

# **BOARD BRIEFING**

## **May, 2008**

*Board Briefing is a summary of St. Tammany Parish School Board action taken at the May 8, 2008, School Board meeting and is not intended to be a complete accounting of Board action.*

### **Students of the Year Presented**

St. Tammany Parish Public School System Students of the Year for 2007-2008, chosen at the fifth, eighth, and twelfth grade levels, were presented to the Board. Students of the Year are chosen every year at schools across the parish, and one from each of the three grade levels is chosen at the parish level by a committee representing a cross section of the community. Winners are chosen for outstanding academic performance, leadership, service to others, and communication skills. Recognized were:

Benjamin Stogner  
Madisonville Junior High School  
Elementary Division

Milton J. (M. J.) Hernandez, IV  
Monteleone Junior High School  
Middle/Junior High Division

Trigg Burrage  
Northshore High School  
High School Division

### **Outstanding School Support Employees Recognized**

Outstanding School Support Employees for 2007-2008 were honored. Receiving recognition for their valuable contributions to the education process were:

Victoria Keys  
Title I Paraprofessional  
Covington Elementary School  
Elementary Division

Kathy Impastato  
Paraprofessional  
Carolyn Park Middle School  
Middle/Junior High Division

Joan Wallace  
Secretary  
Mandeville High School  
High School Division

Lyn Monteleone  
School Food Service Secretary  
C. J. Schoen Administrative Complex  
Non-School Division

**Substitute Employee of the Year Recognized**

Gaye Wertz was recognized as the Substitute Employee of the Year for this school year. The honor is given to spotlight the contributions that substitute employees make to the education process by maintaining continuity of service and instruction.

**Robert C. Brooks, Jr., Honored**

Venerable educator Robert C. Brooks, Jr., for whom the Robert C. Brooks, Jr. Educational Complex is named, was memorialized through a resolution recognizing his 39 ½ years of service to the School System as a teacher and principal. Professor Brooks was deceased recently, shortly after his 104<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Abney Elementary School Principal Appointed**

Mike Alford, currently an IEP Facilitator in the Special Education Department, was appointed Principal at Abney Elementary School. He replaces Supervisor Julie Matte, who was temporarily assigned to the school.

**Folsom Elementary School Principal Appointed**

Lesa Bodnar, Assistant Principal at Folsom Elementary School, was appointed Principal at the school, replacing Amiee Woessner. Mrs. Woessner recently was appointed a Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction.

**Boyet Junior High School Assistant Principal Appointed**

Terrie Mathison, a Parishwide Assistant Principal, was appointed Assistant Principal at Boyet Junior High School. She replaces former Assistant Principal Charles Edwards, who will become a Coordinator of Broadcasting in the School System educational television station.

**Cypress Cove Elementary School Assistant Principal Appointed**

Arlene Sealy, an IEP Facilitator in the Special Education Department, was appointed Assistant Principal at Cypress Cove Elementary School. She replaces Assistant Principal April Whitfield, who recently was appointed Principal at the Early Childhood Center in Pearl River, named Little Pearl Elementary School at the May Board Meeting.

**Lee Road Junior High School Assistant Principal Appointed**

Shelly Morris, currently serving as temporary Assistant Principal at Lee Road Junior High School, was appointed Assistant Principal at the school. She replaces Jerry Mendow, who will become a Coordinator in the Special Education Department.

**Mandeville Elementary School Assistant Principal Appointed**

Judith Hankel was appointed temporary Assistant Principal at Mandeville Elementary School, while Assistant Principal Casey Gleason is on leave during the 2008-2009 school year. Ms. Hankel currently is a second grade teacher at the school.

**Northshore High School Assistant Principal Appointed**

Harry Dixon, III, currently Assistant Principal at Frederick Douglass Senior High School in New Orleans, was appointed Assistant Principal at Northshore High School. His appointment follows the retirement of Assistant Principal Thelma Torregano.

**William Pitcher Junior High School Assistant Principal Appointed**

Eddie Walker, currently a Parishwide Assistant Principal, was appointed Assistant Principal at William Pitcher Junior High School. Ms. Walker will replace Assistant Principal John Nelson, who is leaving the position to return to teaching.

**Sixth Ward Elementary School Assistant Principal Appointed**

Rodney Thornhill, currently the Resource Helping Teacher at Sixth Ward Elementary School, was appointed Assistant Principal at the school. This is a new position based on current enrollment at the school.

**Tchefuncte Middle School Assistant Principal Appointed**

Christopher Oufnac was appointed Assistant Principal at Tchefuncte Middle School, following the retirement of Assistant Principal Rhonda Chambers. Mr. Oufnac currently is a Parishwide Assistant Principal.

**Guidelines for Personnel Evaluation Approved**

The School System Guidelines for Personnel Evaluation were changed to reflect editorial revisions and use of evaluator discretion to determine whether or not teachers in the Louisiana Teacher Assessment and Assistance Program (LaTAAP) will be observed using St. Tammany evaluation procedures. The LaTAAP program has an evaluation component.

**Name for Early Childhood Center in Pearl River Accepted**

“Little Pearl Elementary School” was approved as the name for the new early childhood center in Pearl River. The school is scheduled to open for the 2008-2009 school year.

**Changes to Student/Parent Handbook Approved**

Changes and additions to the St. Tammany Parish Public School System Handbook for Students and Parents were approved. The major changes included State-mandated wording regarding corporal punishment and the addition of information about misconduct involving electronic devices. The handbook is reviewed annually by a committee of parents, educators, students, and administrators and committee suggestions are submitted to the Superintendent to be considered for recommendation to the School Board.

**Revised Budgets Approved**

The Superintendent's proposed revised budgets for the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Projects Funds, and Debt Service Funds for the 2007-2008 fiscal year were approved.

**NCLB/IDEA Combined Application Approved**

The Combined Application for 2008-2009 for federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB)/IDEA funding was approved. The programs cover federal Titles I, II, III, IV, and V programs and IDEA programs for special education. Title V has been phased out for the coming year.

**Members of Screening and Evaluation Committee Added**

Mechanical engineer Danny Milton and forensic engineer Fred Vanderbrook were appointed to the Screening and Evaluation Committee for Professional Services. The committee screens and recommends applicants for professional services associated with capital improvements projects in the School System.

**Design and Name for Educational Complex Approved**

The schematic design for reconstruction of the former Robert C. Brooks, Jr. Curriculum Center was approved as presented by project Architects Gasaway-Gasaway-Bankston. Also approved was a change in the name of the facility to the Robert C. Brooks, Jr. Educational Complex. The original facility was devastated during Hurricane Katrina.

**Bid for Slidell High School Drainage Project Accepted**

The low bid meeting plans and specifications submitted by Barrier Construction in the amount of \$96,000 was accepted for drainage work at Slidell High School. The Parishwide Construction Fund is the source of funding.

**Bid for Parking Lot at Pine View Middle School Accepted**

The low bid meeting plans and specifications for a parking lot at Pine View Middle School were accepted in the amount of \$150,000. J. C. & W. C. Construction Co., Inc., submitted the low bid. The Parishwide Construction Fund is the funding source.

