

March, 2006

Board Briefing is a summary of St. Tammany Parish School Board action taken at the March 16, 2006, School Board meeting and the March 21, 2006, Special Board meeting and is not intended to be a complete accounting of Board action.

March 16, 2006, School Board Meeting

Educators Win LACUE Award

School System Instructional Technology Coordinator Inkie Landry and Instructional Technology Facilitator Sandy Swartz were presented to the Board upon being named 2005-2006 recipients of the Louisiana Association for Computer Using Educators (LACUE) Educator of the Year Award and Outstanding Service Award. The awards are given for outstanding advancement of integration of technology in the classroom, teacher training in use of technology, and student achievement.

Bids Opened, Best Bid for General Obligation Bonds Accepted, and Issuance of Bonds Approved

Approval was given to open and consider bids from four financial syndicates for the purchase of \$25 million in General Obligation School Bonds. The best bid, which was submitted by Merrill Lynch, was accepted and the authorization to incur debt and issue \$25 million in General Obligation Bonds was passed. The issue will be used to finance the final stage of the capital improvements program approved by voters in April, 2004.

Public Hearing on Revising Portion of April, 2004, Capital Improvements Program Approved

Superintendent Sloan was authorized to conduct a Public Hearing in Slidell to allow public discussion to consider revising the School System capital improvements program approved by voters in April, 2004. Under consideration is using monies designated in that program for a new elementary school to serve portions of the Abney Elementary School area and all of the Brock Elementary area to instead be used to fund reconstruction of Brock Elementary and Salmen High Schools.

Purchases of Land in Folsom and Slidell Authorized

Authorization was given to purchase 4.9 acres of property adjacent to Folsom Junior High School and property from 2500 through 2512 Third Street in Slidell, next to the Brooks Curriculum Center.

Construction Staff Members Added to Professional Services Committee

School System Construction Supervisors Randy Morgan and Sammy Mannino were appointed to serve as one representative on the System Screening and Evaluation

Committee that recommends architectural, engineering, and other professional service providers for System construction projects.

Bid for Mandeville Elementary School Renovations Accepted

The low bid meeting plans and specifications in the amount of \$2,393,300 submitted by Brunt Construction, Inc., was accepted for renovation of the original building at Mandeville Elementary School. The funding source is the 2004 Bond Authorization.

Bid for Interior Build-Out for the Temporary Salmen High School Accepted

The low bid meeting plans and specifications for the temporary facilities being constructed for Salmen High School was accepted in the amount of \$5,873,000. The low bid was submitted by Polk Construction Company.

March 21, 2006, Special Board Meeting

BESE - Proposed MFP Plan Recommended

A resolution was passed urging the acceptance of the Minimum Foundation Program plan submitted by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to the Louisiana Legislature on March 15, 2006. The MFP establishes State financial support for school districts in the state each year.

Proposal to Revise School System Employee Health and Life Insurance Providers Approved

A recommendation by an employee insurance committee was approved that would allow employees and retirees who currently are enrolled in the State Group Benefits insurance plans to vote to leave the State Group Benefits program and choose another source for health and life insurance or remain in the current program. Proposed providers are Benefit Management Services, Blue Cross Hallmark for health coverage and Lafayette Life for life insurance. The proposed plans offer greater coverage and more services for less cost. The vote will be taken before January 1, 2007.

2006-2007 School Calendar Presented

The School Calendar for 2006-2007 was reviewed.