

February, 2006, Board Briefing

Board Briefing is a summary of St. Tammany Parish School Board action taken at the February 9, 2006, School Board meeting and is not intended to be a complete accounting of Board action.

SACS CASI Officials Commend System on District Accreditation

Dr. Lucy Hayden, Associate Executive Director of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools --Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), presented the School System a special banner and plaque designating the School System a SACS CASI district accredited school system. The System earned accreditation following an extensive review last year, becoming the fourth school district in the Nation and one of two districts to be first in the State to earn accreditation. Louisiana SACS CASI Director Diane Garbo recognized Curriculum and Instruction Supervisor Scottie Kuhlmann for her six years of service to SACS CASI.

System Recognized for Outstanding Financial Reporting

The School System has earned the highest awards given for financial reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and the American School Board Officials International (ASBO) for the 17th consecutive year. Board President Donald Villere accepted the awards, which are the highest given by both organizations and represent outstanding reporting of School Board finances to the public. The awards were presented by Louisiana State Treasurer John Kennedy and Louisiana State Legislative Auditor Steve Theriot. The School System Chief Accountant Brett Stoltz also was honored for outstanding preparation of the 2004-2005 School Board financial report.

Nationally Certified School Psychologists Spotlited

National certification was awarded to four school psychologists this year by the National Association of School Psychologists. The certification process requires that the psychologists demonstrate professional proficiency in testing; consultation with parents, teachers, and students; and behavior management. They also must earn 60 hours of continuing education credits. Recognized were Dr. Dorothy Gammel, Harrison Curriculum Center; Francine Gilliland, Slidell Pupil Appraisal Office; Valerie Monahan, Slidell Pupil Appraisal Office; and Erin Powell, Harrison Curriculum Center.

National Board Certified School Counselors Recognized

School counselors who received national certification by the National Board for Certified Counselors this year were recognized. National certification of school counselors requires proficiency on the national counselor examination for licensure and certification, national certified counselor status, employment as a school counselor, a recommendation following 3,000 hours of counseling internship, and 21 hours of accredited counseling classes. School System counselors earning the certification this year are Stacey Boitnott, Bonne Ecole Elementary School; Che' Ashby-Jackson, Fontainebleau High School; Jeri Bellan, Fontainebleau Junior High School; Jeanne Bergerud, Clearwood Junior High School; Michelle Canas, Fontainebleau High School; Sean Esker, Mandeville High School; Cindy Stafford, Fontainebleau Junior High School; Donna Hunstock, Pine View

Middle School; Lynn Brandt, Covington Elementary School; and Tasha Alvendia, Mandeville High School.

New National Board Certified Teachers Recognized

Thirty teachers were congratulated on having achieved certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The purpose of the certification process is to establish high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do and to reward excellence in teaching. Recognized were new nationally certified teachers:

Leina Ball, Fontainebleau Junior High School
Sharon Becnel, Mandeville Elementary School
Beverly Browning, Slidell Junior High School
Suzanne Buras, Lake Harbor Middle School
Deanna Cantin, Cypress Cove Elementary School
Lisa Fraszczak, Carolyn Park Middle School
Linda Fussell, Covington High School
Jennifer Granier, Tchefuncte Middle School
Carol Grow, Abita Springs Elementary School
Marilynn Hawkins, Covington High School
Brenda Helwick, Mandeville Middle School
Andrea Himel, Mandeville Elementary School
Anne Hunt, Slidell High School
Linda Jenkins, Abita Springs Elementary School
Teri Kliebert, Mandeville Junior High School
Stephanie Kline, Abita Springs Elementary School
Donna Lange, Pontchartrain Elementary School
Mary Leblanc, Mandeville Junior High School
Shannon Leger, Slidell Junior High School
Ellen Lowery, Pontchartrain Elementary School
Kristen Martin, Slidell Junior High School
Jennifer Mueller, Northshore High School
Phyllis Noveh, Slidell High School
Maria O'Keefe, Abita Springs Elementary School
Connie Porter, Mandeville Junior High School
Ellen Schexnider, Mandeville High
Kristy Scroggs, Carolyn Park Middle School
Catherine Tanguis, Slidell High School
Christine West, Pearl River High School
Helio Zavalza, Slidell High School

Funding Approved for School Instructional and Local Technology Budgets

As recommended by Superintendent Sloan, approval was given to provide for the addition of \$583,000 in school instructional funds and \$306,000 in technology funds.

Bid Bond Surety Demand Recommended

A recommendation that the Superintendent make demand on the Bid Bond Surety of MBD Construction Company, Inc., was passed as a result of the company's failure and refusal to honor its July 6, 2005, bid of \$1,495,000 for construction of a classroom wing at Mandeville High School.

Bid for Lake Harbor Middle School Accepted

The low bid meeting plans and specifications in the amount of \$1,757,700, submitted by Brunt Construction, Inc., was accepted for a new eight-classroom wing addition to Lake Harbor Middle School. The funding source is the 2004 Bond Authorization.

Authorization to Advertise for Purchase of General Obligation Bonds Approved

Authority was given to advertise for sealed bids for the purchase of \$25 million in General Obligation bonds.