



BOARD BRIEFING

Board Briefing is a summary of St. Tammany Parish School Board action taken at the February 5, 2009, Special Board meeting, the February 12, 2009, School Board meeting, and the February 19, 2009, Special Board meeting and is not intended to be a complete accounting of Board action.

February 5, 2009, Special Board Meeting

Michael Gambrell Appointed to School Board District 9 Seat

Michael J. Gambrell was selected to replace District 9 School Board Member Carmen H. Johnson on the School Board. He was selected from a field of six applicants and will serve as an interim appointee until a special election can be held in October.

February 12, 2009, Board Meeting

Former Board Member Johnson Recognized

Former Board Member Carmen H. Johnson received remarks of appreciation for her service and dedication to education in St. Tammany Parish. Johnson served on the Board for 10 years as the District 9 representative.

New Board Member Participates in Swearing In Ceremony

St. Tammany Parish School Board member Michael J. Gambrell was sworn into office at a ceremony during the meeting.

Fontainebleau High School Recognized for Parent's Choice Award

Fontainebleau High School was recognized for receiving the Parent's Choice award from BusinessWeek.com and Great Schools, a national non-profit organization. Fontainebleau High School was named one of the top-performing schools in Louisiana based on remarks by parents, as well as most recent test scores, advanced placement exams, teacher statistics, student statistics, and extracurricular activities.

Northshore High School Recognized for Top High School Designation

Northshore High School was recognized for being named by "U.S. News and World Report" magazine as one of the top high schools in America for the second year in a row. Rank is based on the key principles that a great high school must serve all its students well, not just those who are bound for college and that it must be able to produce measurable academic outcomes to show that the school is successfully educating its student body across a range of performance indicators.

Woodlake Elementary School Recognized for Healthy Lifestyles Award

Woodlake Elementary School was recognized for being awarded the grand prize and a \$25,000 grant by the Cartoon Network for its efforts to promote healthy lifestyles, outdoor activity, and organized play. Students, faculty and staff, parents, and family members submitted 2,000 volunteer hours to the Cartoon Network as part of the "Rescuing Recess" campaign during the 2007-2008 school year.

School Counselors Recognized

A resolution was passed recognizing St. Tammany Parish School Counselors for their contributions to the students of St. Tammany Parish in the areas of academic achievement, personal and social development, and career development. The week of February 2-9, 2009, was designated as National School Counseling week.

Coach Allie Smith Recognized

Alfred "Allie" Smith, III, former football, cross country, and track and field coach at Covington High School, was recognized for being inducted to the Louisiana High School Sports Hall of Fame for the year 2009. He received remarks of appreciation for his service to the students and athletes of St. Tammany Parish Public Schools during his 43 years as a teacher and coach.

National Board Certified Teachers Recognized

Eleven teachers were congratulated on having achieved certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Recognized were new nationally certified teachers: Nicole Boyer-Sieber, Jenee Donaldson, Amanda Farris, Alicia Fussell, Denise Hicks, Staci Kelley, Paula Landry, Desiree Maguire, Susan Rucker, Kimberly Vanderklis, and Sonya Willie.

National Board Certified School Guidance Counselors Recognized

School counselors who received national certification by the National Board for Certified Counselors this year were recognized. School System counselors earning the certification this year are Terri Brignac, Kelle Falterman, Michelle Loughnane, and Jacqueline Nettles.

National Board Certified Social Workers Recognized

School System social workers were honored for achieving national certification. Recognized were Kimberly Hickson, Beverly Musson, and Julie Shreve.

National Board Certified Psychologist Recognized

School Psychologist Francoise Parr was recognized for receiving her national certification this year.

New Elementary School in Mandeville Principal Appointed

Leslie Martin, currently an RHT at Woodlake Elementary School, was appointed Principal at the new elementary school in Mandeville. The school is expected to open at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

Name of New High School in Mandeville Accepted

The recommendation to name the new high school in Mandeville on Highway 1088 "Lakeshore High School" was accepted. The school will open at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

Automated Defibrillator Policy Accepted

The recommendation to purchase and place cardiac defibrillator devices throughout the School System was approved. Distribution of the devices will begin at the high school level, particularly in areas of sports activities.

Bid for New Portable Buildings at Madisonville Elementary School Accepted

Comark Building Systems, the low bidder to whom the bid for portable buildings at Madisonville Elementary School was previously awarded, was unable to execute the contract. The new low bid meeting plans and specifications submitted by Quality Design & Construction, LLC was accepted for two new portable buildings at Madisonville Elementary School. The bid amount is \$285,044.

February 19, 2009, Special Board Meeting**Authorization to Advertise for Purchase of General Obligation Bonds Approved**

Authority was given to advertise for sealed bids for the purchase of \$20 million in General Obligation School Bonds. The bond sale will be the second in a series of sales resulting from the March 8, 2008, Bond Reauthorization.

Proposal to Limit School Board Authority Opposed

A resolution was passed declaring Board opposition to any proposal that would divert decision making ability from School Board members at the local level. The resolution will be sent to all Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE Board) members.