

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH SCHOOL BOARD  
RESERVE, LA – MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2016**

ITEM 1: The Chair called the meeting to order and read the following call:

HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
Parish of St. John the Baptist

Dear Board Member:

Upon call of the President, the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board will meet in regular session at **Godchaux Grammar Cafeteria**, 1600 Hwy. 44, Reserve, Louisiana, on Thursday, March 3, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

An agenda for the meeting is attached.

Sincerely, s/Kevin R. George  
Superintendent/Secretary

The Chair called for the invocation, led by Rev. Nicholas, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Ms. Antoinette Robinet.

ITEM 2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

PRESENT: Burl, Keller, Sanders, DeFrancesch, Johnson, Wise, Wallace, Nicholas, Jones.  
ABSENT: Jack, Triche

There were 9 members present, 2 absent.

ITEM 3a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meetings of January 28, 2016.

MOTION BY: Nicholas

SECOND BY: DeFrancesch

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the meetings of January 28, 2016.

No objections.

The motion carried.

Roll Call:

9 Yeas - Burl, Keller, Sanders, DeFrancesch, Johnson, Wise, Wallace, Nicholas, Jones

0 Nays

2 Absent – Jack, Triche

Mr. Jack arrived at 6:04 p.m. and was recorded as present.

ITEM 4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT. Mr. Kevin R. George, Superintendent.

Supt. George thanked the Board, Administrators and Staff for their willingness to help in the aftermath of the tornados. He reported that all schools were back in session this past Monday.

a. Louisiana School Board Association Continuing Learning Units

Supt. George stated that St. John School Board Members are one of only 5 School Boards in the State in which all Board Members have earned enough CLUs to achieve the status of LSBA Certified Board Member. He then read the following into the record:

*The Louisiana School Board Association recognizes any school board member that attains twenty (20) or more continuing learning units of training in the calendar year as a Certified Board Member. This year, I am pleased to announce that every one of our board members achieved that goal for 2015. These credit hours must be recorded in the official record of the School Board, as well as the official journal.*

**Mr. Russell Jack, District 1**

- 26.25 Credit Hours – LSBA CERTIFIED BOARD MEMBER

**Mr. Albert Burl, District 2**

- 26.25 Credit Hours – LSBA CERTIFIED BOARD MEMBER

**Dr. Gerald Keller, District 3**

- 68 Credit Hours – LSBA CERTIFIED BOARD MEMBER

**Mr. Patrick Sanders, District 4**

- 30.25 Credit Hours – LSBA CERTIFIED BOARD MEMBER

**Mrs. Sherry DeFrancesch, District 5**

- 32.25 Credit Hours – LSBA CERTIFIED BOARD MEMBER

**Mr. Keith Jones, District 6**

- 87.50 Credit Hours – LSBA CERTIFIED BOARD MEMBER

**Mr. Phillip Johnson, District 7**

- 46 Credit Hours – LSBA CERTIFIED BOARD MEMBER

**Mr. Russ Wise, District 8**

- 57.50 Credit Hours – LSBA CERTIFIED BOARD MEMBER

**Mr. Shawn Wallace, District 9**

- 42 Credit Hours – LSBA CERTIFIED BOARD MEMBER

**Rev. Rodney Nicholas, District 10**

- 38 Credit Hours – LSBA CERTIFIED BOARD MEMBER  
**Mr. Clarence Triche, District 11**  
 - 37.25 Credit Hours – LSBA CERTIFIED BOARD MEMBER

**ITEM 5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS BY THE BOARD OR STAFF**

a. Ms. Page Eschette - Teacher of the Year and Principals of the Year  
 The following teachers and principals were recognized:

**Teachers of the Year**

Ellen Mury	Garyville/Mt. Airy Magnet School	Elementary
Jenny Kelly	LaPlace Elementary	Elementary
Brenda Beaver	Lake Pontchartrain Elementary	Elementary
Allison Duhon	Fifth Ward Elementary	Elementary
Michelle Williams	Emily C. Watkins Elementary	Elementary
Monica Griffin	East St. John Elementary	Elementary
Karen Dottolo	John L. Ory Magnet School	Elementary
Shannon Tobias	West St. John Elementary	Elementary
Alison Hull	Emily C. Watkins Elementary	Middle School
Rochelle Darville	Fifth Ward Elementary	Middle School
Michel Delatte	Lake Pontchartrain Elementary	Middle School
Agnes Hollins	John L. Ory Magnet School	Middle School
Debbie Perkins	Garyville/Mt. Airy Magnet School	Middle School
Kentralyn Montgomery	West St. John Elementary	Middle School
Bertha Spivey	West St. John High	Middle School
Ashley Weber	East St. John Elementary	Middle School
Lyndell Jackson	LaPlace Elementary	Middle School
Susan Cases	West St. John High	High School
James Oubre	East St. John High	High School

**District Teachers of the Year**

James Oubre	East St. John High	High School
Lyndell Jackson	LaPlace Elementary	Middle School
Karen Dottolo	John L. Ory Magnet School	Elementary

**Principals of the Year**

Jason Beber	Middle School Principal of the Year
Chantell Walker	Elementary Principal of the Year

The Chair declared a recess at 6:19 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. DeFrancesch, seconded by Mr. Burl, to reconvene in Regular Session. There were no objections and the Board reconvened in Regular Session at 6:31 p.m.

Mr. Jack did not return to the meeting following the recess.

**ITEM 6. PERSONNEL MATTERS**

**ITEM 7. BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

a. Mr. Felix Boughton/Mr. Hugh Martin - To consider and take action with respect to adopting a resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of General Obligation School Refunding Bonds, of School District No. 1 of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Bonds; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

MOTION BY: Wise

SECOND BY: Entire Board

MOTION: To adopt a resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of General Obligation School Refunding Bonds, of School District No. 1 of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Bonds; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

No objections.

The motion carried.

9 Yeas - Burl, Keller, Sanders, DeFrancesch, Johnson, Wise, Wallace, Nicholas, Jones

0 Nays

2 Absent - Jack, Triche

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The following resolution was offered and seconded \_\_\_\_\_:

RESOLUTION

A resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not exceeding Seven Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,200,000) of General Obligation School Refunding Bonds, of School District No. 1 of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Bonds; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 33 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, Sub-Part A, Part III, Chapter 4, of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, School District No. 1 of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana (the "Issuer") has heretofore issued \$10,000,000 of General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2009, dated March 1, 2009 (the "Series 2009 Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, in order to provide debt service savings to the taxpayers of School District No. 1 of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, the Issuer desires to refund all or any portion of the callable maturities of the Issuer's outstanding Series 2009 Bonds, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 14-A of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority (the "Act"), through the issuance of its refunding bonds; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, and subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, the Issuer desires to accomplish the refunding by authorizing the issuance of not exceeding Seven Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,200,000) of its General Obligation School Refunding Bonds (the "Bonds"), to be payable from unlimited ad valorem taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Issuer desires to make formal application to the State Bond Commission for approval of the issuance of the Bonds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish School Board of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of School District No. 1 of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana (the "Issuer"), that:

SECTION 1. Preliminary Approval of the Bonds. Preliminary approval is given to the issuance of not exceeding Seven Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,200,000) of General Obligation School Refunding Bonds (the "Refunding Bonds"), of the Issuer, to be issued for the purpose of refunding all or any portion of the callable maturities of the Issuer's outstanding Series 2009, and paying the costs of issuance of the Refunding Bonds, said Refunding Bonds to be payable from and secured by unlimited ad valorem taxes now being levied and collected annually in excess of all other taxes on all the property subject to taxation within the territorial limits of the Issuer. The Refunding Bonds shall bear interest at a rate or rates not to exceed five percent (5%) per annum, to be determined by subsequent resolution of this Governing Authority at the time of the sale of the Refunding Bonds, and shall mature in annual installments due no later than March 1, 2029. The Refunding Bonds shall be issued in fully registered form, shall be sold to the purchasers thereof at a price of not less than 97% of par, plus accrued interest, and shall have such additional terms and provisions as may be determined by this Governing Authority.

SECTION 2. Employment. This Governing Authority finds and determines that a real necessity exists for the employment of special counsel in connection with the issuance of the Refunding Bonds, and accordingly, Foley & Judell, LLP, of New Orleans, Louisiana, as Bond Counsel, is hereby employed to do and perform work of a traditional legal nature as bond counsel with respect to the issuance and sale of said Bonds. Said Bond Counsel shall prepare and submit to this Governing Authority for adoption all of the proceedings incidental to the authorization, issuance, sale and delivery of such Bonds, shall counsel and advise this Governing Authority as to the issuance thereof and shall furnish their opinions covering the legality of the issuance of the Refunding Bonds. The fee of Bond Counsel for each series of said bonds shall be fixed at a sum not exceeding the fee allowed by the Attorney General's fee guidelines for such bond counsel work in connection with the issuance of each such series of revenue bonds and based on the amount of said bonds actually issued, sold, delivered and paid for, plus "out-of-pocket" expenses, said fees to be contingent upon the issuance, sale and delivery of said bonds. That pursuant to instructions from the Superintendent, Bond Counsel shall cause to be prepared an official statement with respect to the sale of the Refunding Bonds and the costs of the preparation and printing of said official statement, as approved by the State Bond Commission, shall be paid from the proceeds of the issue for which it has been prepared. Said Official Statement may be submitted to one or more of the nationally recognized bond rating service or services, together with a request that an appropriate rating be assigned. Payment for all ratings shall be made by the Superintendent upon presentation of appropriate statements from the particular rating service furnishing the ratings. The Superintendent is hereby authorized and directed to execute, and this Governing Authority hereby agrees to and accepts the terms of, the engagement letter of Bond Counsel on file with the Secretary. A certified copy of this resolution shall be submitted to the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana for his written approval of said employment and of the fees herein designated, and the Superintendent is hereby empowered and directed to issue vouchers in payment for the work herein provided for upon completion of the work herein specified and under the conditions herein enumerated.

SECTION 3. State Bond Commission. Application is hereby made to the State Bond Commission, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for approval of the issuance and sale of the Refunding Bonds and for consent and authority to proceed with the issuance and sale of the Refunding Bonds as provided above, and Bond Counsel is directed to make application to the State Bond Commission in accordance with the foregoing on behalf of the Governing Authority.

By virtue of applicant/issuer's application for, acceptance and utilization of the benefits of the Louisiana State Bond Commission's approval(s) resolved and set forth herein, it resolves that it understands and agrees that such approval(s) are expressly conditioned upon, and it further resolves that it understands, agrees and binds itself, its successors and assigns to, full and continuing compliance with the "State Bond Commission Policy on Approval of Proposed Use of Swaps, or other forms of Derivative Products Hedges, Etc.", adopted by the Commission on July 20, 2006, as to the borrowing(s) and other matter(s) subject to the approval(s), including subsequent application and approval under said Policy of the implementation or use of any swap(s) or other product(s) or enhancement(s) covered thereby.

SECTION 4. Appointment of Municipal Advisor. The Issuer hereby retains Government Consultants, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Registered Municipal Advisors, to act as its Independent Registered Municipal Advisor ("IRMA") pursuant to the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and the Final Rule adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commissioners on September 20, 2013 and the adopted final release (the "Release") for the purpose of providing advice on structure, timing, terms and other matters relating to the Bonds, upon which the Issuer may rely. The fee for such services shall be payable solely from the proceeds of the Bonds and the amount thereof shall be subject to approval by the Issuer and subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission. The Issuer or the Municipal Advisor may terminate this retention at any time upon written notification to the other party.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

School Board <u>Members</u>	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstaining</u>
Russell Jack, Jr.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Albert "Ali" Burl, III	_____	_____	_____	_____
Gerald J. Keller	_____	_____	_____	_____
Patrick H. Sanders	_____	_____	_____	_____
Sherry DeFrancesch	_____	_____	_____	_____
Keith Jones	_____	_____	_____	_____
Phillie Johnson	_____	_____	_____	_____
Russ Wise	_____	_____	_____	_____
Shawn Wallace	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rodney B. Nicholas	_____	_____	_____	_____
Clarence Triche	_____	_____	_____	_____

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016.

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Parish School Board of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of - Louisiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Parish School Board of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, on February 25, 2016, giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not exceeding Seven Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,200,000) of General Obligation School Refunding Bonds, of School District No. 1 of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Bonds; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature on this, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016.

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Secretary

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ITEM 7b. Mr. Felix Boughton – Approve Government Consultants as Municipal Advisors for a possible refinancing of 2005 GO Bonds

The Chair stated that this item was addressed in the Resolution (Item 7a) and is not needed.

ITEM 7c. Mr. Felix Boughton – Approve The Mission Church for leasing LaPlace Elementary for \$1,000 per month

MOTION BY: Wise

SECOND BY: Nicholas

MOTION: To approve The Mission Church for leasing LaPlace Elementary School for \$1,000 per month for a 12 month period, at which time the agreement will be reevaluated.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION BY: Wise

SECOND BY: Sanders

MOTION: To waive policy to change the policy to allow Mission Church to rent LaPlace Elementary at a reduced cost.

Upon roll call, there were:

7 Yeas – Sanders, DeFrancesch, Johnson, Wise, Wallace, Nicholas, Jones

2 Nays – Burl, Keller

2 Absent – Jack, Triche

The motion failed.

Following discussion, there was a

MOTION BY: Wise

SECOND BY: Nicholas

MOTION: To waive policy to consider allowing The Mission Church to hold services for 1 month.

Upon roll call, there were:

8 Yeas – Keller, Sanders, DeFrancesch, Johnson, Wise, Wallace, Nicholas, Jones

1 Nay – Burl

2 Absent – Jack, Triche

The motion carried.

MOTION BY: Wise

SECOND BY: Nicholas

MOTION: To allow The Mission Church to lease LaPlace Elementary Cafeteria for \$1,000 for 1 month, beginning tomorrow so that the Board has time to possibly revise our policy, without putting the church out abruptly.

Upon roll call, there were:

8 Yeas – Keller, Sanders, DeFrancesch, Johnson, Wise, Wallace, Nicholas, Jones

1 Nay – Burl

2 Absent – Jack, Triche

The motion carried.

#### ITEM 8. OLD BUSINESS

ITEM 8a. Mr. Peter Montz – (Executive Session) - Hearing on the apparent low bidder (Sprinturf) protest in connection with the bid for the Rudolph G. Dinvaut Stadium and Joe Keller Memorial Field Replacement Projects.

MOTION BY: Burl

SECOND BY: Nicholas

MOTION: To convene in Executive Session to discuss the Spinturf protests.

No objections.

The motion carried. 7:18 p.m.

MOTION BY: Johnson

SECOND BY: Burl

MOTION: To reconvene in Regular Session.

No objections.

The motion carried. 7:25 p.m.

MOTION BY: Wise

SECOND BY: Nicholas

MOTION: To reject all previous bids on the Rudolph G. Dinvaut Stadium and Joe Keller Memorial Field Replacement Projects.

Upon roll call, there were:

9 Yeas - Burl, Keller, Sanders, DeFrancesch, Johnson, Wise, Wallace, Nicholas, Jones

0 Nays

2 Absent - Jack, Triche

The motion carried.

MOTION BY: Wise

SECOND BY: Johnson

MOTION: To waive policy to call for a vote to readvertise for the Rudolph G. Dinvaut Stadium and Joe Keller Memorial Field Replacement Projects.

Upon roll call, there were:

9 Yeas - Burl, Keller, Sanders, DeFrancesch, Johnson, Wise, Wallace, Nicholas, Jones

0 Nays

2 Absent - Jack, Triche

The motion carried.

MOTION BY: Wise

SECOND BY: Nicholas

MOTION: To readvertise for bids on the Rudolph G. Dinvaut Stadium and Joe Keller Memorial Field Replacement Projects.

Upon roll call, there were:

9 Yeas - Burl, Keller, Sanders, DeFrancesch, Johnson, Wise, Wallace, Nicholas, Jones

0 Nays

2 Absent - Jack, Triche

The motion carried.

#### ITEM 9. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 9a. Request Board to consider and take action on a request from Tri-Parish Trophies extend Bid 16.18, Award/Incentive Items until 06-20-2017. It is currently schedule to expire on 06-30-2016.

Mr. Montz asked the Board that this item be tabled. There were no objections.

ITEM 9b. Mr. Peter Montz – Request Board action to unify the end dates of our two grounds maintenance contracts. Hymel’s Turf and Landscaping, LLC contract end date is 03.31.15. 3H Enterprises contract end date is 09.08.16.

Mr. Montz stated that the two grounds maintenance contracts had originally been bid together and this is to allow Hymel’s Turf and Landscaping, LLC to continue, on a month to month basis, until the end of 3H Enterprises contract date of 09.08.16 so that the two contracts can be advertised and bid as one contract at that time.

MOTION BY: Burl

SECOND BY: Nicholas

MOTION: To allow Hymel’s Turf and Landscaping, LLC to continue, on a month to month basis, until the end of 3H Enterprises contract date of 09.08.16 so that the two contracts can be advertised and bid as one contract.

Upon roll call , there were

8 Yeas – Burl, Sanders, DeFrancesch, Johnson, Wise, Wallace, Nicholas, Jones

1 Nays - Keller

2 Absent - Jack, Triche

The motion carried.

ITEM 9c. Mr. Peter Montz – Recommendation on Proposal 16.29; Property Insurance

Recommendation: Accept Louisiana Insurance Agency for a total of \$930,120.84 for Property Insurance.

MOTION BY: Sanders

SECOND BY: Nicholas

MOTION: To accept Louisiana Insurance Agency for Property Insurance for a total of \$930,120.84

Upon roll call, there were

9 Yeas – Burl, Keller, Sanders, DeFrancesch, Johnson, Wise, Wallace, Nicholas, Jones

0 Nays

2 Absent - Jack, Triche

The motion carried.

ITEM 9d. Mr. Russ Wise – Request an RFP to sell the naming rights to Lake Pontchartrain Elementary School

MOTION BY: Wise

SECOND BY: Sanders

MOTION: To request a formal opinion from the DA’s office whether we can proceed and authorize administration to ask our local delegation to sponsor a local bill that would authorize us to allow a sponsor to name a school now and in the future.

Upon roll call, there were

4 Yeas – Sanders, DeFrancesch, Wise, Nicholas

5 Nays – Burl, Keller, Johnson, Wallace, Jones

2 Absent - Jack, Triche

The motion failed.

ITEM 9e. Ms. Page Eschette – Introduction to New/Modified Policies: BE School Board Ethics, EBBG Hazardous Substances, GAMFA Employee Communicable Diseases, JGCC Student Communicable Disease, IH Academic Achievement, JCDB Dress Code, JDD Suspension, JDE Expulsion, JBD Student Absences, JBCC Student Assignment, GBRIB Sick Leave, JBCC Student Transfer and Withdrawal

Ms. Eschette stated that this item was for introduction only. She also stated that Policy GBRIB: Sick Leave was being pulled from consideration at this time.

ITEM 9f. Mrs. Patricia Triche – St. John the Baptist Parish School Board Head Start – Present the December 2015 and January 2016 Director’s Report

ITEM 9g. Mr. Felix Boughton - Authorization to sign a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with OCD-DRU for Isaac Cost Share Funds and any related documents

MOTION BY: Wise

SECOND BY: DeFrancesch

MOTION: To approve and authorize administration to sign a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement w3ith OCD-DRU for Isaac Cost Share Funds and any related documents.

Upon roll call, there were

9 Yeas – Burl, Keller, Sanders, DeFrancesch, Johnson, Wise, Wallace, Nicholas, Jones

0 Nays

2 Absent - Jack, Triche

The motion carried.

ITEM 10. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ITEM 11. BOARD ITEMS OF INTEREST

Rev. Rodney Nicholas – Resolution recognizing February as Black History Month

Rev. Nicholas read the following Resolution into the record:

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**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH SCHOOL BOARD  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH – FEBRUARY 2016  
RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the month of February has been designated “**Black History Month**,” celebrating and commemorating our diversity, and the contributions of the African-American community and their many achievements in every aspect of our society; and

**WHEREAS**, the celebration of “**Black History Month**” began in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, known as ‘the Father of Black History,’ created this celebration to correspond with the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln; and

**WHEREAS**, “**Black History Month**” was first celebrated on February 1, 1926; and has since 1976, become a nationally recognized month-long celebration, held each year during the month of February to acknowledge and pay tribute to the many African-Americans neglected by both society and the history books; and

**WHEREAS**, *Black History Month* seeks to declare that black history is indeed American history; and

**WHEREAS** we acknowledge that many Americans both Black and White, as well as other ethnicities, stood side-by-side and hand-in-hand, in the struggle together to end racism and racial inequities in America, and

**WHEREAS**, *Black History Month* is a time to reflect on the struggles and accomplishments of African-Americans throughout our nation's history; and

**WHEREAS**, Some African-American pioneers whose many accomplishments, have not always been recognized or acknowledged and in many cases have gone unnoticed; today we celebrate and appreciate America’s HCBU’s, and

**WHEREAS**, HBCU is an acronym for ‘Historically Black Colleges and Universities,’ (HBCUs) were established to serve the educational needs of black Americans, and

**WHEREAS**, prior to the time of their establishment, and for many years afterwards, blacks were generally denied admission to traditionally white institutions. As a result, HBCUs became the principle means for providing postsecondary education to black Americans, and

**WHEREAS**, Today, we thank God, that most of those barriers have been broken down by laws, liberties and justice, and yet historically black colleges and universities still represent a vital component of American higher education system, and

**WHEREAS**, In 2001, the total economic impact of the nation’s HBCUs was \$10.2 billion, it is interesting to note that in terms of revenues, the nation’s HBCUs would rank 232nd on the Forbes Fortune 500 list of the United States’ largest grossing companies, and

**WHEREAS**, More than 50% of the nation’s African American public school teachers and 70% of African American dentists earned degrees at HBCUs, and

**WHEREAS**, HBCUs have provided undergraduate training for three fourths of all black persons holding a doctorate degree; three fourths of all black officers in the armed forces; and four fifths of all black federal judges, and

**WHEREAS**, Fifty percent of black faculty in traditionally white research universities received their bachelor's degrees at an HBCUs, and

**WHEREAS**, More than 80 percent of all black Americans who received degrees in medicine and dentistry were trained at traditionally black institutions of medicine and dentistry.

**WHEREAS**, There are 4 HBCU medical schools, Meharry Medical College (TN), Morehouse School of Medicine (GA), Charles R. Drew School of Medicine and Science (CA), and Howard University School of Medicine (DC), and

**WHEREAS**, Xavier University of Louisiana is ranked #1 nationally in placing African-Americans into medical school and Howard University is ranked #1 in graduating PhDs, and

**WHEREAS**, HBCU graduates include: Mary McLeod Bethune; Dr. Charles Drew, physician and medical researcher; W.E.B. DuBois, sociologist, educator; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize; Christa McAuliffe, first educator in space; Kenneth B. Clark, psychologist; Thurgood Marshall, Supreme Court Justice; Leontyne Price, world renowned opera soprano; and many others too numerous to mention, and

**WHEREAS**, Louisiana has several outstanding HCBUs, including Dillard University in New Orleans, Grambling State University in Grambling, Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, SUNO, Southern University in New Orleans, Southern University at Shreveport, and Xavier University of New Orleans, and

**WHEREAS**, even today, there are 107 HBCUs with more than 228,000 students enrolled. Most of them (87) of the institutions are four-year colleges or universities, and 20 are two-year institutions. In the past, more than 80 percent of all black college graduates have been trained at these HBCUs. Today, HBCUs enroll 20 percent of black undergraduates. However, HBCUs award 40 percent of baccalaureate degrees earned by black college students, and

**WHEREAS**, In recognition of the vast contributions and the role that HBCUs have played historically in enhancing equal educational opportunity for all students, the St. John School Board salutes America’s HCBUs for preserving, for future generations, its centuries-old traditions that benefit us all; and add color and beauty to the tapestry of our American society; now, therefore,

**Be it further RESOLVED**, That this Board on Behalf of our superintendent, administrators, faculty, staff, and students proclaims February 2016 as Black History Month in the St. John the Baptist Parish public Schools; and

**Be it further RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be placed in the minutes, the archives, and official records of the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord 2016."

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ITEM 12. ADJOURNMENT - The agenda having been completed, and there being no further business, there was a

MOTION BY: Burl

SECOND BY: Johnson

MOTION: Motion for adjournment.

There were no objections.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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Kevin R. George, Secretary

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Keith Jones, President