



MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Voting Members

Guienzy Brent, Board Member
Tammie Moore, Board Member - Vice President
Lindsey Anslem, Board Member
Debra Jones, Board Member
Chad Paradee, Board Member
Alaina Black, Board Member - President
Andrew Mancuso, Board Member
Rhonda Dennis, Board Member
Lawrence Guillory, School Board Member

Absent Members

Ginger Griffin, Board Member
Marilyn LaSalle, Board Member

I. Meeting Called to Order (Mrs. Black)

On behalf of President Black, the meeting was officially called to order by Vice-President Tammie Moore.

1. Roll Call (Dr. Fegenbush)

The roll call was conducted by Dr. Fegenbush.

II. Opening of Regular Meeting

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana for the following purposes and to take whatever actions necessary. The meeting may be viewed online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnZ1z15loF_FZnVcBe09cRQ

1. Invocation (Mr. Holmes)

Mr. Holmes gave the invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America (Mrs. Black)

On behalf of President Black, Vice-President Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

3. Introduction of Students and Employees of the Month (Mrs. Black)

Principal Jared Ross of Centerville High School recognized and introduced Students and Employees of the Month as follows:

- A. Centerville High School: Thomas Martinez, 5th Grade Student, and Kasey Trahan, Teacher
- B. Centerville High School: Kye Gunner, 8th Grade Student, and Kalie Martin, Teacher
- C. Centerville High School: Jace Cooks, 12th Grade Student, and Katie Ortego, Teacher

III. Appearances

Ms. Ashley Clark, the secondary supervisor and parish athletic director, announced that several state champions will be acknowledged for their dedication and hard work in both academics and athletics.

- 1. **Recognition of Duc Bui, an 11th grade student at Morgan City High School for achieving a composite score of 36 on the ACT. (Ms. Clark)**

Duc Bui, an 11th-grade student at Morgan City High School, will be recognized for achieving a perfect composite score of 36 on the ACT. This recognition will be moved to the May agenda.

- 2. **Recognition of Berwick High School student Hailey Brown for Lady Panther Powerlifting District III State Champion. (Ms. Clark)**

Coach Zachary Stewart introduced and honored Berwick High School student Haley Brown for her outstanding achievement as the Lady Panther Powerlifting District 3 State Champion.

- 3. **Recognition of Franklin Senior High School Hornets Boys Division IV Non-Select State Championship. (Ms. Natasha Jackson)**

Principal Natasha Jackson of Franklin High School recognized the Hornets Boys Basketball team and coaches for the Division IV Non-Select State Championship. Each member of the team was given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

IV. Approval of Amended Agenda (Mrs. Black)

V. Approval of Official School Board Minutes (Mrs. Black)

- 1. **Regular Meeting: March 13, 2025**

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the official school board minutes from the regular school board meeting held on March 13, 2025, as presented.

Motion made by: Guienzy Brent

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda (Mrs. Black)

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.

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the following consent agenda as presented by Dr. Fegenbush.

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

- 1. ***Proclamations:**

- A. ***National Administrative Professionals' Week (Ms. Mitchell)**

- B. ***National Assistant Principals' Week (Ms. Mitchell)**
- C. ***National Autism Awareness Month (Ms. Mitchell)**
- D. ***National Library Week (Ms. Mitchell)**
- E. ***Week of the Young Child (Ms. Mitchell)**
- 2. ***Request permission to obtain proposals for a newspaper to serve as the official journal for the school board for the year commencing July 1, 2025. (Mrs. Voisin)**
- 3. ***Field Trips**
 - A. ***Bayou Vista Elementary School travel to National Beta Convention, June 26-30, 2025, Orlando, Florida. (Dr. Sanders)**
 - B. ***Patterson High School travel to 2025 International Search Competition, May 30-June 2, 2025, College Park, Maryland. (Dr. Sanders)**
 - C. ***Patterson High School travel to Disney Youth Leadership Program and National Beta Convention, June 22-July 1, 2025, Orlando, Florida. (Dr. Sanders)**
 - D. ***Berwick High, Morgan City High, and Patterson High School travel to Educators Rising National Conference, June 25-29, 2025, in Orlando, Florida. (Dr. Sanders)**

VII. Personnel

- 1. **Approve 180, 182, 200, 210, 220, and 240 Employee Calendars for 2025-26 school year. (Ms. Estay)**

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve 180, 182, 200, 210, 220, and 240 Employee Calendars for the 2025-26 school year, as presented by Ms. Estay.

Motion made by: Chad Paradee

Motion seconded by: Lindsey Anslem

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

VIII. Business Affairs

- 1. **To consider and take action with respect to adopting a resolution ordering and calling a special election to renew an existing sales tax to be held October 11, 2025. (Mr. Jason Akers)**

Mr. Jason Akers, with Foley and Judell, discussed a resolution calling for a special election in St. Mary Parish to renew 0.45 percent sales and use tax for school purposes. This tax, initially approved in 2021 with over 60% voter support, supplements the salaries of teachers and other school personnel. The renewal election is scheduled for October 11th, the next available election day. Approval requires a simple majority (50% plus one vote) from the voters. If approved by the Board, the resolution will be submitted to the state bond commission, Secretary of State, and attorney general to ensure it is on the ballot.

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the resolution ordering and calling a special election to renew the existing sales tax to be held on October 11, 2025, as presented by Mr. Jason Akers.

Motion made by: Chad Paradee

Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent

Voting:

Guienzy Brent - Yes

Tammie Moore - Yes

Lindsey Anslem - Yes

Debra Jones - Yes
Chad Paradee - Yes
Alaina Black - Yes
Andrew Mancuso - Yes
Rhonda Dennis - Yes
Lawrence Guillory - Yes

2. Consider and take action regarding the 2024 .45 percent Sales Tax Salary Supplement Disbursement. (Mrs. Black)

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the 2024 .45 percent sales tax salary supplement disbursement, as presented by Dr. Fegenbush.

Andrew Mancuso abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest involving his wife being a teacher for the St. Mary Parish School Board.

Motion made by: Rhonda Dennis

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Guienzy Brent - Yes
Tammie Moore - Yes
Lindsey Anslem - Yes
Debra Jones - Yes
Chad Paradee - Yes
Alaina Black - Yes
Andrew Mancuso - Abstain
Rhonda Dennis - Yes
Lawrence Guillory - Yes

3. Request for Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) – FCC Cybersecurity Pilot Program Grant. (Mr. Vead)

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the Request for Proposal (RFP)- FCC Cybersecurity Pilot Program Grant, as presented by Mr. Vead.

Motion made by: Chad Paradee

Motion seconded by: Andrew Mancuso

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

4. Request for Allocation of \$3 Million for Student Device Refresh Initiative. (Mr. Vead)

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the allocation of \$3 million for student device refresh initiative, as presented by Mr. Vead.

Motion made by: Debra Jones

Motion seconded by: Andrew Mancuso

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

5. Award bids for J. S. Aucoin Boiler Replacement. (Mr. Wiese)

Mr. Andrew Rodriguez, a mechanical engineer from Associated Design Group, presented the bid specifications for the J. S. Aucoin Elementary boiler replacement project. The project had an estimated construction cost of \$180,000. On March 20th, two bids were received, with Air Plus LLC being the lowest bidder at \$170,500. After reviewing the bids, it was recommended to accept the low bidder and award the project to Air Plus LLC.

A motion was made and duly seconded to award bids for J. S. Aucoin Elementary Boiler Replacement to the lowest bid from Air Plus, LLC. The total project cost, including engineering fees, would cost \$187,094.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Rhonda Dennis

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

IX. Committee Reports

1. The Discipline Committee met on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. (Ms. Jones)

The Discipline Committee met on Tuesday, March 25th, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. Miss Jones led the meeting and discussed various policy changes, primarily for K through 5. The key points were:

The consequence for willful disobedience was proposed to change from Level 2 to Level 1 for K-5 students only.

The policy on the use of profane or obscene language was expanded to include inappropriate gestures and derogatory slurs.

The consequence for leaving the classroom without permission was proposed to change from Level 2 to Level 1 for K through 5.

The discussion on threats to St. Mary Parish employees were tabled for further clarification.

The discussion on the cell phone pouch policy will be revisited by the Committee.

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve Item 1, 2, and 3 infractions regarding K-5 students.

Motion made by: Debra Jones

Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

2. The District Climate Committee met on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. (Mrs. Anslem)

Mrs. Anslem reported that the Climate Committee met on Tuesday, March 25th, 2025, for their first meeting. The committee discussed and approved changing the committee's name to "Culture and Climate Committee" to enhance understanding among parents and community members. A vision statement was established, and the frequency of future meetings was determined.

The committee also considered conducting an external climate survey for the parish to better gauge community opinions and inform improvements. Following a presentation by Panorama Education and a review of associated costs, it was decided that further discussions regarding the survey will take place after the upcoming budget meeting.

A motion was made and duly seconded to accept the report of the Climate Committee.

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem

Motion seconded by: Andrew Mancuso

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

3. Set time and date for Maintenance District I Special Project Meeting. (Mr. Wiese)

Maintenance District I Special Project Meeting will meet on May 6, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex.

4. Set time and date for Maintenance District II Special Project Meeting. (Mr. Wiese)

Maintenance District II Special Project Meeting will meet on May 6, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex.

5. Set time and date for Maintenance District III Special Project Meeting. (Mr. Wiese)

Maintenance District III Special Project Meeting will meet on May 7, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex.

X. Staff Reports

1. Chief Financial Officer's Report (Mrs. Voisin)

A. Sales Tax Update

Mrs. Voisin reported that the sales tax collections for March 2025, which are nine months into the fiscal year, were \$1,823,000, with 14 percent favorable, which is \$235,000 under budget. However, year-to-date is still over budget.

B. Financial Statements (Major Funds Only)

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

C. Other Significant Items

There were no other significant items to report.

XI. Superintendent's Report (Dr. Fegenbush)

Dr. Fegenbush announced that since the last board meeting, several exciting events and accomplishments have been discussed.

The district's first robotics team, led by Miss Candy Caesar, competed and placed 21st out of 55 teams. Celebrations for talented students, including honor band performances and pre-educator competitions.

The release of ACT scores and the successful administration of State Dibbles reading level testing for younger students were notable achievements.

Upcoming job fairs on April 26th (9 AM - 12 PM): Focused on teaching and support staff positions within St. Mary Parish Schools, and May 5th (5:30 PM - 7:30 PM): Aimed at graduating seniors and community members seeking employment in various fields, in collaboration with local community stakeholders. Both events will be held at Centerville High School.

On April 4th, National School Librarian Day is observed to honor those who keep the St. Mary Parish school libraries running smoothly.

This week, St. Mary Parish Schools celebrate the important work of assistant principals. While the job can be demanding, assistant principals in St. Mary Parish handles it with dedication and skill, reflecting their commitment to supporting students, teachers, and schools.

Spring break begins at the close of operations tomorrow and extends through Monday, April 21st. Students will return on Tuesday, April 22nd.

XII. Resolution of Respect (Ms. Estay)

Ms. Estay read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Cleveland Jackson (retired school bus driver), Laura Marshall (retired school teacher), Linda Miller (retired school teacher), Marilyn Pye (retired special education paraprofessional), and Hilliard Smith (former custodian).

XIII. Closing - Adjournment (Mrs. Black)

A motion was made and duly seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Unanimously Approved