

# BOARD BRIEFING

## December, 2007

*Board Briefing is a summary of St. Tammany Parish School Board action taken at the December 13, 2007, School Board meeting and is not intended to be a complete accounting of Board action.*

### **Board Officers and Chairpersons Elected**

Current School Board officers and chairpersons were re-elected to one-year terms of office. Serving are District 1 Board Member Neal Hennegan, School Board President; District 15 Board Member Mary K. Bellisario, Vice President; District 2 Board Member Elizabeth Heintz, Chair of the Human Resources/Education Committee; and District 8 School Board Member Daniel Zechenelly, Chair of the Business Affairs/Administration Committee.

### **Educators Honored for Technology Expertise**

Two School System educators were presented awards from the Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators (LACUE). The awards are given for outstanding integration of technology in the classroom. Kristin Hernandez, a sixth grade teacher at Carolyn Park Elementary, and Janet Westover, a volunteer computer Para technician at Mandeville High, recently were named Elementary Technology Teacher of the Year and Special Volunteer Person of the Year respectively.

### **Wear Your Cap to School Day Commended**

Executives with the Caps for Kids organization commended the School System for its participation in the Wear Your Cap to School Day held to increase pediatric cancer awareness and patient support. Caps for Kids is a non-profit organization that provides caps and scarves for children receiving chemotherapy for life threatening illnesses. As of mid-November, school students and personnel throughout the School System had donated \$15,000 to the program.

### **BESE Representative Recognized**

District 1 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) Member Penny Dastugue was recognized for her service to the students of St. Tammany Parish and Louisiana as a member of the State education policy-making body. Mrs. Dastugue completes her term of office mid-January, having chosen not to seek re-election to the position.

### **Capital Improvements Plan Approved and Special Election Called**

A proposed \$167 million Capital Improvements Plan was approved to renew existing millages to finance \$150 million in construction of two new schools and additions and renovations to 16 schools and support facilities, \$15 million in school technology and System infrastructure to support school technology, and \$2.1 million for security cameras at all schools. A March 8, 2008, election was called to ask voters to give the Board authority to issue bonds and retire the debt, with no increase in current millage rates.

### **Immigration Attorney Approved**

A resolution was passed authorizing the School Board to retain an immigration attorney to represent the Board.

### **Purchase of Properties in Slidell Approved**

Approval was given for the purchase of properties at 204 and 224 Brakefield Street in Slidell. The properties are located close to Brock Elementary School and will be purchased for future use by the school and other School System offices.

### **Purchase of Property for New School Approved**

The purchase of 71.3 acres of property in Slidell for the future Henry Mayfield Elementary School was approved.

### **Demolition of Brooks Curriculum Center Accepted**

Demolition of the Brooks Curriculum Center 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. The facility was irreparable as a result of Hurricane Katrina damage.

### **Reroofing Project at Florida Avenue and Abney Elementary Schools Accepted**

The partial reroofing of Florida Avenue and Abney Elementary Schools 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.

**Northshore High School Lighting Project Accepted**

Northshore High School football field lighting 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.

**Bid for Construction of Practice Field and Parking Expansion at Fontainebleau High School Accepted**

The low bid meeting bid requirements submitted by Dennis Glass Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$314,960, was accepted for practice field and limestone parking lot expansion at Fontainebleau High School.