



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

I. Meeting Called to Order (Mrs. Black)

The meeting was called to order by President 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, May 7, 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. 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 administrator. Each administrator provided brief remarks highlighting the achievements and contributions of the honorees as follows:

A. M. E. Norman Elementary

Student: Paulie Ella Cheramine

Employee: Emily Boudreaux

B. St. Mary Parish Alternative Program

Employee: LaToya Sam

C. Berwick Elementary School

Student: Beau Paradee

Employee: Angelene Hanagriff

III. Appearances

1. **LSU Gear Up Presentation of Partnership. (Dr. Percle)**

Dr. Percle and LSU GEAR UP representative Stephanie Givens presented an update on the district's partnership with LSU GEAR UP. The Board was informed that nearly half of all sixth and seventh graders participated in STEM and career workshops during the school year. The program also provided LEAP test preparation and a STEM spring break camp that served 22 students and nearly two dozen teachers. Four weeks of free summer camps are planned, including Urban Ecology, NASA Astro Camp, and "Gear Up Level Up," which will reinforce English and math skills before the new school year. The program continues to invest in teacher professional development. Ms. Givens recognized the district as an "Honored Partner" for its commitment to student success.

2. **Recognition of Principal Alexis Rack, B. Edward Boudreaux Middle School, for Induction into the 2026 Louisiana High School Sports Hall of Fame (Mr. Ronnie Louis)**

Principal Alexis Rack of B. Edward Boudreaux Middle School was proudly recognized by her former coach, Ronnie Louis, now serving as the district's Supervisor of Transportation, for her induction into the 2026 Louisiana High School Sports Hall of Fame. He provided a detailed account of her athletic and academic achievements, highlighting her distinguished basketball career at Franklin High School, where she earned multiple district MVP titles, led her team to state championship appearances, and received the Miss Basketball award. After her playing career, she returned to St. Mary Parish as a teacher, coach, and academic leader.

Principal Rack addressed the Board and expressed gratitude to her family, coaches, sorority sisters, colleagues, and community for their support. In closing, she shared the following quote from her induction program: "Service to others is the rent that you pay for your room here on earth; but the real impact is measured by the hearts you inspire along the way."

3. **Recognition of 2025-2026 Top Word-Millionaires in St. Mary Parish Public Schools (Ms. Ransonet)**

Ms. Ransonet recognized the 2025-2026 Top Word-Millionaires. This marks the 22nd anniversary of the Word Millionaires program in St. Mary Parish Schools. The winners were recognized and presented with a certificate and a \$50 check as follows:

- Jonathan Dolado, a 5th grader at M. E. Norman Elementary School, read 2,351,456 words.
- Chloe Lemelle, an 11th grader at Berwick High School, read 3,639,375 words.

IV. **Approval of Amended Agenda (Mrs. Black)**

There was no amended agenda.

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

1. **Regular Meeting: April 2, 2026**

2. **Special Session: April 30, 2026**

The board approved the official school board minutes in globo from the regular school board meeting held on April 2, 2026, and the minutes from the special session held on April 30, 2026, as presented.

Motion made by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Motion seconded by: Ginger Griffin

Voting results: 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 following items on the consent agenda.

1. ***Proclamations:**
 - A. ***School Lunch Hero Day (Ms. Mitchell)**
 - B. ***Teacher Appreciation Week (Ms. Mitchell)**
2. ***Field Trips**
 - A. ***Morgan City High School Educators Rising National Conference in Portland Oregon, June 19-24, 2026. (Dr. Sanders)**
3. ***Request permission to obtain proposals for student and athletic insurance for the year commencing August 1, 2026. (Mrs. Voisin)**
4. ***Accept proposal of financial institutions in the parish to serve as joint fiscal agents for the school board for the two (2) year period commencing July 1, 2026. (Mrs. Voisin)**
5. ***Accept proposal of a newspaper to serve as the official journal for the school board for the year commencing July 1, 2026. (Mrs. Voisin)**
6. ***Approve Disability Insurance for the period commencing Oct. 1, 2026. (Mrs. Voisin)**
7. ***Permission to advertise the 1.087-acre property located at 497 Highway 317, Centerville, LA. (Mr. Regard)**
8. ***Permission to advertise bid for Custodial Supplies. (Mr. Regard)**
9. ***Permission to Auction Surplus Inventory. (Mr. Vead)**

The Board approved all consent items as presented by Dr. Sanders.

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem

Motion seconded by: Debra Jones

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

VII. Business Affairs

1. **Adopt tax millage rates for the year 2026 and allow for a public comment period. (Mrs. Voisin)**

Mrs. Voisin explained that the Board is required to set eight annual millage rates by June 1st each year to receive property tax (Ad Valorem) revenues, which comprise 15 percent of the general fund. The proposed millage rates were taken directly from the 2026 Maximum Millage Report from the Legislative Auditor's website. These are renewal property taxes only and not new taxes.

Mrs. Voisin read aloud the resolution adopting the 2026 millage rates as follows:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2026 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by St. Mary Parish School Board:

MILLAGE

GENERAL FUND:

1. Constitutional School Tax (1068051) – General Fund 8.83 mills
2. Consolidated School District No. 5 (1068061) – General Fund 11.82 mills

SPECIAL FUNDS (MAINTENANCE TAXES):

1. Consolidated School District No. 3 (1068055) – Dist. I 12.42 mills
2. Consolidated School District No. 2 (1068054) – Dist. II 173 mills
3. Sixth Ward School District No. 3 (1068057) – Dist. III 12.53 mills

BOND RETIREMENT FUNDS:

1. Consolidated School District No. 1 (1068093) – Raintree 6.00 mills

- 2. Special School District No. 4 (1068092) – Centerville 2.00 mills
- 3. Fifth Ward Special School District No. 1 (1068106) - 21.00 mills

(PJHS & Hattie Watts)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, be, and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2026, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

- YEAS:
- NAYS:
- ABSTAINED:
- ABSENT:

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the board meeting held on May 7, 2026, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Centerville, Louisiana, this 7th day of May, 2026.

Secretary/Treasurer

The floor was opened for public comments from the audience and board members.

Hearing none, the Board approved the resolution, and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Motion made by: Marilyn LaSalle
Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent

- Voting results:** Unanimously Approved
- Yes: Guienzy Brent
 - Yes: Dr. Tammie Wilson
 - Yes: Lindsey Anslem
 - Yes: Debra Jones
 - Yes: Ginger Griffin
 - Yes: Marilyn LaSalle
 - Yes: Lawrence Guillory
 - Yes: Chad Paradee
 - Yes: Andrew Mancuso
 - Yes: Rhonda Dennis
 - Yes: Alaina Black

2. Approve modified summer work schedule. (Dr. Sanders)

The Board approved a modified summer work schedule as presented by Dr. Sanders. Staff will work extended hours Monday through Thursday, and schools and central offices will be closed on six designated summer Fridays in lieu of half-day Fridays. The change is expected to reduce utility costs with an estimated saving of approximately \$13,000 and yield additional transportation and meal-service savings.

Motion made by: Marilyn LaSalle
Motion seconded by: Rhonda Dennis

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

3. Consideration and/or action regarding proposed end-of-year adjustments (May 21, 22 and 26) to the Instructional Calendar. (Mr. Paradee)

Mr. Paradee stated that one emergency school closure occurred during the 2025–2026 school year, and with additional instructional minutes built into the schedule through an extended bell schedule, the following adjustments were proposed:

- May 21 – Final day of school for students; report cards distributed at the end of the day;
- May 22 – No students; records day for teachers;
- May 26 – Online CPI training for teachers; Teacher Leader Summit begins.

Dr. Sanders confirmed that eliminating bus routes on the final two teacher workdays would result in an estimated cost savings of \$3,500, and food service analysis showed the final half-day had historically resulted in high food waste due to elevated absenteeism. Report cards will go home with students on May 21, eliminating the need for bus service on non-student days.

The Board approved the proposed end-of-year adjustments to the instructional calendar as presented by Mr. Paradee.

Motion made by: Marilyn LaSalle

Motion seconded by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

4. Consideration and/or action to change school board member election dates from the current congressional cycle to the gubernatorial election cycle, as authorized by Act No. 354 of 2025 Regular Legislative Session. (Dr. Sanders)

If the Board approves the election date change, a resolution must be submitted to the Secretary of State's office no later than July 1, 2026. Attorney Alvarez noted that the change, once made, is irrevocable. Boards making the switch would place the next election in 2031, resulting in whoever is elected in the 2026 elections serving a five-year term before terms revert to four-year cycles.

After discussion, the Board expressed a desire to seek additional community input before deciding.

The Board tabled the item concerning the proposed change to School Board member election dates from the current congressional election cycle to the gubernatorial election cycle, as authorized by Act 354 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session, until June 4, 2026, regular school meeting.

Motion made by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Motion seconded by: Lawrence Guillory

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on the superintendent selection process. (Mrs. Black)

This item was placed on the agenda as a placeholder for pre-housekeeping matters related to the superintendent selection process. No discussion was held, and no action was required on this item. The Board then proceeded to Agenda Item 6.

6. Discussion of character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of applicants for superintendent. Pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(1), this item may be discussed in executive session. (Mrs. Black)

Attorney Alvarez noted that the process would follow that of previous selections, involving an executive session in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 42:17 (A)(1) to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of applicants for superintendent. Pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(1).

The Board voted to enter into Executive Session in the Conference Room.

Motion made by: Marilyn LaSalle

Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

The Board returned to regular session in the Evans Medine Meeting Room.

Motion made by: Guienzy Brent

Motion seconded by: Andrew Mancuso

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

7. Selection of Superintendent or, in the alternative, discussion and/or action concerning next steps in Superintendent Selection Process. (Mrs. Black)

Attorney Alvarez presented two options: (1) proceed to a second round of interviews, or (2) vote to hire a superintendent at this meeting.

The Board approved selecting a superintendent at this meeting.

Motion made by: Rhonda Dennis

Motion seconded by: Andrew Mancuso

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Attorney Alvarez explained the ballot procedure for the superintendent vote. Each Board member would receive a ballot indicating the voting round, with space to print and sign their name. All three candidates' names appeared on the ballot, and members would mark an "X" beside their chosen candidate before folding the ballot and submitting it to attorney Alvarez. He will open each ballot, read aloud the Board member's name and selected candidate, and request verbal confirmation to satisfy the viva voce requirement of the Louisiana Open Meeting Law. As votes are announced, the Board President and Board executive Assistant will tally and verify the totals. If a candidate receives six votes in the first round, that individual would become the superintendent elect. If no candidate reached the six-vote threshold, the Board would proceed to additional rounds of voting until a superintendent-elect is determined, though the individual would not assume the position this evening. Attorney Alvarez noted that the final step in the process would be to authorize the Board President and Vice President to negotiate the superintendent's contract, which will be addressed following the vote. The contract would then be brought back to the full Board for approval at a subsequent meeting.

The board approved the recommended voting procedure as presented by Attorney Alvarez.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Lawrence Guillory

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Attorney Alvarez read aloud the ballot votes for Round One as follows:

Round One Ballot Results:

- President Black - Dr. Rachael Sanders
- Mr. Paradee - Dr. Rachael Sanders
- Mr. Mancuso - Dr. Rachael Sanders
- Mrs. Dennis - Dr. Rachael Sanders
- Mr. Guillory -Dr. Rachael Sanders
- Mrs. Griffin - Dr. Rachael Sanders
- Ms. Brent - J Ina
- Mrs. Anslem -Dr. Rachael Sanders
- Ms. Jones - J Ina
- Dr. Wilson- J Ina
- Ms. LaSalle- Dr. Rachael Sanders

Final Tally Results by President Black and Executive Assistant Elodie Stewart:

Dr. Rachael Sanders - (8) eight votes

Mr. J Ina – (3) three votes
Mr. James Russell, III - (0) zero votes

Dr. Rachael Sanders was elected as the new Superintendent of St. Mary Parish Schools, having received (8) eight votes, exceeding the required majority of (6) six votes of the full (11) eleven-member Board.

The Board approved the final step authorizing the Board President and Vice-President, along with any additional board-designated members, not to constitute a quorum to negotiate the Superintendent's contract.

Motion made by: Chad Paradee
Motion seconded by: Andrew Mancuso
Voting results: Unanimously Approved

VIII. Committee Reports

1. District I Maintenance Committee (Ms. Guienzy M. Brent)

The District I committee members met to consider the principals' special projects for the fiscal year 2026-2027 as presented by William Regard, director of maintenance. These projects were reviewed on a school-by-school basis with the respective school principals in attendance and available for comment. The projects, which were amended in some instances, were approved and are now being recommended to the full board for approval of \$719,445 (\$345,745 of maintenance funds and \$373,700 of capital funds). These approved projects will be presented this summer as part of the St. Mary Parish School Board's Consolidated maintenance District I budget. At that time, the full Board will be presented with recommendations for transfers into either the maintenance district or into the capital projects fund for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

The full Board approved the recommendations of the Maintenance District I Committee.

Motion made by: Guienzy Brent
Motion seconded by: Dr. Tammie Wilson
Voting results: Unanimously Approved

2. District II Maintenance Committee (Mr. Chad M. Paradee)

The District II committee members met to consider the principals' special projects for the fiscal year 2026-2027 as presented by William Regard, director of maintenance. These projects were reviewed on a school-by-school basis with the respective school principals in attendance and available for comment. The projects, which were amended in some instances, were approved and are now being recommended to the full board for approval of \$270,341 (\$161,141 of maintenance funds and \$109,200 of capital funds). These approved projects will be presented this summer as part of the St. Mary Parish School Board's Consolidated maintenance District II budget. At that time, the full Board will be presented with recommendations for transfers into either the maintenance district or into the capital projects fund for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

The full Board approved the recommendations of the Maintenance District II Committee.

Motion made by: Chad Paradee
Motion seconded by: Ginger Griffin
Voting results: Unanimously Approved

3. District III Maintenance Committee (Mr. Andrew V. Mancuso)

The District III committee members met to consider the principals' special projects for the fiscal year 2026-2027 as presented by William Regard, director of maintenance. These projects were reviewed on a school-by-school basis with the respective school principals in attendance and available for comment. The projects, which were amended in some instances, were approved and are now being recommended to the full board for approval of \$2,049,585 (\$828,985 of maintenance funds and \$1,220,600 of capital funds). These approved projects will be presented this summer as part of the St. Mary Parish School Board's

Consolidated maintenance District III budget. At that time, the full Board will be presented with recommendations for transfers into either the maintenance district or into the capital projects fund for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

The full Board approved the recommendations of the Maintenance District III Committee.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso

Motion seconded by: Rhonda Dennis

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

IX. Staff Reports

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

A. Sales Tax Update

Mrs. Voisin reported that the district is nine months into the fiscal year. Year-to-date sales tax collections from July through March are \$969,000 favorable against budget. The district collected \$2.027 million in March 2026 compared to a budgeted \$2.339 million, an unfavorable variance of \$312,000 for the month. However, the district remains on track to meet its 2025-2026 budgeted sales tax revenue of \$28.1 million, representing 31 percent of the total General Fund budget of \$90.8 million.

B. Financial Statements (Major Funds Only)

Financial statement actuals through April 2026 were included in the Board packet.

C. Other Significant Items

No other significant items were reported.

X. Superintendent's Report (Dr. Sanders)

Dr. Sanders reported that the instructional leadership team visited high schools across the district to recognize students named to the ACT /WorkKeys Hall of Fame, congratulating them for their hard work and commitment to excellence. The spring sports seasons have concluded, and all St. Mary Parish teams were commended for successful performances. The State Track Meet began on May 7, 2026, and best wishes were extended to all district qualifiers. May 8, 2026, marked the last day of school for seniors, with graduation ceremonies scheduled for May 14 and 15. The last day for eighth graders is May 15, with Eighth Grade Graduation and Promotion ceremonies set for May 18. The final day of school for all remaining students is May 21, 2026, in accordance with the recently approved calendar change. National Principal Day was observed on May 1, and principals were recognized and thanked for their leadership. In observance of Teacher Appreciation Week, teachers were thanked for their extraordinary dedication, particularly during this year's challenging testing season.

XI. Resolution of Respect (Ms. Estay)

Ms. Estay read the Resolutions of Respect for the late Patricia Leblanc (retired school secretary), Lessie Narcisse (retired cafeteria technician) and Gaynell Topham (retired teacher).

XII. Closing - Adjournment (Mrs. Black)

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Motion made by: Debra Jones

Motion seconded by: Lindsey Anslem

Voting results: Unanimously Approved