

GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

The St. Bernard Parish School Board met in a General Committee Meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 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 by introducing the first agenda item which was a request to appear regarding concerns over a new port project in the Violet area near the Smith Elementary School. Mrs. Dysart reminded those who came to appear before the Committee that their comments are limited to three (3) minutes in length.

There were three individuals who appeared, Mr. Ken Jefferson, Mr. Thomas Johnson and Councilman Fred Everhardt. They all expressed concerns regarding a recent announcement about the development of a new port installation for containers along the Mississippi River in Violet near Smith Elementary School. Once they had expressed all their concerns, Ms. Voitier responded by stating at this time the School Board of St. Bernard has not been involved in any discussions or decision making regarding this possible project and assured everyone that no decision or action would take place without input or discussion with the community. Mrs. Dysart echoed Ms. Voitier's sentiment and pledged to the community full transparency.

Mrs. Dysart next welcomed Mr. Barry Lemoine to present Super News. The January Communications report included some of the press coverage that occurred during December and January along with some of the most popular Facebook posts and analytics associated with January posts.

Moving on to Super News, Mr. Lemoine and Mrs. Schneider began with a review of some holiday events that took place in December such as the video post card produced by Ms. Andrea Morningstar and her video production students highlighting students in an array of cultural arts activities, Lacoste Elementary and Arabi Elementary shared Christmas videos featuring students and staff, Michael O'Neil and Anna Lisa Pereira of Arabi Elementary presented activities going on at Arabi such as the 4th grade Chili Cook Off, the 2nd Grade ELA Greek games and togas, Robotics and Rocket launches on campus, Holiday dress up days and a big

thank you went to the Old Arabi Neighborhood Association for a generous donation for families in need. Other holiday music performances were also shown from Chalmette High, AJ and Trist Middle School performers. More Super News topic included Ceiling tile art at Gauthier, a tribute was given for Ms. Plaiscia who is retiring from the Volleyball program at Chalmette High, Emma Nunez was highlighted for being chosen as a member of the LHSAA All-State volleyball team and high school Student of the Year for Chalmette High. On the next volume of Super News students of the year will be highlighted. Posse Scholarships were awarded to five (5) Chalmette High Seniors. Ariana Rojas, Kine Buie, Jedelle Lafuente, Angel Lee and Melanie Corral. Andrew Jackson representatives, Melissa Landry and Tyler Rushing, spotlighted activities at AJ such as; BETA Induction, Basketball, Soccer and Running Club tryouts, Tyler Rushing was noted as Student of the Year, Mrs. Derbyshire was mentioned as Teacher of the Year and Ms. Belinda Ducote was celebrated as Support Person of the Year. Super News continued by heralding Ochsner St. Bernard Hospital for their donation of 600 windowed masks, Cami Boudreaux of C. F. Rowley was honored by Fox 8 with the Golden Apple Award, thanks were offered to all who have provided a safe and healthy environment in our schools and were encouraged to hold on to the Power of Hope.

Mrs. Dysart and the Committee thanked Mrs. Schneider, Mr. Lemoine and Mr. Jackson for the Super News.

Mrs. White, as Education Committee Chair, welcomed Assistant Superintendent, Mary Lumetta, to discuss virtual school enrollment. Ms. Lumetta handed out information regarding virtual enrollment in each level of learning, elementary, middle and high school. That handout is shown below.

St. Bernard Parish Schools

Vision...Effort...Success

St. Bernard Parish Virtual Program

- Elementary and middle grades - commitment for 9-week period
- High school grades - commitment for a semester - due of the issuance of Carnegie Unit credit

Number of Students Participating in Virtual Program			
	1st Nine Weeks August	2nd Nine Weeks October	3rd Nine Weeks January
Elementary	1122	550	392
Middle	625	319	213
High	689	757	353
Total	2436	1626	958

After some discussion where all concerns and questions were addressed, the Committee thanked Ms. Lumetta for this information.

Mr. Englande as Executive Committee Chair addressed the next item concerning the Resolution declaring the date, time and place of the General Committee and Regular Monthly Meetings for the year 2021.

Mr. Warner moved to recommend to the Board to approve the resolution. With a second from Mr. Smith, the Committee voted unanimously by a voice 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 2021.

Mrs. Dysart shared the personnel changes for the month of January 2021. Mrs. Dysart, the Committee and Ms. Voitier also congratulated Mrs. Kelli Plaiscia on her retirement and on her successful years as the Chalmette High Volleyball Coach.

Ms. Jackson as Finance Committee Chair welcomed Mr. Fernandez to present the Administration's request to advertise for an RFP for Advanced Placement Preparation Series Workbooks for one year with the option to renew for two additional one year periods.

Mr. Smith moved to recommend to the Board to approve the Administration's request to advertise for an RFP for Advanced Placement Preparation Series Workbooks for one year with the option to renew for two additional one year periods. Seconded by Mrs. Lemoine, the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote of the members present.

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

Ms. Voitier also mentioned that in the plan for vaccinations for COVID, our local St. Bernard Parish Ochsner, has done an excellent job in administering those vaccinations. She also mentioned that in the coming weeks or months when school employees are targeted for vaccination, she will also harness the abilities of the Methodist Foundation and their services in the hopes that vaccinations will be delivered in a very timely manner.

Another note from the Superintendent included an announcement regarding the reorganization of instructional time so that by February the schools can return to their regular time schedules and forego the extended instructional time that began in January with the new school semester.

Mr. Warner asked Ms. Voitier about the newest installment of funds that have been allocated by the federal government for COVID expenses. He specifically asked for a review of those funds when they are received. Ms. Voitier assured him that will be done as soon as funds are allocated.

Mrs. Lemoine announced that the new semester at Nunez Community College begins this Wednesday on January 20, 2021. Ms. Voitier encouraged our high school students to take advantage of as many of the dual enrollment courses offered to them through Nunez Community College.

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