also applying for TOPS, but completing a TOPS form does not allow students to apply for other financial aid.

April 16 is the deadline for FAFSA completion for May 2020 graduates.

We are providing assistance to the students and their parents to help the graduating seniors meet this graduation requirement.

1. At the beginning of the school year, Chalmette High School had a class meeting with the seniors to inform them of this requirement.
2. On November 12th and December 5th, Chalmette High School had a parent night which included computers for parents to use to complete the FAFSA form along with a handout to walk them through the steps. Additionally, school personnel circulated and helped parents while they were completing the form.
3. CHS will have additional FAFSA parent nights on February 4, 2020 and March 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm.
4. These dates will be on the school and district website.

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Ms. Landry and Ms. Lumetta addressed all questions from the Committee regarding the FAFSA Form Completion.

Mrs. Dysart addressed the next item concerning the Resolution declaring the date, time and place of the General Committee and Regular Monthly Meetings for the year 2020.

Mr. Long moved to recommend to the Board to approve the resolution. With a second from Mrs. White, the Committee voted unanimously by a roll call vote of the members present to recommend to the Board to approve the Resolution stating date, time and place of the General Committee and Regular Monthly Meetings for the year 2020.

Ms. Voitier presented the personnel changes for the month of January 2020.

Under Superintendent's Recommendations, Ms. Voitier informed the Committee that the following items would be on the agenda of the January Regular Monthly meeting.

- Election of Officers
- Signature Resolutions
- Consideration of Industrial Tax Exemption Application #20190275
- Consideration of Industrial Tax Exemption Application #20180237

Mrs. Lemoine took a point of privilege to announce the upcoming Pelicans and Pearls Gala on Saturday, January 25th from 5:00p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Docville. All proceeds go to the Nunez Community College scholarship program

Ms. Voitier also reminded everyone that Monday, January 20th is a holiday to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. so there will be not school on that day and on Tuesday, January 21st there will be professional development for teachers and staff so there will be no classes on Tuesday. Classes resume on Wednesday, January 22nd.

There being no further business to discuss and on motion of Mrs. Dysart, seconded by Mrs. Lemoine and approved by a voice vote of the membership, the meeting was adjourned.