

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 28-29, 2019 SCHOOL BOARD RETREAT

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019

The board retreat was held at the Embassy Suites in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Board President Patrick Sanders, opened the meeting at 8:05 a.m., January 28, 2019, followed by a moment of silence. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Debbie Schum.

Board members in attendance were: Charo Holden, Gerald Keller, Sherry DeFrancesch, Keith Jones, Debbie Schum, Shawn Wallace, Clarence Triche, Patrick Sanders.

Absent were: Ali Burl, Phillip Johnson, Nia Mitchell.

With 8 present and 3 absent, there was a quorum.

Public Comment: Open Meetings Law - District Attorney Bridget Dinvaut

District Attorney Dinvaut delivered the 2019 Louisiana Open Meetings Law training.

Ms. Nia Mitchell arrived at 9:01 a.m. and was recorded as present.

Mr. Albert Burl arrived at 10:20 a.m. and was recorded as present.

Public Comment: Equity - Merlyna Valentine

Ms. Merlyna Valentine delivered a presentation to the Board regarding Equity vs Equality.

Public Comment: Facilities Update - Peter Montz

Mr. Montz gave an update on facilities to the Board and discussion was held regarding security at East St. John High School. Ms. Cindy Janecke with All South Engineers, also spoke to the Board regarding our facilities.

Public Comment: WORKING LUNCH - Sheriff Mike Tregre – School Security/Traffic/Detail

Sheriff Tregre spoke to the Board regarding safety issues at schools. He informed the Board regarding the School Resource Officers as well as traffic issues at some schools. He talked to the Board about a recent conference he attended regarding School Safety and the use of robots. Sheriff Tregre also talked about the cost of SROs and his plan to pick up the cost of the SROs once the Marathon tax payments begin to come in.

Public Comment: STEM Program Update - Dr. Stephen Zafirau

Dr. Zafirau updated the Board on the progress with applications for next year. While educating 223 students this year, the STEM Program will have approximately 453 students next year. This rise in

enrollment is due to the fact that a grade level is being added. Next school year, the STEM Program will serve students in grades 7th-11th. He explained that the program prepares students for 4-year college/university, with an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math and students gain advanced coursework and certifications through LSU and Xavier including Pre-Engineering, Digital Design and Biomedical.

Public Comment: Academic Update - Tracy Hypolite

Ms. Hypolite shared data regarding all schools. Ms. Hypolite discussed the following topics in detail and conversation took place: Curriculum/Instruction; Observations/Feedback; Goal Setting; Collaboration; Strategies for Improvement and District Action Plans.

Public Comment: Violence Intervention Program - Shawn Wallace

Mr. George and Mr. Wallace presented the VIP Program to the Board. This program, if instituted in St. John would be designed to curb the violence in our public schools. It would require a collaboration with the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office and the Judges.

Public Comment: Financial Update - Felix Boughton / Phillip Rebowe

Mr. Felix Boughton, along with Mr. Phillip Rebowe, gave the Board a detailed account of the financial picture of St. John the Baptist Parish Schools. Mr. Boughton informed the Board that some important decisions must be made soon regarding the finances of the district and that millages must be increased next year for debt service from 10 mills to 11 mills. This will be for one year only. Mr. Rebowe gave an overview of the Financial Statements and Single Audit Reports. Mr. Rebowe stated that the Independent Auditors' Report expresses an unmodified clean opinion that the Fiscal 2018 financial statements were presented with no material weaknesses and that corrective action plans had been addressed to the modest exceptions noted.

The Chair declared a recess at 4:03 a.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019

A motion was made by Dr. Keller, seconded by Mr. Wallace to reconvene in Regular Session. There being no objections, the board reconvened in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 8:06 a.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Keller, DeFrancesch, Schum, Wallace, Triche, Sanders

Absent: Holden, Burl, Jones, Johnson, Mitchell

With 6 present and 5 absent, there was a quorum.

Public Comment: Charter School Update - Ty Manieri, Hammonds & Sills

Mr. Manieri stated that the Louisiana Premier Charter School is still slated to open in August 2019. He stated the Dept. of Justice requested information from SJPB Schools, which we have sent and also the DOJ has requested information from the Louisiana Premier Charter, which, to his understanding, has not

been sent yet. Mr. Manieri stated that the school should open with 438 students in the 1st year, serving grades K-9th with a cap of 750 students year 4, serving K-12th.

Ms. Holden, Mr. Jones, Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Burl arrived at 8:31 and was recorded as present.

Public Comment: School Board Goals - Nia Mitchell / Gerald Keller, Ph.D.

Public Comment: Board On Track - Dr. Eric Jones

A motion was made by Ms. Holden, seconded by Ms. Mitchell, to waive policy and combine the next two topics on the agenda. There was no objection.

Extensive discussion was held among Board Members, Ms. Mitchell and Dr. Jones regarding the creation of a “Top 5 List of Goals”. Dr. Eric Jones reviewed many topics with board members regarding their duties as a board and exploring their vision by setting attainable goals.

A motion was made by Ms. Holden, seconded by Ms. Mitchell, to waive policy to amend the agenda. There were no objections.

A motion was made by Ms. Holden, seconded by Ms. Mitchell, to extend the meeting until no later than 12:30 p.m. There were no objections.

Public Comment: Human Resource Update - Serina Duke

Mrs. Duke shared a PowerPoint with the Board and discussion was held regarding the high number of Uncertified Teachers in our classrooms. Discussion was held regarding recruitment efforts, as well as retention efforts, and solutions to the ongoing teacher shortage being experienced nationwide.

Public Comment: Board Items of Interest

Mr. George addressed the Board regarding creating a new position entitled “Executive Director of School Leadership”, as opposed to filling the Asst. Superintendent spot that is currently empty, due to the current Asst. Superintendent being on medical leave. Discussion was held.

With all business having been addressed, a motion was made by Ms. DeFrancesch, seconded by Mr. Jones to adjourn. There were no objections.

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Patrick H. Sanders, President

Kevin R. George, Superintendent