



MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Voting Members

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

I. Meeting Called to Order (Mrs. Black)

The meeting was officially called to order by President Black.

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, May 8, 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)

President Black 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)

A. M. E. Norman Elementary: Parker Mason, 5th Grade Student, and Lori Jo Case, Teacher

Principal Ronica LaPoint recognized and introduced Parker Mason, a 5th grade student, as "Student of the Month" at M. E. Norman Elementary School.

Ms. Lori Jo Case was unable to attend the meeting due to other obligations. However, Principal Ronica LaPoint recognized Lori Jo Case, a teacher, as "Employee of the Month" at M. E. Norman Elementary School.

B. St. Mary Parish Alternative Program: Yvonne Nunez, School Counselor

Principal Paul Broussard recognized and introduced Yvonne Nunez, a school counselor, as "Employee of the Month" at the St. Mary Parish Alternative Program.

C. Berwick Elementary School: Juliet St. Romain, 5th Grade Student, and Rebecca Pye, Assistant Principal

Principal Debbie Domingue recognized and introduced Juliet St. Romain, a 5th grade student, as "Student of the Month" at Berwick Elementary School.

Principal Debbie Domingue recognized and introduced Rebecca Pye, the Assistant Principal, as "Employee of the Month" at Berwick Elementary School.

III. Appearances

1. Recognition of newly appointed positions (Ms. Estay)

Ms. Estay introduced and recognized Mr. William Regard as the newly appointed St. Mary Parish Director of Maintenance. Mr. Regard will be replacing Mr. Brad Wiese, who recently announced his upcoming retirement.

2. Recognition of St. Mary Parish Educator Rising Students who qualified for National Conference (Ms. Clark)

St. Mary Parish Educator Rising Students were recognized as follows:

Leslie Smith, a teacher at Morgan City High School, introduced and recognized the following students who were present at the meeting:

- Tatianna Grogan (Sophomore): Placed in public speaking with a speech on teacher retention.
- Gavin Wilson (Junior): Placed in a creative lecture with a TED talk on the double-edged sword of AI.

Additionally, she acknowledged other students for their achievements:

- Emarielle Chatman, Layla Lopez, Madison Jones, and Carmen Johnson: Created a public service announcement on teacher recruitment.
- Mailey Velasquez: Wrote a children's book and placed in children's literature.
- Ava Ho: Placed in a creative lecture with a speech on the double-edged sword of AI.
- Jason McCleary: Gave a speech on his educator's rising moment.
- Kailyn Garcia: Created an interactive bulletin board for English 2 focusing on Gothic literature.

Tina Johnson, a teacher at Patterson High School, introduced and recognized the following students:

- Kailey Benjamin: Wrote a children's book, "Together We Shine" along with Paola Bobett Tores, who was unable to be at the meeting. They placed first in their division.
- Isaac Armagost: Wrote a children's book, "Don't Bully Willy" and placed fifth in his division.
- Ivelisha Denizac: Wrote a Spanish book "Changes Can Be Great" and placed third in her division.
- Emily Everett and Jeremiah Falgout: Created a bulletin board on sprinkling kindness.

Julie Canuel, a teacher at Berwick High School, introduced and recognized the following students:

- Baylee Guillory: Placed second in a service project where she discussed reading to elementary school kids at Berwick Elementary.
- Alyse Harrison: Placed first, along with Rylee Nguyen, for an interactive bulletin board designed for elementary students.

3. Recognition of St. Mary Parish Public Schools Resource Officers (Dr. Sanders)

Dr. Sanders recognized Public Schools Resource Officers as follows:

St. Mary Parish Public Schools School Resource Officers (SRO's)

Officer Chase Landry, Berwick Police Department
Corporal McCloures Manuel, Franklin Police Department
Officer Paige Garret, Morgan City Police Department
Corporal Joshua Diaz, Patterson Police Department
Deputy Ashley Rodrique, St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office
Lieutenant Walter Shepherd, St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office
Deputy Katherine Adams, St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office

Law Enforcement Personnel that work closely with our SRO's

Officer Ryes, Franklin Police Department
Sergeant Ashleigh Wilson, St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office
Lieutenant 1st Class Oscar West, St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office

Thanks to the chiefs of the Morgan City Police Department, Berwick Police Department, Patterson Police Department, Franklin Police Department, and Baldwin Police Department. Special thanks to the Sheriff of the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office.

4. Recognition of 2024-2025 Top Word-Millionaires in St. Mary Parish Public Schools (Ms. Ransonet)

Ms. Ransonet recognized the 2024-2025 Top World-Millionaires as follows:

The Top Word-Millionaire in the Elementary Division:

- Christopher Pacheco, a 5th grader at Berwick Elementary School who read 1,643,295 words.

The Top Word-Millionaire in the Secondary Division:

- Stanley Aucoin, a 9th grader at Berwick High School who read 3,884,654 words.

IV. Approval of Amended Agenda (Mrs. Black)

There was no amended agenda.

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

1. Regular Meeting: April 10, 2025

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the official school board minutes from the regular school board meeting held on Thursday, April 10, 2025, as presented.

Motion made by: Tammie Moore

Motion seconded by: Rhonda Dennis

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. ***School Lunch Hero Day (Ms. Mitchell)**
 - B. ***Teacher Appreciation Week (Ms. Mitchell)**
2. ***Request permission to obtain proposals for student and athletic insurance for the year commencing August 1, 2025 (Mrs. Voisin)**
3. ***Permission to advertise bid for Custodial Supplies (Mr. Wiese)**

VII. Personnel

1. **Approve Reclassification of Administrative Assistant-Human Resources to Human Resources Manager (Ms. Estay)**

There was one public comment as follows:

Carla Pelerin, a parish citizen, questioned the internal management of payroll for over a thousand employees, noting the lack of trained backup for the IT staff. She found it interesting that such sensitive and complex functions are handled internally. It was noted that she was not an advocate of outsourcing.

A substitute motion was made and duly seconded to defer the reclassification of Administrative Assistant-Human Resources to Human Resources Manager until next month's meeting as presented by Ms. Estay.

Motion made by: Marilyn LaSalle

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Guienzy Brent - Yes

Tammie Moore - No

Lindsey Anslem - No

Debra Jones - Yes

Ginger Griffin - Yes

Marilyn LaSalle - Yes

Chad Paradee - No

Alaina Black - No

Andrew Mancuso - No

Rhonda Dennis - No

Lawrence Guillory - Yes

The substitute motion failed with 5 votes against and 6 votes in favor.

A motion was made and duly seconded to abolish the Administrative Assistant of Human Resources position and replace it with the new Human Resources Manager job description, as provided in the meeting packet. The new Human Resources Manager position will be effective as of July 1, 2025.

Motion made by : Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Rhonda Dennis

Voting:

Guienzy Brent-No
Tammie Moore-Yes
Lindsey Anslem-Yes
Debra Jones-No
Ginger Griffin-No
Marilyn LaSalle-No
Lawrence Guillory-Yes
Chad Paradee-Yes
Alaina Black-Yes
Andrew Mancuso-Yes
Rhonda Dennis-Yes

The motion passed with 7 votes in favor and 4 votes against.

2. Consider and take action on adding an additional Federal Programs Liaison position (Ms. Estay)

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the Federal Programs Liaison position as presented by Ms. Estay.

Motion made by: Tammie Moore

Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent

Voting:

Guienzy Brent - Yes
Tammie Moore - Yes
Lindsey Anslem - Yes
Debra Jones - Yes
Ginger Griffin - No
Marilyn LaSalle - Yes
Chad Paradee - Yes
Alaina Black - Yes
Andrew Mancuso - Yes
Rhonda Dennis - Yes
Lawrence Guillory – Yes

The motion passed with 10 votes in favor and 1 vote against.

VIII. Business Affairs

1. Receive Group Health Insurance Premium to Claims Summary Report (Mr. James Perez)

Mr. James Perez of DJW Insurance provided the Board with an updated Premium to Claims Summary through April 2025 on the Group Health Insurance Plan. He reported that there was a 2.3 percent loss ratio, comparing \$4.4 million in premiums for January to April with \$3.6 million in total claims. It was noted that medical claims are unusually low, even with a large claimant, while prescription drug claims are increasing, driven by GLP-1 medications, which account for over 25 percent of total prescription drug spending. The high cost of these drugs, averaging over \$1,100 in the United States compared to \$100 in the United Kingdom, was highlighted as a significant issue.

2. Adopt tax millage rates for the year 2025 and allow for a public comment period. (Mrs. Voisin)

Mrs. Becky Voisin briefly explained the process of the tax millage to board members. She read aloud Resolution No. 1 for the tax millage rates for the year 2025 as follows:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2025 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the St. Mary Parish School Board:

MILLAGE

GENERAL FUND:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Constitutional School Tax (1068051) | 8.83 mills |
| 2. Consolidated School District No. 5 (1068061) | 11.82 mills |

SPECIAL FUNDS (MAINTENANCE TAXES):

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Consolidated School District No. 3 (1068055) | 12.42 mills |
| 2. Consolidated School District No. 2 (1068054) | 12.73 mills |
| 3. Sixth Ward School District No. 3 (1068057) | 12.53 mills |

BOND RETIREMENT FUNDS:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Consolidated School District No. 1 (1068093) | 8.00 mills |
| 2. Special School District No. 4 (1068092) | 4.00 mills |
| 3. Fifth Ward Special School District No. 1 (1068106) | 20.00 mills |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2025, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

- YEAS:
- NAYS:
- ABSTAINED:
- ABSENT:

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the board meeting held on May 8, 2025, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Centerville, Louisiana, this 8th day of May, 2025.
(City, Town, Village)

Secretary/Treasurer

The floor was open for public comments. There were no public comments. A motion was made and seconded duly to approve the Resolution as presented by Mrs. Voisin.

Motion made by: Chad Paradee

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

- Guienzy Brent - Yes
- Tammie Moore - Yes
- Lindsey Anslem - Yes
- Debra Jones - Yes
- Ginger Griffin - Yes
- Marilyn LaSalle - Yes

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

The motion passed with 11 votes in favor and 0 votes against.

3. Receive bids and take appropriate action on Sixteen Section Land S16T 17S R12E Sweetbay Paradise Lease (Mr. Wiese)

Bids were opened on May 2, 2025, at 10:00 a. m. at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, LA. One bid was received from Harris A. Dehart, Jr. for the amount of \$7,777.77.

Mr. Brad Wiese commended that the Board accept the bid from Harris A. Dehart, Jr. for the annual lease of \$7,777.77, which starts on September 1, 2025, and ends August 31, 2035. The lease does not include alligators and harvesting alligator eggs.

A motion was made and duly seconded to accept the bid from Harris A. Dehart, Jr. for the amount of \$7,777.77.

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem

Motion seconded by: Lawrence Guillory

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

4. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding Per Diem Allowances for Meals (Dr. Fegenbush)

Recommendations for Per Diem Allowance are as follows:

- Change from \$15 to \$20 per day - Local travel, no overnight stay
- Change from \$30 to \$50 per day - with overnight travel, in-state (Exception of New Orleans)
- Change from \$40 to \$60 per day-with overnight travel to New Orleans or out-of-state

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the Per Diem Allowances for meals as presented by Dr. Fegenbush.

Motion made by: Tammie Moore

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

A substitute motion was made and duly seconded to add Baton Rouge to the Out of Parish with overnight lodging for Tier 1 (In-State cities with exception of New Orleans) and Tier II (New Orleans and out-of-State cities)

Motioned by: Lindsey Anslem

Seconded by: Marilyn LaSalle

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

IX. Committee Reports

1. District I Maintenance Committee (Ms. Guienzy M. Brent)

Ms. Brent reported that the District I committee members met on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room in Centerville,

Louisiana to consider the principals' special projects for the fiscal year 2025-2026 as presented by Mr. Brad Wiese, director of maintenance supervisor. These projects were reviewed on a school-by-school basis with the respective school principals in attendance and available for comment. The projects which were amended in some instances were approved and are now being recommended to the full board for approval. These approved projects will be presented this summer as part of St. Mary Parish School Board's Consolidated Maintenance District I budget. At that time, the full board will be presented recommendations for transfers into either the maintenance district and/or into the capital projects fund for the fiscal year 2025-2026.

Motion made by: Tammie Moore

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

2. District II Maintenance Committee (Mr. Chad M. Paradee)

Mr. Paradee reported that the District II Maintenance Committee met on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room in Centerville, Louisiana to discuss and approve funding for maintenance and capital projects for the 2025-2026 school year. The schools involved were Bayou Vista Elementary, Berwick Elementary, Berwick Junior High School, Berwick High School, Hattie Watts, Patterson Junior High School, and Patterson High School. The projects were reviewed on a school-by-school basis, with the respective principals in attendance and available for comment. The committee approved approximately \$1.1 million for general maintenance and approximately \$350,000 for capital projects, which is being recommended for the full Board's approval. Once approved, these funds will be used to address current repair and upkeep needs and designate funds for larger projects intended to be completed over the next few years.

Motion made by: Chad Paradee

Motion seconded by: Lindsey Anslem

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

3. District III Maintenance Committee (Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso)

Mr. Mancuso reported that the District III Maintenance Committee met on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room in Centerville, Louisiana to consider special projects requested by area school principals for the fiscal year 2025-2026. Proposed projects were presented by the maintenance director, Mr. Brad Wiese, and reviewed on a school-by-school basis. The committee voted to recommend approximately \$1.655 million worth of maintenance and capital improvement projects in the District III area to the full board for approval.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Rhonda Dennis

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

4. Set time and date for Policy Committee Meeting (Mr. Mancuso)

Mr. Mancuso reported that the Policy Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana.

X. Staff Reports

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

A. Sales Tax Update

Mrs. Voisin reported that the sales tax collections from July to April 2025, for ten months into the fiscal year, were \$2.441 million, with a 14 percent favorable, and \$383,000 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

Mrs. Voisin reported that she would present the 24-25 budget amendment for the Board's approval. This amendment addresses any major fund with a greater than 5 percent unfavorable revenue or expense variance.

XI. Superintendent's Report (Dr. Fegenbush)

Dr. Fegenbush announced that Pre-K enrollment is now open for the 25-26 school year at all St. Mary Parish schools. To be eligible, children must be four years old on or before September 30, 2025. Families can register online through the district website, and school sites are available to provide additional information or assistance.

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week. Students, families, and community members are encouraged to thank our teachers for their daily dedication. Teachers, along with school nurses and lunchroom staff, play a crucial role in shaping our students and schools.

Today marked the last official day for graduating seniors. Graduation ceremonies will be held on May 15th and 16th for various high schools. The district extends congratulations and best wishes to the class of 2025.

As the school year ends, the last day of the fourth nine-week grading period is May 22nd, with a report card day on May 23rd. Summer school and credit recovery classes will begin on June 2nd.

XII. Resolution of Respect (Ms. Estay)

Ms. Estay read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Sylvia Borne (retired special education teacher), Alfred Broussard, Jr. (retired math teacher), Gary Mitchell (retired P.E. coach and social studies teacher), Alan Pearson (retired maintenance technician), and Calvin Rodger (retired history and speech teacher).

XIII. Closing - Adjournment (Mrs. Black)

A motion was made and duly seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Unanimously Approved