

# February, 2007

*Board Briefing is a summary of St. Tammany Parish School Board action taken at the February 8, 2007, School Board meeting and is not intended to be a complete accounting of Board action.*

## **AmeriCorps Members Recognized**

Members of the Western Region of the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps were recognized for their voluntary service to students in the School System and for their post-Katrina relief efforts in the community.

## **School Uniform Policy Revised**

The school uniform policy for students was revised. The amendments included:

- reducing the vote requirement for uniform approval at a school from a two-thirds vote of approval to a simple majority, 50% plus 1;
- eliminating the requirement of future uniform votes at schools that had or have a “yes” vote on uniforms in two consecutive voting cycles; and
- permitting a new vote for any school that had a majority vote but not a two-thirds vote favoring uniforms in the 2005-2006 school year.

## **Leave Policy for Elected Members of Certain Government Bodies Approved**

A policy was approved, pursuant to State law, ensuring that employees who are elected or appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Teacher's Retirement System of Louisiana; the Board of Trustees of the Louisiana School Employees Retirement System; the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; or any task force, commission, or other advisory body established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education are able to attend meetings.

## **Policy to Require Disclosure of Sexual Misconduct on Employment Applications Approved**

In accordance with recent State legislation, a policy was passed to require employment applicants to disclose whether he or she has committed any previous acts of sexual misconduct with students while employed by his or her present or previous employer.

The policy also provides for screening applications of every prospective employee for past sexual misconduct with students while employed with a present or previous employer.

## **Policy on Psychotropic Drugs Approved**

Following recent State legislative action, a policy was passed prohibiting School System employee recommendation of psychotropic drug and mental health diagnosis for students. The policy also prohibits using a parent's or guardian's refusal to consent to the administration of a psychotropic drug to a student or to a psychiatric evaluation,

screening, or examination of a student as grounds for limiting a student's access to any class or school-related activity or making, as a sole basis, accusations of child abuse or neglect against the parent or guardian.

### **Property Exchange Accepted**

An agreement with Crosby Properties, Inc., was accepted to exchange an unused portion of land at Mandeville High School for completion of a 1200-foot access road and 156 parking spaces for the school.

### **Bids for Replacement of Portable Classrooms Rejected**

All bids submitted for 19 portable classrooms were rejected for being over budget.

### **New Agriscience Building at Lee Road Junior High School Accepted**

Construction of the new Agriscience Building at Lee Road Junior High School was accepted as substantially complete, subject to recommendations of the architect, completion of the punch list, submission of all regulatory requirements, and approval of Superintendent Sloan.

### **Classroom Addition at Lake Harbor Middle School Accepted**

The eight-classroom addition to Lake Harbor Middle School was accepted as substantially complete, subject to recommendations of the architect, completion of the punch list, submission of all regulatory requirements, and approval of Superintendent Sloan.