



## 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  
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

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#### 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, January 8, 2026, 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. 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. B. E. Boudreaux Middle School: Malerie Myers – 8th Grade Student and Stephen Schmidt - Teacher
- B. Berwick High School: Jude Tarver – 12th Grade Student and Brooke Scott – Teacher
- C. Raintree Elementary School: Aubrey Notto – 5th Grade Student and Renata Colar – Teacher

#### III. Approval of Amended Agenda (Mrs. Black)

Based on new developments presented during this meeting, it was stated that an additional item needed to be added to the amended agenda. It was reported that on this date, Dr. Fegenbush submitted a letter of resignation for retirement. As a result, it was necessary to add an agenda item for the Board to consider and take action regarding the resignation and retirement of the Superintendent. It was further stated that, in order for this item to be added to the amended agenda, unanimous approval of the Board was required.

A motion was duly made and seconded to amend the agenda to add consideration of the letter of resignation for retirement of Superintendent Dr. Buffy Fegenbush; upon approval, the item was added under Business Affairs, Item 4.

Motion made by: Marilyn LaSalle

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Guienzy Brent - Yes

Dr. Tammie Wilson - 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

#### **IV. Approval of Official School Board Minutes (Mrs. Black)**

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the official school board minutes from the regular school board meeting held on December 11, 2025, as presented.

Motion made by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Motion seconded by: Andrew Mancuso

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

##### **1. Regular Meeting: December 11, 2025**

#### **V. 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: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Lindsey Anslem

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

- 1. \*Authorize RFP or negotiation process for property insurance for the year commencing April 1, 2026. (Ms. Voisin)**
- 2. \*Authorize RFP or negotiation process for workers compensation insurance for the year Commencing May 1, 2026. (Ms. Voisin)**
- 3. \*Proclamations: (Ms. Mitchell)**
  - A. \*Louisiana School Board Member Recognition Month January 2026.**
  - B. \*National Law Enforcement Day January 9, 2026.**
  - C. \*Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month -February 1-28, 2026**
  - D. \*African American History Month -February 2026**
  - E. \*National (FFA) Future Farmers of America Week-February 15-22, 2026**

- F. \*National Public Schools Week- February 24-28, 2026
  - G. \*National School Counseling Week (February 3-7, 2026)
  - H. \*National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day-February 15, 2026
4. \*Review of policies for consideration at the next regular board meeting. (Ms. Estay)
- A. \*Notification of School Board Meetings (BCBB).
  - B. \*Sale of Surplus Equipment and Supplies (DFM).
  - C. \*Emergency/Crisis Management (EBBC).
  - D. \*Recruitment (GBC).
  - E. \*Dismissal of Employees (GBN).
  - F. \*Employee Conduct (GBRA).
  - G. \*Behavioral Health Support for Students (JGCF).

## VI. Business Affairs

### 1. Set day, time, and place for Regular Monthly School Board Meeting (Mrs. Black)

The Board discussed changing the regular meeting date due to attorney's scheduling conflicts. Attorney Alvarez explained that the law firm was reviewing attorney assignments for various boards, which affected availability for meeting coverage.

A motion was made and duly seconded to change the regular monthly School Board meeting date from the second Thursday of each month to the first Thursday of each month, with the meeting time remaining at 5:30 p.m., effective for the current year. Meetings will be held in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana.

The Board approved the change and directed that policies be updated accordingly.

Motion made by: Marilyn LaSalle

Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

### 2. Receive Group Health Insurance Update (Mr. James Perez of DJW Insurance)

Mr. James Perez of DJW Insurance provided the Board with an updated Premium to Claims Summary through December 2025 on the Group Health Insurance Plan, noting overall improvement in claims experience compared to prior years. Total claims declined from previous years, reflecting a positive trend that is uncommon among comparable groups.

Based on this performance, the health plan renewal for the upcoming year was negotiated to a modest 2.5 percent increase. Prescription drug costs were identified as the primary driver of overall expenses, while medical claims remained stable.

Looking ahead, anticipated changes in the prescription drug market, including the availability of alternative medications, may help moderate future costs. Continued stabilization of both prescription and medical claims is anticipated for the 2026 plan year.

After discussion, Mr. Perez advised that the insurance renewal had been approved and finalized, with the Board previously agreeing to absorb the approximately 2.5% increase. There will be no changes to employee benefits or employee-paid premiums.

### 3. Approve acceptance of audit report for year ended June 30, 2025, as presented by the firm of Darnall, Sikes, Gardes, and Frederick (Chris Miller)

Mr. Chris Miller with Darnall, Sikes & Frederick briefly explained the Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2025. The audit assessed financial

statements, internal controls, and compliance with state and federal laws. The audit resulted in an unmodified clean opinion on the St. Mary Parish School Board's financial statements for fiscal year 2025. Two federal programs were tested: Child Nutrition Cluster and the Special Education Cluster. Detailed testing showed no non-compliance and no internal control issues with these programs.

The auditors issued an unmodified (clean) opinion on the financial statements and on compliance with federal program requirements. No findings of noncompliance were reported for federal programs. One compliance finding, related to a previously identified internal matter not discovered through the audit, was included as required; corrective action has been implemented.

A separate engagement related to data submitted to the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education identified one minor exception regarding reported personnel years of experience, which was addressed and corrected by management upon notification.

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the audit report for the year ended June 30, 2025, as presented by Mr. Chris Miller.

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem

Motion seconded by: Chad Paradee

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

**4. Consider taking action in regards to the resignation and retirement of the superintendent.**

An agenda item was added to consider taking action in regards to the resignation and retirement of the superintendent. The board received the resignation and retirement letter of Dr. Buffy Fegenbush, superintendent of St. Mary Parish Schools, after 31 years of service. Board members expressed their gratitude for Dr. Fegenbush's leadership and commitment to public education.

A motion was made and duly seconded to accept the resignation and retirement of Dr. Fegenbush.

There were no comments or questions from the Board and no comments from the public. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by: Marilyn LaSalle

Motion seconded by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Attorney Alvarez addressed the distinction between the roles of acting and interim superintendent. He explained that, following the board's resolution in November 2025 appointing Dr. Sanders as acting/interim superintendent, Dr. Sanders had been serving as acting superintendent during Dr. Fegenbush's leave. With the acceptance of Dr. Fegenbush's retirement, Dr. Sanders would now begin serving as interim superintendent, effective immediately. Attorney Alvarez noted that, by law, a person may serve as interim superintendent for up to six months within a twelve-month period, and that period would begin as of the effective date of retirement.

The Board was also advised to begin the process of selecting the next superintendent. This item was informational only and required no action at this time. Board members were encouraged to begin considering the timeline and process, including whether to address the matter at a future regular meeting or through a special meeting. Guidance and recommendations will be provided as the process moves forward.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

**1. The Discipline Committee Meeting met on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room. (Ms. Jones)**

Mr. Holmes reported that the Discipline Committee met on January 5, 2026, to review proposed revisions to the student bus transportation guidelines regarding bus discipline matrix. Following a presentation by Mr. Lewis, the committee voted to recommend approval of the revisions. The committee is recommending the full Board approval of the proposed revisions.

There were no questions from the Board. During public comment, parish bus operator Grant Guillory-Dohmann thanked the committee for their responsiveness and stated that the revised discipline matrix is expected to improve safety on school buses.

Ms. Jones expressed her appreciation to Mr. Holmes and the committee for continuing with the meeting during her absence.

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the recommendations of the Discipline Committee as presented by Mr. Holmes.

Motion made by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Motion seconded by: Marilyn LaSalle

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

**Policy Committee Meeting:**

The Policy Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 4:00 p.m., to review policies listed under Item Four of the consent agenda, along with additional policies identified by legal counsel that would affect the regular school board meetings date and time change.

**District One Maintenance Committee Meeting:**

The District I Maintenance Committee will meet on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the Centerville High School Baseball Field Lighting Project. The meeting will take place prior to the regularly scheduled board meeting at 5:30 p.m.

**VIII. Staff Reports**

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

**A. Sales Tax Update**

Mrs. Voisin reported that six months into the fiscal year, year-to-date sales tax collections were 1 percent, or \$113,000 below budget. However, December collections were strong at \$3.2 million, which is \$827,000 above 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 - 2026 standard mileage rates for travel reimbursement**

Mrs. Voisin announced that the travel reimbursement rate increased from \$0.70 to \$0.725 per mile beginning January 1, 2026. The updated travel forms can be found on the school board's website.

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

Dr. Sanders reported that the second nine-week report cards were distributed to students today, and parents are encouraged to review them and contact their child's school with any questions or concerns. Students are reminded that the spring semester offers a fresh opportunity to improve academic performance. Congratulations were extended to the St. Mary Parish Students of the Year: Maximus Moffett (5th grade), Hank Perle (8th grade), and Lily Viator (12th grade). All three students will advance as regional qualifiers at the next level of competition. Recognition was given to National Law

Enforcement Day on January 9, 2026, with appreciation expressed to local police departments and the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office for their continued efforts in maintaining safety in schools and communities. January is Louisiana School Board Member Recognition Month, and gratitude was extended to all eleven board members for their dedication, commitment, and student-first decision-making. Lastly, congratulations and best wishes were offered to Dr. Fegenbush on her retirement. Dr. Fegenbush was acknowledged for her leadership, mentorship, and significant contributions to St. Mary Parish Schools.

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

Ms. Estay read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Gilbert Besse (retired teacher), Floyd Brown (active bus attendant), and Susan LaCombe (retired paraprofessional).

**XI. Executive Session**

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

- 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.**

**Executive Session:**

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

Motion made by: Lawrence Guillory

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Guienzy Brent - Yes

Dr. Tammie Wilson - 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

**Return to Regular Session:**

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

Motion made by: Debra Jones

Motion seconded by: Ginger Griffin

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

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

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem

Motion seconded by: Lawrence Guillory

Voting:

Unanimously Approved