ST. TAMMANY PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Frank J. Jabbia
Superintendent

Steve E. Alfonso, Jr.
Associate Superintendent

Kimberly B. Gardner
Assistant Superintendent

Melissa Langlois, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent


| District | Board Members |
|---|---|
| 1 | Matthew E. Greene |
| 2 | Roslyn H. Hanson |
| 3 | Adaline V. Rutherford |
| 4 | Kalinda Fauntleroy |
| 5 | Brandon Harrell |
| 6 | Amanda R. Martin |
| 7 | Isabelle Moore |
| 8 | Mike Peterson, Ph.D. |
| 9 | Gia R. Baker |
| 10 | Deborah McCollum |
| 11 | Tammy W. Lamy |
| 12 | Michelle Hirstius |
| 13 | James Braud |
| 14 | Dennis S. Cousin |
| 15 | Michelle Ruffino Gallaher |


# St. Tammany Parish School Board

# 2025-2026 Annual Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Report

ST. TAMMANY PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**May 21, 2026**

**What is the purpose of St. Tammany Parish Public School System's Special Education Advisory Council?**

The Council is an opportunity for parents, district staff, and special education stakeholders to provide recommendations and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources.

**Members and Roles**

| Member | Role |
|---|---|
| Candice Hickman | Principal, Chair |
| Rachel Emerick | Parent, Fontainebleau Jr. High |
| Laura Keyes | Stakeholder, Mandeville Elementary |
| Shannon Bordes | Stakeholder, Madisonville Jr. |
| Bridgatte Cook | Parent (East), Mayfield Elementary |
| Tiffani Ducote | Parent (West), Lancaster Elementary |
| Theresa Stevenson | Parent (East), Salmen High |
| Katelyn Populus | Teacher, Sixth Ward Elementary |

**2025-2026 Meetings, Agendas, Minutes**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| October 30, 2025<br>2:00 pm | C. J. Schoen Administrative Complex | https://go.boarddocs.com/la/stpsb/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DMUK4W501CBE |
| November 20, 2025<br>2:00 pm | C. J. Schoen Administrative Complex | https://go.boarddocs.com/la/stpsb/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DNKUKP7C7684 |
| January 27, 2026<br>2:00 pm | C. J. Schoen Administrative Complex | https://go.boarddocs.com/la/stpsb/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DQLNSC61504A |
| February 24, 2026<br>2:00 pm | C. J. Schoen Administrative Complex | https://go.boarddocs.com/la/stpsb/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DRFLPU578F5D |
| March 24, 2026<br>2:00 pm | C. J. Schoen Administrative Complex | https://stpsb.community.diligentoneplatform.com/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=472 |

Sign-in sheets for each meeting are attached. The meeting notices and agendas are publicly posted to BoardDocs or Diligent and emailed to the media and members of the St Tammany Federation of Teachers and School Employees. These are the same protocols we follow for all St. Tammany Parish School Board Meetings.

**Executive Summary**

**The following recommendations were made to the Superintendent by the 2025-2026 Council:**

**Recommendation 1:**
Consider providing staff with a centralized online location for various methods to address behaviors. Provide information for strategies, resources, and visuals that will support staff to support students. Consider information such as: Podcasts, visuals in PDF/posters, books, online resources, YouTube Channel, TBRI, etc.

**Recommendation 2:**
Support schools with creating sensory rooms and provide staff training with clear protocols.

**Recommendation 3:**
Consider planning "A Day without Words" to help bring awareness to students who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices to communicate their needs and wants. This could be done by asking the AT Liaisons to create a toolkit for schools which could include: an information video with STPPS students, *A Day without Words* book, fun facts to share about utilizing AAC devices, scavenger hunts, playground core boards, etc. Consider holding this awareness day in October.

**How to Join**

A press release was sent out on Friday, August 23, 2024, the 25-26 application was sent to current committee members.

# SEAC Meeting

Date: 10/30/25

## Committee Members

| First Name | Last Name | | Signature |
|---|---|---|---|
| Emerick | Rachel | Parent | Rae Emerick |
| Cook | Bridgatte | Parent | Bridgatte Cook |
| Ducote | Tiffani | Parent | |
| Stevenson | Theresa | Parent | By Phone |
| Keyes | Laura | Community | Laura Keyes |
| New | Community | Community | |
| Hickman | Candice | STPSB | |
| Populus | Katelyn | STPSB | K. Populus |
| | | Non-members | |
| Kerri | Soo | Director | Kerri S. Soo |
| Kim | Gardner | Assistant Superintendent | Kimberly Gardner |
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# SEAC Meeting

Date: 11/20/25

## Committee Members

| First Name | Last Name | | Signature |
|---|---|---|---|
| Emerick | Rachel | Parent | Rae Emerick |
| Cook | Bridgatte | Parent | Bridgatte Cook |
| Ducote | Tiffani | Parent | |
| Stevenson | Theresa | Parent | |
| Keyes | Laura | Community | Laura Keyes |
| New | Community | Community | |
| Hickman | Candice | STPSB | Candice Hickman |
| Populus | Katelyn | STPSB | K. Populus |
| Non-members | | | |
| Kerri | Soo | Director | |
| Kim | Gardner | Assistant Superintendent | Kimberly Gardner |
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# SEAC Meeting

Date: Jan 21, 2026

## Committee Members

| First Name | Last Name | | Signature |
|---|---|---|---|
| Emerick | Rachel | Parent | Rae Emerick |
| Cook | Bridgatte | Parent | Bridgatte Cook |
| Ducote | Tiffani | Parent | |
| Stevenson | Theresa | Parent | |
| Keyes | Laura | Community | Laura Keyes |
| Shannon | Bordes | Community | |
| Hickman | Candice | STPSB | |
| Populus | Katelyn | STPSB | K. Populus |
| | | Non-members | |
| Kerri | Soo | Director | Kerri A. Soo |
| Kim | Gardner | Assistant Superintendent | |
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# SEAC Meeting

Date: 2/24/26

## Committee Members

| First Name | Last Name | | Signature |
|---|---|---|---|
| Emerick | Rachel | Parent | Rae Emerick |
| Cook | Bridgatte | Parent | Bridgatte Cook |
| Ducote | Tiffani | Parent | |
| Stevenson | Theresa | Parent | |
| Keyes | Laura | Community | Laura Keyes |
| Shannon | Bordes | Community | Shannon Bordes |
| Hickman | Candice | STPSB | |
| Populus | Katelyn | STPSB | K. Populus |
| Non-members | | | |
| Kerri | Soo | Director | Kerri S. Soo |
| Kim | Gardner | Assistant Superintendent | |
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| | | | |
| | | | |

# SEAC Meeting

Date: 03/24/26

## Committee Members

| First Name | Last Name | | Signature |
|---|---|---|---|
| Emerick | Rachel | Parent | Rae Emerick |
| Cook | Bridgatte | Parent | Bridgatte Cook |
| Ducote | Tiffani | Parent | Absent |
| Stevenson | Theresa | Parent | PHONE |
| Keyes | Laura | Community | Laura Keyes |
| Shannon | Bordes | Community | Shannon Bordes |
| Hickman | Candice | STPSB | |
| Populus | Katelyn | STPSB | K. Populus |
| | | Non-members | |
| Kerri | Soo | Director | Kerri S. Soo |
| Kim | Gardner | Assistant Superintendent | Kimberly Gardner |
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