



# St. Mary Parish Schools

474 Highway 317 ◦ P.O. Box 170 ◦ Centerville, LA 70522  
337-836-9661 ◦ www.stmaryk12.net

## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

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*VICE-PRESIDENT*  
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District X

**Rhonda R. Dennis**  
District XI

## Saint Mary Parish Special Education Advisory Council

### Annual Report-May 2024 for the school Year 23-24

#### SMPSB SEAC Members for 2023-24:

Mr. David Hanagriff (parent/chairman)

Ms. Jennifer Collins Lancelin (community representative representative)

Mr. David Hanagriff (parent/chairman) Dr. Julie Price (parent)

Ms. Adrianna Barto (parent)

Ms. Leguya Brown (SPED teacher)

Mr. Keren Jamison (parent)

Ms. Melissa Lee (SPED teacher)

Ms. Brianna Comeaux (principal)

Ms. Ka'Riana Hatcherson (student)

#### General Meeting information:

The Saint Mary Parish Special Advisory Council (SEAC) meet on the following dates at the Evans Medine Meeting Room 474 HWY 317, Centerville ,LA 70522AT 4:00 P.M., a quorum was reached a two of the three scheduled meetings.

November 8, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m.

March 13, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.

May 8, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.

#### November 8, 2023, Meeting Highlights:

A quorum was not achieved with only four members in attendance at the meeting. The agenda items were briefly discussed for informational purposes only with no official decisions or actions taken. The minutes from the May 9, 2023 meeting will be approved at a later meeting once a quorum is reached. Introduction of SEAC committee members that attended the meeting. Special services staff that attended the meeting introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of their professional background in special education. Mrs. Carmen LaGarde, coordinator of special services provided a handout and a summary on LEAP connect for elementary schools. Dr. Katherine Drexler, coordinator of jr. high/ high schools provided a summary on LEAP connect as well. Special Olympics bowling was held on Oct. 27, 2023. It was a great successful event with great feedback with a lot of community support.

Meeting Adjourned

Superintendent  
**Buffy S. Fegenbush, Ed. D.**



### **March 13, 2024, Meeting Highlights:**

A quorum was reached at this meeting with six members in attendance the floor was opened for nominations for chairman hearing none Dr.Fegenbush made a motion to appoint Mr. David Hanagriff as the SEAC chairperson . SEAC minutes were approved from the May 9, 2023, and Nov. 8, 2023, meetings. Ms. Tiffany Wilson, a representative from Autism Awareness of Saint Mary Parish provided a detailed informational summary and a calendar of events for Autism Awareness month. Information regarding the upcoming special education track meet which will be held on March 8,2024 at 10: 00p.m. at Patterson High School stadium. Information was received regarding ACT / LEAP / LEAP Connect testing.

Meeting Adjourned

### **May 8, 2024, Meeting Highlights:**

The Special Advisory Council met on May,8,2024 at the Evans Medine boardroom a quorum was met. Ms. Lee made a motion seconded by Ms. Comeaux for approval of meeting minutes on March 13, 2024. Introduction of guest speaker by Ms. McClarity. Mrs. Jennifer Collins/Lancelin, the executive director of Community of Friends, Inc. is a 501(c) nonprofit organization supporting individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities to participate in their communities with other individuals with or without disabilities. Mrs. Lancelin discussed the importance of transition for individuals with intellectual disabilities after high school graduation and emphasized the need for support and resources to help them succeed into adulthood. She introduced her grandson Kameron who graduated from high school and is now working in the community. She stated that the journey has been challenging due to the limited resources and services available in St. Mary Parish. Mrs.Lancelin anticipates that the SPED committee will have further discussions for the transition of special needs students from high school next year and collaborate with the St. Mary Parish Board and local organizations to address those transition needs.

Mrs. Sandra Saucier also presented information on the Brittany's Project which is another organization which serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Brittany's Project is funded through donations and contributions from fundraisers and sponsorships. Mrs. Sandra Saucier shared her personal story and the purpose of the Brittany's Project, which was named after her daughter. Mrs. Saucier and her husband Bruce started the project to help others with similar experiences, after discovering Brittany's illness which took five years to diagnose. Each month the project offers fun and extracurricular activities for children with special needs. A Special Friend Camp is held the last week of June for the students it is open to all individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability from ages 6to96.



Updates were given concerning testing which ends May 17,2024. Special Olympics Track Meet was held on Friday, April 12,2024 after a reschedule because of inclement weather. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

**Comments from Committee Members or Attendees:**

Ms. Lancelin stated that several families have expressed concerns but are unable to attend the meetings scheduled for 4:00p.m. as most of their children are not home at that time. Mr. Hanagriff suggested acknowledging special needs students for upcoming meetings. With there being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the motion carried.