



MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

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
Chad Paradee, Board Member
Alaina Black, Board Member - President
Andrew Mancuso, Board Member
Rhonda Dennis, Board Member
Lawrence Guillory, Board Member

Absent Members

Marilyn Lasalle, 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, February 5, 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

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. Berwick Junior High School: Hank Percle, 8th Grade Student, and Jawuan Landry, Teacher

- B. **J. B. Maitland Elementary School: Alizabeth Berard, 5th Grade Student, and Chelsea Marceaux, Teacher**
- C. **Morgan City High School: Lily Viator, 12th Grade Student, and Magen McCullough, Teacher**

III. Appearances

1. Recognition of district principal of the year (Ms. Estay)

Ms. Estay recognized Ms. Lauren Renthrop at Patterson Junior High School as the principal of the year.

2. 2026 National Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award honoree – Donella Wagner. (Ms. Estay)

Ms. Estay recognized Ms. Donella Wagner, custodian of Raintree Elementary School, as the 2026 National Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award honoree.

IV. Approval of Amended Agenda (Mrs. Black)

There was no amended agenda.

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

1. Regular Meeting: January 8, 2026

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the official school board minutes from the regular school board meeting held on January 8, 2026, as presented.

Motion made by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent

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. 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: Ginger Griffin

Motion seconded by: Andrew Mancuso

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

1. *Permission to Advertise for Bids:

- A. ***Child Nutrition Department Items: Produce, milk, juice, frozen foods, dry and canned foods, paper and cleaning supplies, small equipment and large equipment. (Ms. Felicia Brown)**

VII. Personnel

1. Approval of Instructional Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year (Ms. Estay)

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the Instructional Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented by Ms. Estay.

Motion made by: Rhonda Dennis

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

VIII. Business Affairs

1. Receive updates regarding Industrial Tax Exemption for Orion Engineered Carbons, LLC, Gravois Aluminum Boats, LLC and Birla Carbon USA Inc. (Mr. Evan Boudreaux, Director of St. Mary Economic Development)

Mr. Evan Boudreaux, Director of St. Mary's Economic Development, provided an update on recent Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP) matters. He reported that a new executive order now requires applications to be reviewed by a single local ITEP committee rather than individual taxing bodies, and noted that the governor may override committee denials. He reminded the Board that the Superintendent serves as the Board's representative on this committee, with the Board President as alternate.

Mr. Boudreaux stated that the committee recently approved an ITEP application for Orion Carbon Black. He also reported that the previous Gravois Aluminum Boats (Metal Shark) exemption had already been terminated by the state and is no longer affected by non-compliance issues following the company's acquisition. The new ownership has received a significant federal contract and is planning expansion in the area.

2. Approve School Board Member Training Resolution for the year 2025 reflecting each member of the St. Mary Parish School Board for receiving a minimum of six (6) hours of training and instruction, as required by ACT 705 of the 2011 Louisiana Legislature. (Mrs. Black)

President Black congratulated School Board members for completing the required training hours for the 2025 calendar year and read aloud the School Board Member Training Resolution as follows:

School Board Member Training Resolution

WHEREAS, each member of a city and parish school board shall receive a minimum of six hours of training and instruction, as required by ACT 705 of the 2011 Louisiana Legislature; and

WHEREAS, this training and instruction shall consist of school laws of this state, laws governing the powers, duties, and responsibilities of city and parish school boards, educational trends, research and policy; and

WHEREAS, such instruction may be received from an institution of higher education in this state, from instruction sponsored by the State Department of Education, or by an in-service training program conducted by a city or parish school board central office or the Louisiana School Boards Association, or training provided at the national level; and

WHEREAS, each member of a city and parish board shall receive one hour of ethics training, per year, of their tenure as a board member;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it become public record that Lindsey Anslem, Alaina Black, Guienzy Brent, Rhonda Dennis, Ginger Griffin, Lawrence Guillory, Debra Jones, Marilyn LaSalle, Andrew Mancuso, Chad Paradee, and Tammie Wilson (certificate issued under former name, Tammie Moore), members of the St. Mary Parish School Board, have successfully received and exceeded the six hours of required training as mandated by the Legislature of Louisiana and all board members have fulfilled the mandate of one hour of ethics training for the year 2025.

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned Interim Superintendent of the St. Mary Parish School Board, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted at its regular School Board meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2026.

Rachael Sanders, Ed. D.
Interim Superintendent
St. Mary Parish School Board

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the School Board Member Training Resolution for the year 2025, as required by ACT of the 2011 Louisiana Legislature.

Motion made by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

- A. **Lindsey Anslem**
- B. **Alaina Black**
- C. **Guienzy Brent**
- D. **Rhonda Dennis**
- E. **Ginger Griffin**
- F. **Lawrence Guillory**
- G. **Debra Jones**
- H. **Marilyn LaSalle**
- I. **Andrew Mancuso**
- J. **Chad Paradee**
- K. **Tammie Wilson (certificate issued under former name, Tammie Moore)**

3. Recognize and Honor Board Members for Achieving Certified School Board Member Designation that voluntarily earned twenty (20) or more LSBA approved training hours during the 2025 calendar year

President Black recognized and honored Lindsey Anslem, Rhonda Dennis, Guienzy Brent, and Tammie Wilson (certificate issued under former name, Tammie Moore) for achieving Certified School Board Member Designation, who voluntarily earned twenty or more Louisiana School Board Association (LSBA) approved training hours during the 2025 calendar year.

- A. **Lindsey Anslem**
- B. **Rhonda Dennis**
- C. **Guienzy Brent**
- D. **Tammie Wilson (certificate issued under former name, Tammie Moore)**

4. Award bid for Tilt Skillet/Braising pan at Franklin Senior High School/Franklin Junior High School Cafeteria. (Ms. Felicia Brown)

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the bid for the Tilt Skillet/Braising pan at Franklin Senior High School/Franklin Junior High School Cafeteria, as presented by Ms. Felicia Brown.

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem

Motion seconded by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

5. Discussion and/or action concerning the Superintendent Selection Process. (Mrs. Black)

Mrs. Black stated that the superintendent position is currently vacant following the resignation and retirement of Dr. Fegenbush. Her contract ended with no payout required. Dr. Sanders is serving as Interim Superintendent at this time.

A motion was made and duly seconded to initiate the Superintendent Selection Process.

Motion made by: Chad Paradee

Motion seconded by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Attorney Alvarez outlined the required process for filling the superintendent vacancy. He explained that state law requires publishing a notice of vacancy and request for applications in the district's official journal twice within one week apart and in the nearest large-market newspaper, which is Lafayette. He recommended additional advertising in the Baton Rouge and New Orleans newspapers and through the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), the Louisiana School Board Association (LSBA), and the Louisiana School Superintendents Association (LSSA), as done in the previous search.

He reviewed the prior advertised salary range of \$120,000–\$140,000, noting the board may continue with that range. He advised establishing a temporary P. O. Box for confidential receipt of applications, which would be opened only after the advertising period closes by the board president and vice president. An outside Human Resource director would then review applications to confirm legal qualifications, including superintendent certification or eligibility for certification in Louisiana.

The attorney emphasized that next steps will depend on the number of applications received. The board will be updated as advertisements are scheduled and the timeline progresses.

An amended motion was made and duly seconded to begin the superintendent search process as recommended by the legal counsel and to keep the current salary range.

Motion made by: Chad Paradee

Motion seconded by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

IX. Committee Reports

- 1. The Policy Committee met on January 21, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana to review and make recommendations regarding the following policies. (Mr. Mancuso)**

- A. School Board Meetings (BC)**

“Second” was replaced with “First” to reflect the new meeting schedule.

A meeting time of 5:30 p.m. was added.

New paragraph added regarding special meetings.

Regular and Special Meetings BCAB & Time and Place BCBA

Recommended for repeal as they are now redundant.

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve Agenda Items A, B, and C in globo with the recommendations of combining the three policies into the School Board Meeting (BC) and repealing policies Regular and Special Meetings (BCAB), and Time and Place (BCBA).

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

- B. Regular and Special Meetings (BCAB)**

This item was approved in globo under the motion made for Agenda Item A, which included Agenda Items A, B, and C, with the recommendation to combine the three policies into the School Board Meeting (BC) policy and repeal policies Regular and Special Meetings (BCAB) and Time and Place (BCBA).

C. Time and Place (BCBA)

This item was approved in globo under the motion made for Agenda Item A, which included Agenda Items A, B, and C, with the recommendation to combine the three policies into the School Board Meeting (BC) policy and repeal policies Regular and Special Meetings (BCAB) and Time and Place (BCBA).

D. Notification of School Board Meetings (BCBB)

Updated to reflect Act 374, removing the requirement to notify the Commissioner of Administration.

A motion was made and duly seconded to revise the Notification of School Board Meetings (BCBB) policy by removing the identified requirement as recommended.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

E. Sale of Surplus Equipment and Supplies (DFM)

Requirements for this policy were to comply with Act 161, which permits the district to trade or participate in buyback programs for student-use computing devices. The committee recommended adopting the revisions as presented by Forethought, incorporating legal counsel's recommendation to remove paragraphs two through four due to conflicting information, and adding staff-requested language specifying who may securely erase or render inaccessible all data on the devices. The committee recommended the Board approve the policy with these modifications.

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the recommendations of the Policy Review Committee as presented.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Lawrence Guillory

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

F. Procurement (DJE)

The recommendation was to incorporate FEMA requirements that prohibit contracting with or awarding bids to any individual or company using federal assistance funds if they are debarred or suspended, as verified through the System for Award Management (SAM). The committee recommends revising the Procurement (DJ) policy to include this language as presented.

A motion was made and duly seconded to accept the recommendations of the Policy Review Committee as presented.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

G. Emergency/Crisis Management (EBBC)

The Policy Review Committee reviewed Emergency/Crisis Management (EBBC) in connection with Act 425, which requires school systems to

submit current building blueprints and school mapping data to law enforcement agencies. As this practice is already in place and the Act does not require a policy change, the committee recommended no revisions.

No action was required to this policy.

H. Recruitment (GBC)

Act 409 updates state law to prohibit employment in public or nonpublic schools for individuals convicted of certain offenses or listed on the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) state Central Registry on or after August 1, 2018.

The committee noted that the Act does not address volunteers and recommended extending similar safeguards to volunteer roles. The Recruitment (GBC) Policy was revised to include the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) registry checks and to add definitions and requirements clarifying when background checks apply to volunteers and chaperones.

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the Policy Review Committee's recommendation, including the staff's recommended additions regarding volunteers and chaperones.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Rhonda Dennis

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

I. Employee Conduct (GBRA)

The committee reviewed and revised the Employee Conduct (GB) policy in accordance with Act 409. Updates include requiring employees to report any final criminal conviction or plea of nolo contendere (excluding traffic offenses) to the School Board, as well as reporting if their name is placed on the DCFS Central Registry. The volunteer and chaperone language previously added to Policy GBC was also incorporated into this policy.

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the recommendations of the Policy Review Committee.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Lawrence Guillory

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

J. Dismissal of Employees (GBN)

The Dismissal of Employees (GBN) policy was reviewed in accordance with Act 409, with DCFS registry check requirements added similar to the related policies. Additional language was included to address volunteers and chaperones, clarifying that the provisions of this policy do not apply to them, as volunteers and chaperones may be dismissed at any time and for any reason by the principal, superintendent, or designee.

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the recommendations of the Policy Review Committee, including the staff's added volunteer and chaperone language.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

K. Behavioral Health Support for Students (JGCF)

The Policy Review Committee reviewed the Behavioral Health Support for Students (JGCF) in accordance with Act 469 and La. R.S. 17:173.1 regarding mental health assessments. While the proposed policy language

reflected the legislation, the committee found it unclear who would be responsible for the cost of assessments—parents or the School Board. Given the potential financial impact and the fact that these services were not included in the current budget, the committee recommended adopting legal counsel’s clarification that mandated assessments will be made available if authorized by the parent, who will select the provider and arrange payment.

The committee further recommended not implementing optional mental health screenings permitted by Act 469 until at least the next budget workshop.

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the recommended revisions of the Policy Review Committee.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

2. The Special Education Advisory Council met on February 2, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana. (Ms. McClarity)

Dr. Sanders provided the Special Education Advisory Committee report on behalf of Ms. McClarity. The committee met on Monday, February 2, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex and selected the meeting dates for the upcoming school year: September 21, 2026; November 2, 2026; and January 25, 2027.

The committee also discussed the upcoming Spring Special Olympics, scheduled for April 17, 2026, at the Berwick High School track, beginning at 10:00 a.m., weather permitting. Board members were encouraged to attend.

The meeting concluded with a presentation from Bayouland Families Helping Families, which shared information and distributed pamphlets to attendees. The organization provides support to parents of students with disabilities, assisting with advocacy, understanding IEPs, and serving as a bridge between families and school districts.

3. The Maintenance District I Committee met on February 5, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana. (Ms. Brent)

A. Discuss and/or take action regarding Centerville High School Baseball Field Lighting Project

The committee recommended approving funding to support the installation of the Centerville High School Baseball Field lighting, noting that the baseball team is currently unable to play evening games due to the lack of lights. Several donations have already been made toward the project, resulting in significant savings for the district.

The committee recommended that District I Maintenance funds in the amount of \$45,000 be allocated to cover the remaining project cost.

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the recommendations of the District I Maintenance Committee.

Motion made by: Guienzy Brent

Motion seconded by: Lawrence Guillory

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

X. Staff Reports

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

A. Sales Tax Update

Mrs. Voisin reported that seven months into the fiscal year, year-to-date sales tax collections from July 2025-January 2026 were \$4,000 favorable.

\$2,455,000 was collected in January, which is \$117,000 over 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 the district is focused on both preparation and celebration during the month of February. Schools are preparing for the 2026–2027 school year, with high school students participating in ACT and WorkKeys Boot Camps and elementary schools beginning high dosage tutoring to support literacy and numeracy goals. Scheduling for next year has already begun, and Pre-K registration is currently open.

Throughout February, schools are celebrating Black History Month with ceremonies and assemblies and recognizing Career and Technical Education Month, the National FFA Association, School Resource Officer Appreciation, and National School Counseling Week. National Public Schools Week will be observed from February 24–28, 2026.

Dr. Sanders expressed pride in the many programs, resources, and opportunities available to students across St. Mary Parish Public Schools, supporting strong academic, athletic, and arts experiences. She closed by noting the upcoming Mardi Gras break, scheduled for February 16–20, 2026.

XII. Resolution of Respect (Ms. Estay)

Ms. Estay read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Alberta Drexler (retired teacher), Stephen Palumbo (retired English teacher), and William Payton (an active custodian).

XIII. Closing

XIV. Adjournment (Mrs. Black)

A motion was made and duly seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting:

Unanimously Approved