



## MEETING MINUTES

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### Attendance

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#### Voting Members

Guienzy Brent, Board Member  
Dr. Tammie Wilson, Board Member - Vice President  
Lindsey Anslem, Board Member  
Debra Jones, Board Member  
Marilyn LaSalle, Board Member  
Alaina Black, Board Member - President  
Andrew Mancuso, Board Member  
Rhonda Dennis, Board Member  
Lawrence Guillory, Board Member

#### Absent Members

Ginger Griffin, Board Member  
Chad Paradee, Board Member

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### I. Meeting Called to Order (Mrs. Black)

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Black.

#### 1. Roll Call (Dr. Sanders)

The roll call was conducted by Dr. Sanders.

### II. Opening of Regular Meeting

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, November 13, 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](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)

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 as follows:

- A. **Hattie Watts Elementary School: Cohen Plessala, 4th Grade Student, and Caren Richard, Teacher**
- B. **Morgan City Junior School: Gracie Grizzaffi, 8th Grade Student, and Hamid Demdoum, Teacher**

**C. West St. Mary High School: Amyrie' Barabin, 12th Grade Student, and Kendall Mouton, Teacher**

**III. Appearances:**

**1. Recognition of VAM teachers. (Ms. Estay)**

Ms. Estay recognized VAM teachers as follows:

- Heather Crappell of Bayou Vista Elementary School
- Nicole Boudreaux of Hattie Watts Elementary School
- Maria Wade of Hattie Watts Elementary School
- Mary Gilmore of Hattie Watts Elementary School
- Alyssa Rhodes of Hattie Watts Elementary School
- Maybell Klein of Wyandotte Elementary School
- Stanley Tate-Williams of W. P. Foster Elementary School
- Kim Mire of Raintree Elementary School
- Chaquilla Coleman of Raintree Elementary School
- Renata Colar of Raintree Elementary School
- Angela Kulka of Berwick Junior High School
- Carissa Domingue of Centerville High School
- Deseraye Johnson of Centerville High School
- Cedric Moore of Franklin High School

**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 regular school board meeting held on October 9, 2025, and the special meeting held on October 22, 2025, as presented.

Motion made by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Motion seconded by: Marilyn LaSalle

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

**1. Regular Meeting: October 9, 2025**

**2. Special Meeting: October 22, 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. Sanders 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. Sanders.

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem

Motion seconded by: Andrew Mancuso

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

**1. \* Field Trips**

**A. \*Berwick High School travel to Close-Up Foundation to Washington, DC on January 25-30, 2026. (Dr. Sanders)**

**B. \*Morgan City High School travel to Close-Up Foundation to Washington, DC on January 25-30, 2026. (Dr. Sanders)**

- C. **\*Franklin Junior High School travel to History and STEM Tour to Atlanta, Orlando, and Panama City on May 31-June 6, 2026. (Dr. Sanders)**
- 2. **\*Proclamations**
  - A. **\*National Special Education Day. (Ms. Mitchell)**
- 3. **\*Review of policies for consideration at the next regular board meeting. (Ms. Estay)**
  - A. **\*Equal Opportunity Employment (GAAA)**
  - B. **\*Education of Students with Exceptionalities (IDDF)**
  - C. **\*Cameras in Special Education Classrooms (IDDFC)**
  - D. **\*Equal Education Opportunities (JAA)**
  - E. **\*Discipline (JD)**
  - F. **\*Corporate Punishment (JDA)**
  - G. **\*Bids and Quotations (DJED)**
  - H. **\*Purchasing (DJE)**

**VII. Business Affairs**

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

Mr. James Perez provided the Board with an updated Premium to Claims Summary through October 2025 on the Group Health Insurance Plan, which reflects significantly lower numbers for the month. A correction was noted: medical claims total \$125,555 and prescription drug claims total \$487,117, with the overall total of \$612,672 remaining accurate. The decrease is partly due to a prior claim of \$233,018 being reversed, likely related to subrogation against Medicare or Medicaid. Even without this adjustment, October would still reflect a favorable month with a loss ratio of 79.7 percent; with the adjustment, the ratio is 57.72 percent. Efforts continue to seek additional concessions from Blue Cross beyond the current reduction from 5 percent to 2.5 percent, and updates will be provided at the next meeting.

- 2. **2026 Delta Dental voluntary employee-paid group dental plan renewal (report only). (Mr. James Perez)**

Mr. James Perez reported that the voluntary group dental plan, paid entirely by employee contributions, received a renewal from Delta Dental with a 10.8 percent premium increase. After reviewing market options, Delta Dental remained the most competitive. Negotiations secured a two-year rate guarantee, effective through January 2028. No board action required.

- 3. **2026 Blue Cross Blue Shield voluntary employee-paid group vision plan renewal (report only). (Mr. James Perez)**

Mr. James Perez reported that the Davis Vision plan through Blue Cross has been in place for approximately twelve years. This year, there was a very slight premium increase, and the plan remains fully employee-paid with no employer contribution. Due to the minimal adjustment, the plan was not sent out to the market for alternatives. Other vision networks do not include Walmart Vision Centers, which are widely utilized by employees, making Davis Vision the preferred option. Premium adjustment details were provided separately.

Open enrollment concluded today. Teams visited all school system locations and distributed benefit statements to over 1,200 employees. In addition to on-site visits, an online enrollment effort was conducted, and for the first time (excluding COVID years), online participation exceeded on-site visits. On-site visits had very low turnout, with approximately three employees attending, likely due to minimal plan changes.

**4. Consider and take action with respect to adopting a resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, for school purposes, on Saturday, October 11, 2025, to authorize the renewal of a sales and use tax therein. (Mr. Jason Akers of Foley & Judell, L.L.P.)**

On behalf of Mr. Jason Akers of Foley & Judell, L. L. P., Mrs. Voisin reported that the Board canvassed the returns of the election held last month to renew the 0.45 percent sales tax for the School Board. The election passed with 2,598 votes in favor and 559 against, an approval rate of 82 percent. This renewal continues an existing tax, not a new one.

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve a resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, for school purposes, on Saturday, October 11, 2025, to authorize the renewal of a sales and use tax therein as presented by Mrs. Voisin.

The floor was opened for public comments; hearing none, the motion was carried.

Motion made by: Rhonda Dennis

Motion seconded by: Andrew Mancuso

Voting:

Guienzy Brent - Yes

Dr. Tammie Wilson - Yes

Lindsey Anslem - Yes

Debra Jones - Yes

Marilyn LaSalle - Yes

Alaina Black - Yes

Andrew Mancuso - Yes

Rhonda Dennis - Yes

Lawrence Guillory - Yes

The motion passed with nine (9) votes in favor, zero (0) votes against, and two (2) members absent.

**5. Consider and take action with respect to adopting an ordinance providing for the levy in the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, of a 0.45% sales and use tax for school purposes, such tax having been authorized at a special election held in the Parish on Saturday, October 11, 2025. (Mr. Jason Akers of Foley & Judell, L.L.P.)**

On behalf of Mr. Jason Akers of Foley & Judell, L.L.P., Mrs. Voisin reported that the proposed ordinance satisfies the statutory requirement to levy the 0.45 percent sales tax recently renewed by voters. The ordinance has been reviewed and verified by the parish sales tax collector and will ensure uninterrupted tax collections. Adoption of the ordinance requires a majority vote of the Board.

The floor was opened for public comments; hearing none, the motion was carried.

Motion made by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Guienzy Brent - Yes  
Dr. Tammie Wilson - Yes  
Lindsey Anslem - Yes  
Debra Jones - Yes  
Marilyn LaSalle - Yes  
Alaina Black - Yes  
Andrew Mancuso - Yes  
Rhonda Dennis - Yes  
Lawrence Guillory - Yes

The motion passed with nine (9) votes in favor, zero (0) votes against, and two (2) members absent.

**6. Authorize the superintendent to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office to allow for the implementation of the Futures Project. (Chief Deputy Kahl, St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office)**

Chief Deputy John Kahl, accompanied by Lieutenant Oscar West, presented an overview of the Rural Violent Crime Suppression Initiative. This program began several years ago through a three-year grant aimed at addressing violent crime in rural areas, with a focus on juveniles who were identified as the primary source of such crimes. Rather than relying solely on enforcement and incarceration, the initiative emphasized intervention and rehabilitation using the Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) model. Lieutenant West, certified in TBRI, played a key role in implementing the program. After the grant ended, the Sheriff's Office continued funding the initiative due to its success. The juvenile court judge reported an estimated 20% reduction in juvenile cases, attributing this improvement to the program. The initiative teaches conflict resolution, effective communication, and strategies to avoid criminal activity. Additionally, the team identified gaps in school-based programming, such as restrictions on addressing issues like vaping, and plans to expand efforts to meet community needs. The Sheriff's Office remains committed to growing this program to further reduce juvenile crime and strengthen community partnerships.

A motion was made and duly seconded to authorize the superintendent to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office to allow for the implementation of the Futures Project, as presented by Chief Deputy Kahl of the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office.

Motion made by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

**VIII. Committee Reports**

**1. Discuss to set date and time for Policy Committee Meeting. (Mr. Mancuso)**

A joint meeting was scheduled for the Discipline Committee and Policy Committee to address shared responsibilities regarding discipline policy (JD). The joint meeting will be held on December 1 at 5:30 p.m., followed immediately by the Policy Committee meeting. Both agendas will be noted for the same time, with the joint session expected to be brief before transitioning to the policy discussion.

**IX. Staff Reports**

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

**A. Sales Tax Update**

Mrs. Voisin reported that four months into the fiscal year, year-to-date sales tax collections are 7 percent below budget. For October, collections totaled \$2.256 million, which is \$83,000 under the monthly 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 for discussion.

**X. Superintendent's Report (Dr. Sanders)**

Dr. Sanders' report included the following:

- The Special Education Department was commended by the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) for equitable evaluation processes.
- The Special Olympics bowling event was successfully hosted, with strong community participation.
- Veterans Day will be honored across all schools with individual celebrations.
- Flags flown at half-staff per federal order for former U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney.
- Progress reports were issued; parents were encouraged to collaborate with schools with any concerns regarding progress reports.
- SPS accountability scores for 2024–2025 expected soon; press release forthcoming.
- Certified staff stipends (\$2,000) and support staff stipends (\$1,000) will be distributed on December 12, 2025, per the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) guidelines, which can be found in the St. Mary Parish School Board salary schedule, "Gold Book".
- Volleyball Playoffs: Berwick High, Centerville High, and Morgan City High participated in the playoff rounds.  
Football Playoffs: Centerville High, West St. Mary, and Franklin High will advance to the BID District round of playoffs tomorrow night.
- Student athletes are preparing for state meets in cross-country and swimming, scheduled for next week.
- Thanksgiving break Nov. 24–28; all schools and offices closed.

**XI. Resolution of Respect (Ms. Estay)**

Ms. Estay read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Jacquelyn Pontiff (retired business manager), and Roland Verret (retired teacher, principal, supervisor, and board member).

**XII. Executive Session**

- 1. Consider entering into executive session, pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(2), to discuss the status and strategy in the matter of Ryan Westley v. St. Mary Parish School Board, Suit No. 37575, Division B, 16th JDC, Parish of St. Mary. (Mrs. Black)**

A motion was made and duly seconded to enter into the executive session to discuss the status and strategy in the matter of Ryan Westley v. St. Mary Parish School Board, Suit No. 37575, Division B, 16th JDC, Parish of St. Mary, as described above.

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

***Return to Regular Session:***

Motion made by: Marilyn LaSalle

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

**2. Consideration of any action related to the matter of Ryan Westley v. St. Mary Parish School Board, Suit No. 37575, Division B, 16th JDC, Parish of St. Mary. (Mrs. Black)**

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve legal counsel's recommendation regarding the matter of Ryan Westley v. St. Mary Parish School Board, Suit No. 37575, Division B, 16th JDC, Parish of St. Mary as discussed in executive session.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Lawrence Guillory

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

**XIII. Closing - Adjournment (Mrs. Black)**

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem

Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent

Voting:

Unanimously Approved