

Centerville, Louisiana

August 8, 2024

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana, with the following members answering to roll call:

Present: Ms. Guienzy M. Brent, Ms. Tammie L. Moore, Mrs. Lindsey T. Anslem, Ms. Debra R. Jones, Mrs. Ginger S. Griffin, Ms. Marilyn P. LaSalle, Mr. Murphy J. Pontiff Jr., Mr. Chad M. Paradee, Mrs. Alaina L. Black, Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso, and Mrs. Rhonda R. Dennis.

Invocation

Mr. Holmes gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

President Black led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Appearances:

Recognition of newly appointed positions:

Ms. Estay recognized and congratulated the new appointees as follows:

- John Campbell (West St. Mary High School Assistant Principal)
- Suzette Charpentier (West St. Mary High School Principal)
- Ashley Clark (Secondary Supervisor and Parish Athletic Director)
- Monique Estay (Dean of Students, W. P. Foster Elementary School)
- Charles Foulcard (Patterson Junior High School Assistant Principal)
- Janet Francois (Dean of Students, Wyandotte Elementary School)
- Almetra Pierce-Stanbury (Coordinator of Secondary Special Services)
- Helen Salmon (Hattie A. Watts Elementary Assistant Principal)
- Jill Tamporello (McKinney-Vento Liaison)

Recognition of VAM 4 Educators:

Ms. Estay recognized and congratulated the VAM 4 Educators as follows:

- Rachel Aucoin (Berwick Elementary School)
- Michele Colley (B. Edward Boudreaux Middle School)
- Amy Gilliam (Franklin Junior High School)
- Maybelle Klein (Wyandotte Elementary School)

Provide information on school-based health clinics in St. Mary Parish Schools.

Dr. Gary Wiltz was not in attendance at the meeting. As a result, his presentation will be rescheduled for the regular school board meeting on September 12, 2024.

Approval of Amended Agenda.

Mrs. Dennis made a motion and seconded by Ms. Brent to amend the agenda to include a legal discussion regarding litigation that the Board had voted for prior to the meeting. All in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Official School Board Minutes.

Mr. Mancuso offered the motion and Ms. Moore offered the second to approve the official school board minutes from the regular school board meeting held on July 11, 2024, and minutes from the Budget Workshop held on July 30, 2024. All in favor and the motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda.

President Black stated that Board Members can remove any of the items on the consent agenda for further discussion in the regular proceedings. Dr. Fegenbush read aloud the items on the consent agenda as follows:

New Business

Personnel:

Item 2. *Approve revised 180-day Bus Driver Calendar for 2024-2025 school year.

Item 3. *Approve revisions of the St. Mary Parish School Board Comprehensive Salary and Classification 2024-2025 (Goldbook).

A. *EL and Title I Liaison index correction (page 10)

Item 5. *Approve engagement of auditors to perform new agreed upon procedures as mandated by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor for the years ended June 30, 2024, 2025, and 2026.

Item 6. *Proclamation(s):

A. *Suicide Prevention Awareness Month (September).

Item 8. *Approve Intergovernmental Agreement between St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office and St. Mary Parish School Board for School Resource Officers (K-9 Services).

Ms. Moore made a motion to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda, with the exception of pulling Item 3 C and Item 7 for further discussion. Mr. Mancuso made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.

New Business:

Personnel:

Item 1. Approval of policies from Forethought Consulting as revised by Hammonds and Sill and reviewed by the St. Mary Parish School Board Policy Committee.

Mr. Mancuso reported that the Policy Committee met on July 30, 2024 at 4:00 p.m., at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana to discuss the following policies. There was one revision made to policy Interscholastic Athletics (IDFA).

- A.** Buildings and Grounds Management (EB)
- B.** Employee Smoking, Tobacco, and Marijuana Use (GAMA)
- C.** Home Study Program (IDCH)
- D.** Co-Curricular Activities and Extracurricular Activities (IDE)
- E.** Interscholastic Athletics (IDFA)
- F.** Grading System (IHA)
- G.** Truancy (JBE)
- H.** Student Smoking, Tobacco and Marijuana Use (JCDA)
- I.** Student Use of Electronic Telecommunication Devices (JCDAE)
- J.** Discipline (JD)
- K.** Suspension (JDD)
- L.** Expulsion (JDE)
- M.** Child Abuse (JGCE)
- N.** Behavioral Health Support for Students (JGCF) **NEW POLICY**
- O.** Behavioral Health Services for Students (JGCF)

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and seconded by Ms. Jones to approve all policies as described in Item 1 A - 1 O. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 3. Approve revisions of the St. Mary Parish School Board Comprehensive Salary and Classification 2024-2025 (Goldbook).

B. Salary Schedule Milestone recognition at step 10, 20, 30 (page 3, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21).

Mr. Paradee made a motion and seconded by Ms. Moore to approve the Salary Schedule Milestone recognition at step 10, 20, 30 (page 3, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21)

of the St. Mary Parish School Board Comprehensive Salary and Classification 2024-2025 (Goldbook).

During discussion on the salary schedule milestone recognition at step 10, 20, and 30, Ms. LaSalle requested that the amount being approved for this item be placed on record in the minutes.

Dr. Fegenbush stated that the amount being approved for this item is \$291,000 with an estimated amount of \$260,000 or \$261,000 from the General Fund and the remaining amount from the Maintenance and School Food Service Funds.

All in favor and the motion carried, with Mr. Mancuso abstaining to vote due to an immediate family being employed by the St. Mary Parish School Board.

Item 3. Approve revisions of the St. Mary Parish School Board Comprehensive Salary and Classification 2024-2025 (Goldbook).

C. Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) certified and Support Staff Stipends (page 4)

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and seconded by Ms. Moore to approve revisions for the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) certified and Support Staff Stipends. All in favor and the motion carried.

Business Affairs

Item 4. Discuss and/or take action regarding a resolution to provide for the selection of the St. Mary Parish School Board's representative to the St. Mary Parish Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP) committee ("committee") according to Executive Order JML 23-24; to provide for an alternate representative; to provide for reporting.

Mr. Evan Boudreaux, the Director of St. Mary Economic Development, briefly explained the new procedures of the St. Mary Parish Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP), which applies to ITEP applications pursued after the Governor's Executive Order in February 2024. It was recommended that the Board approve a resolution to provide for the selection of the St. Mary Parish School Board's representative to the St. Mary Parish Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP) committee ("committee") according to Executive Order JML 23-24; and to provide an alternate representative.

Mr. Mancuso made a motion and seconded by Ms. Moore to approve the resolution authorizing the Superintendent of St. Mary Parish schools as the School Board's representative on the Local Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP) Committee and designate the current School Board President as an alternate representative, should the Superintendent be unable to attend the Local Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP) Committee meetings. All in favor and the motion carried.

Item 7. Approve Increase of Visitor Meal Cost.

Ms. LaSalle stated that she pulled Item 7 from the consent agenda to inform the public about the increased cost of visitor meals.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and seconded by Mr. Mancuso to approve the increase of the visitor lunch meal price from \$4.75 to \$5.25 and the breakfast meal price to remain at \$3.50. All in favor and the motion carried.

Added Agenda Item Regarding Opioid Settlement

Attorney Bob Hammonds stated the reason for the added agenda item was due to participation in a new proposed national opioid settlement, which has a submission deadline of August 12, 2024.

Several months ago, the St. Mary Parish School Board voted to participate in a class action lawsuit regarding opioid related issues. A new proposed national opioids settlement has been reached with Kroger. The settlement requires Kroger to pay \$1,200,000,000 to participating states and political subdivisions of the states. Any funds received would be primarily for the purpose of opioid education programs.

Ms. LaSalle made a motion and seconded by Ms. Brent to participate in the opioid settlement and to authorize the Board President to sign the agreement. All in favor and the motion carried.

Reports

Committees:

Staff Report:

Chief Financial Officer's Report:

Sale Tax Update

Mr. Perry reported that the sales tax collections for the first month into the new year and July's collections were \$2,046,323 versus a budget of \$2,058,333.

Financial Statements (Major Funds Only):

The Board was provided financial statements for major funds only to review at their leisure.

Other Significant Items:

Mr. Perry stated that a public hearing will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 5:15 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana, to allow for public input and to officially adopt the St. Mary Parish School Board Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Fegenbush reported that Wednesday, August 7th was the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.

As of today, only 240 students out of 7223 students have not completed reenrollment for the 2024-2025 school year.

As previously reported, seventeen of St. Mary Parish school sites received safety grants totaling over \$1,000,000 from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. The five remaining schools are in the second round of consideration for budget. As a result, schools this week began receiving open gate walkthrough security systems that will enhance the daily operations in school events.

Lastly, she expressed gratitude to the members of the Ministerial Alliance and everyone who participated in a prayer tour for St. Mary schools for this new school year.

Closing:

Resolutions of Respect

Ms. Estay read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Lois Hawkins (retired home economics schoolteacher), Joyce Madison Jones (retired school paraprofessional), Barbara Thibodeaux (retired school cafeteria technician), and Minns Robertson, Jr. (retired high school math teacher).

Adjournment:

With there being no further business to address, Mrs. Griffin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m. Ms. Moore made a second, all in favor and the motion carried.