

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH SCHOOL BOARD  
LAPLACE, LA – MEETING OF APRIL 25, 2019**

The Chair called the meeting to order and read the following call:

HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
Parish of St. John the Baptist

Dear Board Member:

Upon call of the President, the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board will meet in regular session at Godchaux Grammar Cafeteria, 1600 Highway 44, Reserve, Louisiana, on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

An agenda for the meeting is attached.

Sincerely, s/Kevin R. George  
Superintendent/Secretary

**ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He called for a moment of silent meditation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Dr. Gerald Keller.

**ITEM 2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:** The Chair called for Public Comment.

PRESENT: Burl, Keller, Jones, Johnson, Schum, Wallace, Triche, Sanders  
ABSENT: Holden, DeFrancesch, Mitchell

There were 8 members present and 3 members absent.

**ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Chair called for Public Comment.

Ms. Carolyn Batiste stated that she searched but could not find in any minutes that there was a public meeting regarding the Charter School before the Board approved Charter.

**ITEM 3a.** Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of April 4, 2019

MOTION BY: Burl

SECOND BY: Jones

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the meeting of April 4, 2019.

No objections.

The motion carried.

Roll Call:

8 Yeas – Burl, Keller, Jones, Johnson, Schum, Wallace, Triche, Sanders

3 Absent – Holden, DeFrancesch, Mitchell

**ITEM 4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.** Mr. Kevin R. George, Superintendent.

**ITEM 4a.** Public Comment - Mr. Kevin R. George – Update on Strategic Planning

Superintendent Kevin George shared a PowerPoint:



**Goal 1**

**I. Create a positive supportive school culture that fosters high performance for all students and employees.**

- a) Increase job embedded professional development opportunities using the most up to date, research based best practices for all instructional staff by 10% each school year.
- b) Increase culture and climate in schools that foster learning by decreasing the number of student discipline referrals at each school site by 5% and decreasing the number of students assigned to the alternative school by 5% each school year



**Goal 2**

**II. Develop and Implement rigorous, aligned instructional systems.**

- a) Increase the district SPS by 3 pts per school year.
- b) Increase the availability of technology in each schools by 5% each school year.



**Goal 3**

**III. Provide a quality, financially viable school system that is sustainable.**

- a) Provide a balanced budget annually
- b) Plan for future facilities upgrades
- c) Plan to allocate and lobby for appropriate revenue to keep salaries in a competitive range with neighboring parishes.
- d) Plan to keep class sizes below the state maximum class size requirement



**Goal 4**

**IV. Recruit, train, and maintain a pool of certified, highly qualified staff.**

- a) Maintain a teacher certification rate equal or higher than the state average
- b) Develop an internship program to cultivate school leaders and develop human capital from within
- c) Build internal leadership opportunities within schools by providing internal and external leadership opportunities for teachers



**Goal 5**

**V. Develop a comprehensive communication plan that promotes St. John the Baptist Parish Public Schools.**

- a) Highlight achievements of students and faculty
- b) Promote parental involvement
- c) Effectively connect with parents
- d) Market, brand and promote SJBPPS



**District Cabinet**

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Dr. Juanita Hill | Erica Merrick   |
| Tracy Hypolite   | Jennifer Boquet |
| Patricia Triche  | Bob Bourgeois   |
| Cory Butler      | Peter Montz     |
| Dr. Stacey Spies | Serina Duke     |
| Felix Boughton   | Kevin R. George |

**ITEM 4b.** Public Comment – Mr. Kevin R. George – Rudolph G. Dinvaut 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

Mr. George announced that due to the recent deluge of rain, the location has changed for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Rudolph G. Dinvaut Golf Tournament. The tournament will now take place at Riverlands Country Club.

**ITEM 5.** EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS BY THE BOARD OR STAFF

**ITEM 5a.** Public Comment. Mrs. Monica Brown - Yale 2019 Symposium on Music in Schools

Ms. Rebecca Holmes was recognized for being one of 5 teachers nominated to attend the Yale 2019 Symposium on Music in Schools.

**ITEM 5b.** Public Comment. Mr. Glen Chenier - Recognition of Hamilton Education Program Students

This item will be carried over to the next Board meeting.

**ITEM 6.** PERSONNEL MATTERS

**ITEM 7.** BUSINESS AND FINANCE

**ITEM 7a.** Public Comment. Mr. Felix Boughton – Monthly Budget to Actual

Mr. Boughton presented the following information to the board. He informed the Board that this will be the last Monthly Budget to Actual for this fiscal year, as the full budgets will be introduced beginning next month.

GENERAL FUND REVENUES		Original	Revised	Difference
Code	Type	Appropriation	Budget	
01	Local revenues	\$1,448,059	\$2,829,405	\$1,381,346
02	State revenues	\$29,438,182	\$30,522,143	\$1,083,961
04	Other revenues	\$2,345,200	\$2,545,199	\$199,999
Total Revenues		<u>\$63,231,441</u>	<u>\$65,896,747</u>	\$2,665,306
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES		Original	Revised	Difference
Code	Type	Appropriation	Budget	
11	Regular Education	\$27,110,047	\$27,385,340	\$275,293
12	Special Education	\$10,418,993	\$10,513,193	\$94,200
13	Vocational Ed	\$1,622,717	\$1,447,132	-\$175,585
14	Other Instruction	\$1,953,068	\$2,110,052	\$156,984
15	Special Programs	\$680,471	\$625,081	-\$55,390
21	Pupil Support	\$4,925,446	\$5,173,664	\$248,218
22	Instructional Staff	\$942,395	\$1,132,207	\$189,812
23	General Admin	\$1,771,897	\$1,794,782	\$22,885
24	School Adm	\$5,530,680	\$5,749,163	\$218,483
25	Business Adm	\$763,448	\$671,765	-\$91,683
26	Maintenance	\$7,583,081	\$8,326,431	\$743,350
27	Transportation	\$4,245,387	\$4,426,124	\$180,737
28	Central Services	\$1,014,142	\$1,059,339	\$45,197
50	Other	\$1,484,481	\$1,392,481	-\$92,000
		<u>\$70,046,253</u>	<u>\$71,806,754</u>	\$1,760,501
<b>Current Year Projected Deficit</b>		<u>-\$6,814,812</u>	<u>-\$5,910,007</u>	
<b>Beginning Total Fund Balance</b>		<u>\$13,876,251</u>	<u>\$13,876,251</u>	
<b>Ending Total Fund Balance</b>		<u>\$7,061,439</u>	<u>\$7,966,244</u> **	

\*\* \$ 3,464,000 assigned for retiree insurance

**ITEM 7b. Public Comment – Mr. Felix Boughton – Adopt resolution levying millages for the 2019 tax roll**

MOTION BY: Entire Board

SECOND BY:

MOTION: To adopt the resolution levying millages for the 2019 tax roll

No objections.

The motion carried.

Roll Call:

9 Yeas – Holden, Burl, Keller, Jones, Johnson, Schum, Wallace, Triche, Sanders

2 Absent – DeFrancesch, Mitchell

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**RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2019 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by St. John the Baptist School Board:

MILLAGE

<b>School Constitutional</b>	<b>3.65 mills</b>
School Maintenance	4.33 mills
School Salaries	3.26 mills
School Retiree Benefits	.99 mill
School Academic Improvement	2.98 mills
School Salaries	3.98 mills
School Salaries/Health Care	10.12 mills
School Bonds	11.00 mills
Total Mills	40.31 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2019, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS:	0
NAYS:	0
ABSTAINED:	0
ABSENT:	0

**CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the board meeting held on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Laplace, Louisiana, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2019.

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Patrick H. Sanders, Board President

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*The District Attorney’s Office was not consulted or asked to review any materials related to this issue. However, it should be noted that there are notice requirements under La. Constitution Art. 7§23 (C) and La. R.S. 42:19.1. The notice requirements under La. Constitution Art. 7§23 are not applicable to millages required to be levied for the payment of general obligation bonds. Administration should ensure compliance with these laws as applicable.*

**ITEM 8. OLD BUSINESS**

**ITEM 8a. Public Comment – Mr. Patrick H. Sanders – Request Removal from table and approval of the site location for Louisiana Premier Charter School that has been added to the Operating Agreement; Site Location: LAPC (344 and 348 Railroad Ave., Reserve, LA 70084)**

In the absence of the Vice-President, a vote must be taken to name a temporary Chair, allowing Mr. Sanders to present his item:

MOTION BY: Schum

SECOND BY: Holden

MOTION: To waive policy to vote on naming a temporary Chair for Item 8a.

No objections.

The motion carried.

Roll Call:

9 Yeas – Holden, Burl, Keller, Jones, Johnson, Schum, Wallace, Triche, Sanders

2 Absent – DeFrancesch, Mitchell

MOTION BY: Wallace

SECOND BY: Holden

MOTION: To nominate Mr. Keith Jones as temporary Chair for Item 8a.

No objections.

The motion carried.

Roll Call:

9 Yeas – Holden, Burl, Keller, Jones, Johnson, Schum, Wallace, Triche, Sanders

2 Absent – DeFrancesch, Mitchell

MOTION BY: Sanders

SECOND BY: Johnson

MOTION: To remove this item from the table.

No objections.

The motion carried.

Roll Call:

9 Yeas – Holden, Burl, Keller, Jones, Johnson, Schum, Wallace, Triche, Sanders

2 Absent – DeFrancesch, Mitchell

Public Comment: Carolyn Batiste stated that she attempted to visit the proposed site, but there are no numbers on the building, so she was not able to determine which buildings would actually house the Charter School. She stated that it is her opinion that there is no need for a charter school in St. John the Baptist Parish.

Andre Washington: Stated that he is the current Board President of LAPC. He stated yesterday he spoke with Supt. George in regards to some concerns. He intended to meet with Mr. George privately before discussing these concerns publicly. He stated that he still intends to do so. He handed a folder to Supt. George with the information requested and thanked the Board for adding this item to the agenda.

Dana James: Is a resident of SJBP and stated that it is her opinion that it shouldn't matter where the charter school is located, it should just be all about the children and what's best for them. Her children attend Riverside and she is in favor of the charter being located on the Riverside Campus.

Public comment was closed.

Mr. Ty Manieri stated that he would give a history of what has transpired and then would give the Board his recommendation on this item.: In August 2018, there was a 99% complete agreement with LAPC (all terms required by law, leaving the location open). In January 2019, there still was no word from LAPC about a site location. In late January, LAPC contacted Mr. Manieri regarding a policy that they needed created and passed by the St. John School Board in order to be eligible for a grant for "start up funds". SJBP School Board promptly drafted said policy and was passed by the SJBP Board. At that time, they informed Mr. Manieri that a site had been chosen and it was Riverside Academy's campus on Railroad Avenue. Immediately upon that notification, concerns were raised regarding this site location. Concerns such as the desegregation order and the impact it may have on getting the school site approved, as well as comingling public funds with a private school. It was Mr. Manieri and the Board's belief that these concerns were not insurmountable and could be worked out. At this time, several requests for information have been made. In the 2 ½ months that passed since the request was made on February 6, 2019, there has been little to no communication from LAPC and none of the requested documents have been turned over to SJBP School Board, and the "concerns" have actually been expanded. Information that has not been addressed by LAPC: \$500,000 annual lease is concerning, as the original proposed lease amount in the initial application was \$210,000 annually (at Lifehouse Church). Not only is the amount concerning, but the fact that in Year 5, the lease more than doubles at over \$1 million dollars annually is even more alarming. There has been no evidence of a "site location study" that LAPC reported they had done, naming Riverside Academy campus as the most viable option. Also, the crossover of employees from Riverside to LAPC Board is strictly prohibited by Louisiana State Law. Several LAPC Board members are possibly employees of Riverside Academy and that is a problem. Another very concerning factor is the fact that a school grade configuration has not been set. The grade configuration has changed from originally K-12 (675 students). Last August, LAPC asked to amend that configuration to open as a K-9 school (525 students) and growing to a K-12 school (750 students). On April 11, 2019 at the Executive Committee meeting, Mr. Neary presented a grade configuration of K-8. At this time, the School Board still has no clear grade configuration. Yet another concern is that these decisions are being made outside of LAPC Board meetings, because there is no clear evidence that the LAPC Board met when these grade configuration decisions were presented to Mr. Manieri. (No evidence of LAPC Board Agendas or Board Minutes being posted can be found). Additional documents required by law that have not been disclosed by LAPC: All Board Ethics Training Forms and Financial Disclosure Forms.

It is because of all these concerns that Mr. Manieri recommended St. John School Board do not approve this charter contract nor this site.

Mr. Andre Washington was allowed to speak a second time. He stated that he is not an employee at Riverside Academy, but he is a volunteer for the school's football program.

Mrs. Schum stated that it is not reasonable to ask the Board to vote tonight on information that was received at this meeting and presented to the Superintendent. She further stated that one of her main concerns is the financial unsteadiness. She stressed how important the financial aspect is, as one of the key reasons charter schools fail is not having a sound financial background. The \$500,000 4-year annual lease, evolving into \$1 million + annually in the 5<sup>th</sup> year are among the critical issues that must be addressed before this Board can act.

MOTION BY: Sanders

SECOND BY: Johnson

MOTION: To table this item.

No objections.

The motion carried.

Roll Call:

9 Yeas – Holden, Burl, Keller, Jones, Johnson, Schum, Wallace, Triche, Sanders

2 Absent – DeFrancesch, Mitchell

*The District Attorney's Office was not consulted or asked to review any materials related to this issue. The District Attorney's Office was not consulted or asked to review any materials related to this issue.*

*\*\*\*The motion to remove from the table is undebatable pursuant to Robert Rules of Order\*\*\**

#### **ITEM 9. NEW BUSINESS.**

#### **ITEM 10. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

#### **ITEM 11. BOARD ITEMS OF INTEREST**

Ms. Holden reminded everyone of the West Bank Civic Association Honor Roll Banquet, which will take place May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Keller noted that the Board Notification of Personnel Changes for the month of March did not include the recent resignation of Dr. Stephen Zafirau.

#### **ITEM 12. ADJOURNMENT**

The agenda having been completed, and there being no further business, there was a

MOTION BY: Sanders

SECOND BY: Triche

MOTION: Motion for adjournment.

There were no objections.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

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Kevin R. George, Secretary

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Patrick H. Sanders, President