



St. Mary Parish School Board Special
Education Advisory Committee
02/03/2025 04:00 PM
Evans Medine Meeting Room
474 Highway 317
Centerville, LA 70522

MEETING MINUTES

The St. Mary Parish School Board Special Education Advisory Committee met on Monday, February 3, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana for the following purposes to discuss and to take whatever actions necessary. The meeting may be viewed online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnZ1z15loF_FZnVcBe09cRQ

Attendees

Voting Members

Adrianna Barto
Brianna Comeaux, Chairperson
Melissa Lee
Avery Price
Julie Price

Absent Members

Walleeta August
Jennifer Collins-Lanceslin
Nekima Jack
Keren Jamison

I. Meeting Called to Order (Dr. Comeaux)

II. Opening of Committee Meeting

1. Roll Call (Dr. Fegenbush)

The roll call was conducted by Dr. Fegenbush.

III. Approval of Minutes (Dr. Comeaux)

1. November 4, 2024 Committee Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee held on November 4, 2024, as presented.

Motion made by: Melissa Lee

Motion seconded by: Adrianna Barto

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

IV. New Business

1. Gifted and Talented in St. Mary Parish (Susan Tregle)

Ms. Susan Tregle explained the overview of the gifted and talented program.

The purpose is to identify and nurture the exceptional abilities of our students in academics, art, music, and theatre.

Engagement - The program serves 684 students weekly, showcasing its extensive reach across various disciplines, including academics, art, music, and theatre, reflecting the district's commitment to gifted and talented education.

Gifted students are those with exceptional academic abilities. These students require differentiated and challenging enrichment services beyond those provided in general school programming.

Enrichment: Lessons in enrichment supplement the regular classroom with higher-level thinking skills. Activities requiring critical and creative thinking may take the form of creative writing, art, research, leadership, logic, problem-solving, literature analysis, or cultural exposure.

A. Annual Process for Selection

Screening Process for the Gifted:

Meet specific academic criteria:

- standardized test scores
- classroom performance

May be recommended by teachers, parents, or other stakeholders.
Undergo cognitive and academic evaluation by pupil appraisal according to Bulletin 1508.

Screening Process for Talented:

1. The screening begins at the school level with a signed permission form or a written request from the parents sent to SBLC.
2. Tangible evidence of a student's work, such as programs from recitals or plays, or a portfolio of artwork, must be provided.
3. Those students passing the screening process are evaluated at the state level.

B. Services Offered and Growth of Programs

The Talented Theatre Program fosters the development of the student's individualized vision and personal style of expression in the performing arts through introductory and advanced training in all elements of the Theatre Arts.

Opportunities:

- Students have performance opportunities at the school and district level.
- Frozen Jr., Santa's Neighborhood Room 1225, Annie Jr., and Clue are recent performances in St. Mary Parish. The talented theater teachers work numerous hours outside of school hours to provide these opportunities for St. Mary Parish students.

The Talented Music Program is designed for students who demonstrate remarkable musical abilities, providing them with opportunities to develop their talent through advanced instruction.

Opportunities:

- Performance opportunities at the school and district level.,
- Showcases
- Assistance with college band auditions.

Talented art students with exceptional visual art skills are provided with specialized instruction and opportunities to refine their craft.

Opportunities:

- LSBA's art contest, where SMP recently entered outstanding student work.
- St. Mary Parish art Show, showcasing the creativity and talent of our students.
- LSU School of Art Statewide High School Exhibition.
- Nicholls State University High School Student Art Day.

2. Arts Jam Update (Susan Tregle)

Upcoming Events:

- Evaluations - 169 students will be state-evaluated for the talented program in the coming months.
- Arts Jams - April 7th and 8th at Teche Theatre in Franklin - a showcase of St. Mary Parish gifted and talented students.
- St. Mary Parish Student Art Show - Art Guild in Morgan City (dates will be announced on the School Board's website once finalized).

A. Art Projects for Students

Leila Sam, a student at Patterson High School, is representing her school as an artist. She discovered her talent for art at around eight years old, thanks to her PE teacher, Mrs. Bennett, who encouraged her to pursue it. Leila has since expressed her creativity through various mediums, including canvases and windows. She has even started her own window painting business, which has gained popularity recently. After graduating, Leila plans to attend LSU State College to pursue a veterinary career while minoring in the arts. She is passionate about art and is excited to share her work, which she creates with great emotion, technique, patience, and love.

Larkin, a 10th grader at Centerville High, is highly talented in theater and has been part of the Talented Theater program since fourth grade. He's currently involved in a production of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, playing Augustus. He also auditioned for Mean Girls with the St. Mary Parish Drama Club. Additionally, he's currently working on a film noir for a Black History production, which includes several local schools. As a student at Centerville High, he will be representing the Bulldog Nation in this production and other school performances. Larkin's passion for theater has not only helped him express himself, but it has also inspired him to pursue a career in theater. He plans to attend Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, after graduating from Centerville High School.

B. Presentation of Choir and/or Soloist

Torin and Tenley, the multi-talented brother and sister duo, will be performing "Let it Be." Torin, a sixth grader at Patterson Junior High School, has been in the Talented Music Program since fourth grade. Tenley, a fourth grader at Hattie Watts Elementary School, has been in the program since second grade.

Savannah and Daniela, best friends from Berwick High School, performed a violin duet. They are both in 10th grade with perfect 4.0 GPA's. They were recently accepted into the Parish Honor Band. Savannah has been in the gifted and talented program since 5th grade, while Daniela joined in

8th grade.

Duc, a student from Morgan City High School, couldn't attend due to other obligations. He is a 4.0 student, gifted in both art and music. He recently performed with the Louisiana Symphonic Band in New Orleans and will perform at the Stately Oaks Music Festival in Baton Rouge this Saturday. He is the only student from St. Mary Parish to be accepted for this festival, and he is currently practicing for it.

3. Comments from Committee Members or Attendees

No comments.

V. Closing

VI. Adjournment (Dr. Comeaux)

A motion was made and duly seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

Motion made by: Melissa Lee

Motion seconded by: Adrianna Barto

Voting:

Unanimously Approved