



MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Voting Members

Guienzy Brent, Board Member
Tammie Moore, Board Member - Vice President
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, Board Member

Absent Members

Lindsey Anslem, Board Member

I. Meeting Called to Order (Mrs. Black)

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. 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, October 9, 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.

III. Appearances

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

Recognition of Students and Employees of the Month was introduced by their respective school principals. Each principal provided brief remarks highlighting the achievements and contributions of the honorees.

A. Bayou Vista Elementary School: Amari Dugas, 5th Grade Student and Bridget Mabile, Teacher

B. W. P. Foster Elementary School: Larry Smith, 5th Grade Student and Patrice Mathews, Teacher

C. Patterson Junior High School: Seth Howse, 5th Grade Student, John Fitch, 8th Grade Student, and Tracy Stelly, Teacher

IV. Approval of Amended Agenda (Mrs. Black)

There was no amended agenda.

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

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the minutes in globo for the public hearing and the regular school board meeting held on September 11, 2025.

Motion made by: Ginger Griffin

Motion seconded by: Rhonda Dennis

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

- 1. Public Hearing: September 11, 2025**
- 2. Regular Meeting: September 11, 2025**

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: Tammie Moore

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

- 1. * Field Trips**
 - A. *Franklin High School FFA travel to Mississippi Youth Expo at State Fairgrounds in Jackson, Mississippi (Dr. Sanders)**
- 2. *Proclamations**
 - A. * National Bullying Prevention Month (Ms. Mitchell)**
 - B. *Learning Disability Awareness Month (Ms. Mitchell)**
 - C. *Red Ribbon Week (Ms. Mitchell)**
 - D. *National Native American Heritage Month (Ms. Mitchell)**
 - E. *National Principals Month (Ms. Mitchell)**
 - F. *National School Lunch Week (Ms. Mitchell)**
 - G. *School Bus Safety Week (Ms. Mitchell)**
 - H. *Proclamation of Veterans Day (Ms. Mitchell)**

VII. Business Affairs

- 1. Provide an update and recommendation on commercial group health plan proposal (Mr. James Perez)**

Mr. James Perez reported that the initial renewal of the district's fully insured commercial group health plan was received on September 10th with a proposed 5 percent rate increase. A concession appeal was submitted the same day, and following updated September data, Blue Cross approved the appeal, with the final renewal rate reduced to 2.4 percent, lowering the budget impact from

approximately \$634,000 to under \$300,000, with no increase to employee premiums.

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the recommendations of Mr. Perez to proceed with renewing the fully insured commercial group health plan at the revised rate increase of 2.4 percent, and no increase to employee premiums for the benefit year of January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.

Motion made by: Marilyn LaSalle

Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

VIII. Committee Reports

1. The Special Education Advisory Council Committee met on September 15, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana. (Ms. McClarity)

On behalf of Ms. McClarity and chairperson, Dr. Bianna Comeaux, Dr. Fegenbush reported that although a quorum was not met on September 15, 2025, the meeting proceeded with business as scheduled. A key highlight was a presentation by three elementary special education providers, who shared strategies they use to support student success. Topics included:

- Inclusion practices
- High-quality interventions using appropriate materials
- Social-emotional learning components

Their presentations were well received and informative. Additionally, it was noted that there are currently two vacancies on the committee. A public call for parent involvement has been issued, specifically seeking parents of students who receive special services (excluding those in the gifted and talented program). The application period closes Monday, October 13, 2025, at 4:00 PM, after which two new parent committee members will be appointed.

IX. Staff Reports

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

A. Sales Tax Update

Mrs. Voisin reported that three months into the fiscal year, the year-to-date sales tax collections from July to – September are 8 percent unfavorable. Collected \$2,071,000 in September, which is \$268,000 under the monthly budget.

B. Financial Statements (Major Funds Only)

The financial statements are included in the board packets for members to review at their convenience.

C. Other Significant Items

There were no significant items presented for discussion.

X. Superintendent's Report (Dr. Fegenbush)

Dr. Fegenbush reported that October is National Principals Month; appreciation was extended to all site leaders.

Report cards will be distributed on October 14, 2025; Parent-Teacher Conference Day is October 17, 2025 (no-contact day). Parents are encouraged to reach out to schedule an appointment with their child's teachers if one has not been made.

In Louisiana, the October 1st student counts are used to calculate the minimum foundation program per pupil amount given to each school district. Enrollment on October 1 was 6,719 in grades K-12, down 240 from last year; total enrollment is 7,080.

The College and Career Fair will be held October 14th at the Berwick Civic Center with over 40 booths.

National School Lunch Week will be observed, with recognition given to child nutrition staff.

Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated with the theme: "Life is a canvas painted with dreams – BE DRUG FREE!"

Special Olympics Bowling: October 23, 2025 (Junior High School/High School), October 24, 2025 (Elementary).

On October 11, 2025, voters will consider renewing the 0.45 percent sales tax that supports salaries and benefits for school board employees. This is a renewal, originally approved in March 2021.

XI. Resolution of Respect (Ms. Estay)

Dr. Sanders read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Herbert Hernandez (retired principal).

XII. Executive Session

- 1. Consider entering into executive session, pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(2), to discuss prospective litigation concerning a tract of 16th Section Land leased by Morgan City Stevedores, LLC, and Lee Babin. (Mrs. Black)**

A motion was made and duly seconded to enter into the executive session.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Chad Paradee

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

XIII. Return to Regular Session

A motion was made and duly seconded in return to regular session.

Motion made by: Debra Jones

Motion seconded by: Tammie Moore

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

- 1. Consider any action necessary related to a tract of 16th Section Land leased by Morgan City Stevedores, LLC, and Lee Babin. (Mrs. Black)**

A motion was made and duly seconded to accept the council's recommendation.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Lawrence Guillory

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

XIV. Closing - Adjournment (Mrs. Black)

A motion was made and duly seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Motion made by: Tammie Moore

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Unanimously Approved