



MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Voting Members

Guienzy Brent, Board Member
Lindsey Anslem, 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

Absent Members

Debra Jones, Board Member
Dr. Tammie Wilson, Board Member- Vice President
Lawrence Guillory, Board Member

I. Meeting Called to Order (Mrs. Black)

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Black.

II. Opening of Regular Meeting

The St. Mary Parish School Board met in regular session on Thursday, December 11, 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. Roll Call (Dr. Sanders)

The roll call was conducted by Dr. Sanders.

2. Invocation (Mr. Holmes)

Mr. Holmes gave the Invocation.

3. 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.

4. 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. J. S. Aucoin Elementary: Nicole Rodriguez, 5th Grade Student, and Heidi Williams, Nurse

- B. Lagrange Elementary School: Easlynn Honeycutt-Williams, 5th Grade Student, and Adrienne Minor, Teacher**
- C. Franklin High School: Jayvyn Banks, 12th Grade Student, and Savoid Howard, Teacher**

III. Appearances:

- 1. Recognition of St. Mary Parish School Board Christmas Card artwork winners. (Ms. Estay)**

Ms. Estay recognized Lailah Sam a 12th grade student at Patterson High School as the St. Mary Parish School Board Christmas Card artwork winner.

- 2. Recognition of district students of the year. (Ms. Estay)**

Ms. Estay recognized the district students of the year as follows:

Elementary Student of the Year:

Maximus Moffett of Bayou Vista Elementary School

Middle School Student of the Year:

Hank Percle of Berwick Junior High School

High School Student of the Year:

Lily Viator of Morgan City High School

- 3. Recognition of district teachers of the year. (Ms. Estay)**

Ms. Estay recognized the district teachers of the year as follows:

Elementary Teacher of the Year:

Stanley Williams-Tate of W.P. Foster Elementary School

Middle School Teacher of the Year:

Emily Berry of Morgan City Junior High School

High School Teacher of the Year:

Brooke Scott of Berwick High School

- 4. Recognition of Outstanding School support employees of the year. (Ms. Estay)**

Ms. Estay recognized the outstanding school support employees of the year as follows:

Olenka Pabey of M.E. Norman Elementary School

Mary Pittman of Morgan City Junior High School

- 5. Recognition of School Health provider of the year. (Ms. Estay)**

Ms. Estay recognized the school health provider of the year as follows:

Kayla Guillot of Patterson Junior High School

- 6. Recognition of Morgan City High School student Mr. Jason McClearly for earning 8th place at the Ed Rising National Conference in the Educators Rising Moment Division. (Mrs. Lacie Quintanilla)**

Principal Lacie Quintanilla recognized Jason McClearly, a student of Morgan City High School, for earning 8th place at the Ed Rising National Conference in the Educators Rising Moment Division.

IV. Approval of Amended Agenda (Mrs. Black)

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

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the official school board minutes from the special school board meeting held on November 10, 2025, and the regular school board meeting held on November 13, 2025, as presented.

Motion made by: Ginger Griffin

Motion seconded by: Marilyn LaSalle

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

- 1. Special Meeting: November 10, 2025**
- 2. Regular Meeting: November 13, 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: Guienzy Brent

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

- 1. *Permission to auction Technology Surplus using GovDeals.com (Mr. Vead)**
- 2. *Permission to advertise for bids for a Tilt Skillet/Braising Pan at Franklin High School. (Ms. Chaisson)**

VII. Business Affairs

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

Mrs. Voisin, on behalf of Mr. James Perez (absent), presented the group health plan financial update included in your packet, reflects claims and premium data through November 2025. The year-to-date medical loss ratio is 85.56 percent. Once adjusted for plan expenses, the medical loss ratio is 94.1 percent. Although it was a long shot since underwriting had already agreed to a reduction in our renewal from 5 percent to 2.5 percent, Mr. Perez submitted a request for further review and consideration for more of a reduction from underwriting. However, BlueCross declined his request for additional concessions and will hold the renewal adjustment at 2.5 percent for 2026.

- 2. Receive bids and take appropriate action on Sixteen Section Land - Section 16, Township 16 South, Range 12 East, Approx 240 Acres - Bateman Island Lease (Mr. Regard)**

A motion was made and duly seconded to award the Bateman Island Lease to the highest bidder, Mr. Shane Cook, for an annual of \$2,800.00, as presented by Mr. Thomas Crandall on behalf of Mr. Regard William (absent).

Motion made by: Chad Paradee

Motion seconded by: Andrew Mancuso

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

3. Adopt revisions to the current 25-26 Student-Parent Handbook in accordance with policy updates. (Dr. Sanders)

A motion was made and duly seconded to adopt the revised 25-26 Student-Parent Handbook in accordance with policy updates, as presented by Dr. Sanders.

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem

Motion seconded by: Marilyn LaSalle

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

VIII. Committee Reports

1. The Special Education Advisory Council met on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room. (Ms. McClarity)

Ms. McClarity reported that the Special Education Advisory Council met on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room. However, a quorum was not present for the second consecutive meeting, making it difficult to conduct official business. The council reviewed the parent handbook, which was developed in compliance with state and federal regulations and approved by Hammonds and Sills. The handbook is intended to help parents understand rules and procedures and will be distributed to board members at the next meeting. Efforts will continue to increase parent participation in future meetings, as the council has been active for five years and seeks greater engagement. Ms. McClarity emphasized the importance of parent involvement to stay informed about school and student matters and expressed commitment to improving engagement moving forward.

2. The Discipline Committee Meeting met on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room to review and make recommendations regarding the following policy: (Ms. Jones)

Mr. Holmes, on behalf of Ms. Debra Jones (absent), reported that the Discipline Committee met on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room to review and make recommendations regarding the Discipline (JD) policy.

A motion was made and duly seconded to accept the revised Discipline (JD) policy as recommended by the Discipline Committee and reviewed by legal counsel.

Motion made by: Marilyn LaSalle

Motion seconded by: Lindsey Anslem

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

A. Discipline (JD)

IX. The Policy Committee met on Monday, December 1, 2025, immediately following the Discipline Committee Meeting in the Evans Medine Meeting Room to review and make recommendations regarding the following policies: (Mr. Mancuso)

Mr. Mancuso reported that the Policy Review Committee met on December 1, 2025, to review and recommend revisions to listed policies.

Proposed changes were made to align with recent legislative updates and Louisiana Department of Education requirements.

Items 1 (Equal Opportunity Employment – GAAA) and 4 (Equal Education Opportunities – JAA): Revisions required by Act 100 of 2025.

Item 5: Correction noted – “*corporate punishment*” should read “*corporal punishment.*”

This amendment required unanimous approval of the Board.

A motion was made and duly seconded to amend the agenda to address Items 1 and 4 together and to correct the typo in Item 5.

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem

Motion seconded by: Chad Paradee

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Policy Revisions – Items 1 and 4:

Both Item 1 (Equal Opportunity Employment – GAAA) and Item 4 (Equal Education Opportunities – JAA) were revised to add "***military status***" to the list of prohibited statutory discriminations, as required by Act 100 of 2025. The Policy Review Committee voted to recommend incorporating this language as mandated by law. The revisions were reviewed by legal counsel.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion Seconded by: Guienzy Brent

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Policy Revisions – Items 2, 3, and 5:

Items 2 (Education of Students with Exceptionalities—IDDF), 3 (Cameras in Special Education Classrooms – IDDFC), and 5 (Corporal Punishment-JDA) required revisions pursuant to Act 479 of the 2025 Legislative Session, which modified several statutes related to special education.

The proposed revisions were reviewed and refined by legal counsel and the district's special education specialist, who consolidated the 16 pages of Act 479 into the updated policies. The Policy Review Committee expressed appreciation for staff contributions and voted to recommend adoption of the revisions to the full Board.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Second made by: Rhonda Dennis

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Policy Revisions – Items 6 and 7:

Revisions to Item 6 (Procurement – DJE) and Item 7 (Bids and Quotations – DJED) were required by Louisiana Department of Education directives to incorporate modified accounting practices recommended by the Bruman Group, a legal consultant working under the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) guidance.

After discussion, it was determined that the detailed requirements would be better addressed in a standalone document. The St. Mary Parish School Board Accounting Procurement Manual, included in the board packet, now contains these detailed instructions.

The Procurement Policy (DJE) was revised to reference the new manual and remove duplicate instructions. The Bids and Quotations Policy (DJED) was repealed, as its content has been fully relocated to the manual.

The Policy Review Committee voted to recommend:

Revision of Item 6; Procurement Policy (DJE), Repeal of Item 7; Bids and Quotations

Policy (DJED), and approval of the Accounting Procurement Manual.

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the Procurement Policy (DJE) and supporting accounting procurement, and to repeal the Bids and Quotations Policy (DJED).

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Seconded made by: Lindsey Anslem

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

1. **Equal Opportunity Employment (GAAA) Policy**
2. **Education of Students with Exceptionalities (IDDF) Policy**
3. **Cameras in Special Education Classrooms (IDDFC) Policy**
4. **Equal Education Opportunities (JAA) Policy**
5. **Corporal Punishment (JDA) Policy**
6. **Procurement (DJE) Policy and Supporting Accounting Procurement Manual**
7. **Bids and Quotations (DJED) Policy**

X. Staff Reports

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

A. Sales Tax Update

Mrs. Voisin reported that 5 months into the fiscal year and year-to-date the sales tax collections from July – November are 8 percent unfavorable. We collected \$2,053,000 in November, which is \$286,000 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 to report.

XI. Superintendent's Report (Dr. Sanders)

Dr. Sanders reported that on November 20th, the Louisiana Department of Education released the 2024–2025 school performance scores. St. Mary Parish Public Schools demonstrated consistent academic growth, with 12 schools improving their SPS, including Lagrange Elementary School (+9.7 points) and Julia B. Maitland Elementary School (+8.2 points). Nine schools earned Top Gains honors, four schools were recognized as Opportunity Honorees, and 15 schools were rated A or B, with no F-rated schools. The district's overall performance score increased from 82.9 to 84.6, maintaining a B rating above the state average. Preliminary civics results show 59 percent of students scoring Advanced or Mastery, with West St. Mary High achieving 76 percent.

On December 12, 2025 certified personnel will receive a \$2,000 stipend and support staff \$1,000, funded by the district's general fund per the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) guidance.

Freezing temperatures are expected Sunday night into early Monday morning, December 15, 2025. Parents are reminded to ensure students adhere to the uniform policy. Warm thermal layers may be worn under uniform tops and bottoms, and students should bundle up at bus stops. Blankets are prohibited.

The last full day of school for the fall semester is December 19, 2025; teachers return

January 5, 2026 for in-service, and students return January 6, 2026. Report cards for the second nine weeks will be distributed January 8, 2026.

In closing, Dr. Sanders extended holiday greetings and appreciation to all staff and families.

XII. Resolution of Respect (Ms. Estay)

Ms. Estay read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Chad Joseph Duplantis (former maintenance HVAC technician).

XIII. Executive Session

1. Strategy session and/or action concerning pending litigation. (Mrs. Black)

Executive Session:

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

Return to Regular Session:

A motion was made and duly seconded to return to Regular Session.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion Seconded by: Ginger Griffin

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

- A. As authorized by La.R.S. 42:17(A)(2), there may be an executive session to discuss strategy in litigation entitled “Boudreaux, et al vs. School Board of St. Mary Parish,” bearing Civil Action No. 6:65-11351 on the docket of the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana.**

XIV. Closing - Adjournment (Mrs. Black)

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Motion made by: Ginger Griffin

Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent

Voting:

Unanimously Approved