Regular Meeting of St. Mary Parish School Board
08/06/2026 05:30 PM
Evans Medine Meeting Room
474 Hwy 317, Centerville, LA 70522

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

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, August, 6, 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. Ina)

Mr. Ina 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.

III. Appearances

1. Recognition of Summer Graduation for students that completed the requirements over the summer. (Mrs. Lacie Quintanilla))

Principal Lacie Quintanilla of Morgan City High School introduced Jayvion Thompson, a summer graduate who successfully completed all graduation requirements during the summer term.

2. Recognition of the 2026-2027 Red Ribbon Artwork Contest Winners. (Ms. Estay)

Ms. Estay recognized the 2026-2027 Red Ribbon Artwork Contest Winners as follows:

Rayne Boutte from Hattie Watts Elementary School for submitting the winning slogan for the 2026 Red Ribbon Campaign. Rayne's slogan, ***"Your FUTURE is KEY! Be Drug-Free!"***

Silas Hastings who is a graduate of Morgan City High School, was recognized as the Grand Champion Winner of the 2026 Red Ribbon Drawing Contest.

Additional winners who will have their artwork featured in the annual Red Ribbon Calendar are as follows:

1. **Liam Aucoin-** Hattie Watts Elementary School
2. **Jeyli Oceguera** - Bayou Vista Elementary School
3. **Auna Notto** - Raintree Elementary School
4. **Jillian Boudreaux-** Berwick Elementary School
5. **Katherine Oceguera** - Bayou Vista Elementary School
6. **Nyla Baloney-** Hattie Watts Elementary School
7. **Aubrey Notto** - Raintree Elementary School
8. **Nariya Francis** - Patterson Junior High School
9. **Alexis Perdomo** - Morgan City Junior High School
10. **Adaline Marcotte** - Patterson High School
11. **Whitley Berry** - Morgan City High School
12. **Sherlly Bardales** - Morgan City High School

3. **Recognition of Lauren Williams Rentrop for the 2027 Louisiana Principal of the Year. (Ms. Gunner)**

   Mrs. Gunner recognized Ms. Lauren Williams Rentrop, Principal of Patterson Junior High School, for being named the 2027 Louisiana State Principal of the Year by the Louisiana Department of Education and congratulated her on this outstanding achievement.

IV. Approval of Amended Agenda (Mrs. Black)

There were no amendments to the agenda.

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

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

   The Board approved the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on Thursday, July 2, 2026.

Motion made by: Dr. Tammie Wilson
Motion seconded by: Andrew Mancuso
Voting results: Unanimously Approved

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda (Mrs. Black)

1. ***Approve Memorandum of Understanding for the Foster Grandparent Program (Ms. Estay)**

2. ***Approve engagement of auditors to perform agreed upon procedures for the selected School Activity Funds for the year ended June 30, 2026. (Mrs. Voisin)**

3. ***Approve Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Sixteenth Judicial District Office of the District Attorney and Family Service Division for Early Intervention Programs. (Dr. Sanders)**

   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.

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

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem
Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

VII. Personnel

1. **Review and approve updated job descriptions. (Mrs. Gunner)**

   A. **Draft Instructional Coaches**

   B. **Draft Special Services Compliance Coordinator**

   Ms. Gunner presented revisions to two job descriptions. She recommended changing the Curriculum Facilitator position to Instructional Coach and revising the job description to better align with the district's instructional goals and the Louisiana Educator Rubric, effective for the 2026-2027 school year. She also recommended changing the Special Services Compliance Coordinator position to Special Services Discipline Coordinator and moving the position under the Director of Special Services to better align its responsibilities with the district's organizational structure.

   Following brief discussion and clarification regarding the position coding change, a motion was made to approve the revisions to both job descriptions and title changes, as presented by Mrs. Gunner.

   Motion made by: Marilyn LaSalle
   Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent
   Voting results: Unanimously Approved

2. **Discuss and/or take action regarding employee stipends authorized by the Governor's Executive Order 26-047. (Dr. Sanders)**

   Dr. Sanders informed the Board that, due to an executive order by Governor Landry, a portion of MFP (Minimum Foundation Program) funds has been withheld by the state and is expected to be released at a later date for employee stipends. She stated that additional budget work is needed and that superintendents are currently providing information to the state regarding MFP (Minimum Foundation Program) expenditures. Based on these discussions, she believes additional state guidance on stipend distribution may be forthcoming and recommended delaying action on the item.

   During the discussion, Dr. Sanders explained that MFP funding is the district's primary source of revenue and supports both instructional and operational expenses. She noted that MFP allocations are largely based on student enrollment and discussed the challenges of maintaining the required 70% instructional and 30% operational spending ratio. She further explained that the funds designated for employee stipends must be identified from a limited portion of the district's operational budget, restricting the district's flexibility in allocating the funds.

   A motion was passed to ***table*** the discussion regarding the Governor's Executive Order 26-047 concerning employee stipends until the upcoming budget workshop.

   Motion made by: Marilyn LaSalle
   Motion seconded by: Debra Jones
   Voting results: Unanimously Approved

VIII. Business Affairs

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

   Mr. Perez presented the monthly Group Health Insurance Premium-to-Claim Summary Report through July 31, 2026. He reported that July experienced a loss ratio of approximately 91%, while June experienced a loss ratio of 116.8%, indicating that claims paid out exceeded premiums collected during that month. Year-to-date claims experience reflects an overall loss ratio of approximately 92%, which is higher than the previous year.

Mr. Perez explained that the plan's claims experience has been impacted by several unusually large claims, including five claims that exceeded the district's $175,000 stop-loss threshold. As a result, the district is expected to receive claim adjustments and credits exceeding $1.19 million, in addition to approximately $250,000 in stop-loss recoveries, reducing the adjusted loss ratio to approximately 86%.

Mr. Perez advised that Blue Cross renewal information for the 2027 plan year is expected by mid-September. He noted that medical inflation, prescription drug trends, and recent state and federal regulatory changes affecting prescription drug costs may place upward pressure on future premiums. However, he expressed optimism that renewal results could be comparable to or better than those received in the previous year on the commercial plan.

Mr. Perez also reported that approximately 800 retirees participate in the district's Medicare Advantage plan (MAP) and stated that he had already sought competitive proposals from alternate carriers in anticipation of renewal discussions. He advised that at least one alternative proposal would result in no increase to the Board's cost. For budgeting purposes, he estimated a worst-case increase of approximately $420,000 combined between the commercial and Medicare Advantage plans.

During the discussion, Ms. Jones inquired whether future health insurance premium increases would be passed on to employees. Mr. Perez stated that any decision regarding employee contributions would be made by the School Board. He recommended that, whenever financially feasible, the Board absorbs any increases to help maintain competitiveness in recruiting and retaining staff.

The report was presented for informational purposes only, and no action was required.

2. Discussion regarding the Foreign Trade Zone Applications for Deepwater Supply, Inc. and Cameron International Corporation. (Mr. Evan Boudreaux, Director of St. Mary Parish Economic Development)

Mr. Boudreaux provided an overview of Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) applications submitted by Cameron International Corporation and Deep-Water Supply. He stated that the applications would allow the companies to avoid tariffs on imported goods intended for export while continuing to pay local inventory taxes, resulting in no anticipated financial impact to the School Board. He further explained that the Port of South Louisiana is sponsoring the applications, has requested letters of no objection from local entities as part of its review process, and will oversee compliance if the applications receive final approval from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Mr. Boudreaux noted that no action was required by the School Board at this meeting and that letters of no objection could be submitted either individually by affected entities or collectively. During discussion, President Black indicated that if a letter of no objection is requested from the School Board, they would request written assurance that the applications will have no financial impact on the School System. The information was presented for informational purposes only.

3. Approval of 2027 - 2028 ERATE Request for Proposals (RFP) for Wide Area Network and Internet Services (Category 1). (Mr. Vead)

Mr. Vead requested approval to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the District’s internet and Wide Area Network (WAN) services in anticipation of the current contract expiring on June 30, 2027. He explained that the process is initiated well in advance to allow adequate time for vendor selection and any necessary implementation work. He noted that the District continues to receive E-Rate funding, which covers 90% of eligible service costs.

The Board approved the 2027-2028 E-Rate Request for Proposals (RFP) for Wide Area Network and Internet Services (Category 1) as presented by Mr. Vead.

Motion made by: Marilyn LaSalle
Motion seconded by: Dr. Tammie Wilson
Voting results: Unanimously Approved

4. **Review results and consider approval to award the sale to the highest bidders for the GovDeals.com Auction Surplus Items. (Mrs. Jackson)**

Mrs. Jackee' Jackson, Purchasing Agent, stated at the regular July Board meeting, the Board declared vans, buses, cars, trailers, and technology surplus inventory as surplus property to be sold at auction. The St. Mary Parish School Board Maintenance Department conducted a virtual auction through GovDeals.com in compliance with Louisiana Public Bid Law. The auction was properly advertised in the official journal, on the St. Mary Parish School Board Facebook page, and website. The sale of surplus vehicles and technology inventory was awarded to the highest bidders totaling $17,193.

All items sold "AS-IS, Where is" to the highest bidder, with no warranties or guarantees, expressed or implied, subject to Board approval.

A. **Maintenance Department: Vans, Buses, Cars, and Trailers**

The highest bids received for vehicles and trailers are as follows:

- Bus No. 20 (2005 Blue Bird Vision), Mike Benton of Lafayette, LA, $510;
- Bus No. 64 (2002 Blue Bird Vision), Mike Benton of Lafayette, LA, $430;
- Vehicle T568 (2006 Chevrolet Impala), Joshua Tackno of Baker, LA, $1,010;
- Vehicle T569 (2006 Chevrolet Impala), Steven Dungan of Lafayette, LA, $811;
- Vehicle C560 (2009 Ford Van), Paul Long of Mobile, AL, $710;
- Vehicle T547 (2005 Chevrolet Express), Josiah Ozuzu of Antioch, TN, $700;
- Vehicle T550 (2005 Chevrolet Express), Timothy Woods of Natchez, MS, $570;
- Vehicle T548 (2005 Chevrolet Express), Timothy Woods of Natchez, MS, $515;
- 2008 Wells Enclosed Silver Trailer, Dien Huymh of Lafayette, LA, $685;
- 1984 Red Homemade Trailer, Kearria Delasbour of Franklin LA, $150.

The auction generated total proceeds of $6,091.
Motion made by: Rhonda Dennis
Motion seconded by: Dr. Tammie Wilson
Voting results: Unanimously Approved

B. **Technology Surplus Inventory:**

1. **Materials and Operations Center (MOC)**

The Board awarded the sale to the highest bidders for the Technology Surplus Inventory for the Material and Operations Center (MOC) are as follows:

- Lot of Desktops, Josiah Ozuzu, Antioch, TN, $820;
- Lot of Computer Monitors, Josiah Ozuzu, Antioch, TN, $50;

- Lot of Printers, Scanners, Televisions, Overhead Projectors, Promethean Board Stands and Accessories, Josiah Ozuzu, Antioch, TN, $50;
- Lot of Computer Chargers, Keyboards, and Mice (Josiah Ozuzu, Antioch, TN 37013), $1,010;
- Lot of Laptop Carts (Reserve not met), $0;
- The auction generated total proceeds of $1,930.

Motion made by: Guienzy Brent
Motion seconded by: Marilyn LaSalle
Voting results: Unanimously Approved

2. **Former Franklin Junior High School**

The Board awarded the sale to the highest bidders for the Technology Surplus Inventory for the former Franklin Junior High School are as follows:

- Lot of Desktops, Paul Long, Mobile, AL, $2462;
- Lot of Dell EcoLoop Pro Briefcase, Paul Long, Mobile, AL, $510;
- Lot of Computer Chargers, Cables, and Keyboards, Abigail Nchekwube, Sachse, TX, $4,300;
- Lot of Promethean Boards, Promethean Board Stand, and Promethean Board Accessories, Torry Payne, Saint Amant, LA, $1,900;
- Lot of Screen Projectors, Overhead Projects, A Storage Drive, and VAS-VCR Reserve not Met, $0;
- Lot of Printers and Copier, Reserve not Met, $0;
- Lot of Laptop Carts, Reserve not met, $0;
- Lot of Computer Monitor and Televisions, Reserve not Met, $0;
- The auction generated total proceeds of $9,172.

Motion made by: Guienzy Brent
Motion seconded by: Marilyn LaSalle
Voting results: Unanimously Approved

5. **Discuss and/or take action regarding bids on the 1.087-acre property located at 497 Highway 317, Centerville, LA. (Mrs. Jackson)**

Mrs. Jackson reported that the initial bidding process for the property located at 497 Highway 317 in Centerville closed on June 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The original appraised value and reserve price were $7,255.

Because no bids were received during that time, the legal counsel stated that the statutory minimum requirement for bids in a second round is lowered to eighty percent (80%) of the property's appraised value.

The Board voted to lower the reserve price as recommended by legal counsel and open it for a second round of public bidding.

Motion made by: Lawrence Guillory
Motion seconded by: Marilyn LaSalle
Voting resultŝ Unanimously Approved

6. **Discussion regarding the recent reduction of electrical appliances permitted across our district facilities. (Mrs. Anslem)**

Mrs. Anslem requested discussion regarding the recent reduction of personal electrical appliances, including mini refrigerators, in district facilities as a cost-saving measure. She expressed support for efforts to address budget challenges but emphasized the importance of reviewing projected savings, considering employee morale, and evaluating such measures within the context of the overall budget.

Dr. Sanders explained that the decision was an administrative cost-saving measure aimed at reducing utility expenses and preserving financial resources. She acknowledged concerns regarding employee convenience and stated that administration would work with principals to identify reasonable accommodations where needed. Board discussion also included concerns regarding the safety risks associated with personal space heaters in district facilities.

During public comments, Principal Lauren Rentrop expressed support for the superintendent's efforts to reduce operational costs while protecting personnel and educational services, noting that temporary inconveniences are preferable to the loss of valued employees.

Community member Scott Babin expressed concerns regarding the district's financial challenges and cost-saving initiatives and encouraged consideration of employee morale, retention, and appreciation when implementing cost-saving measures.

The item was discussed for informational purposes only, and no action was taken.

IX. Committee Reports

1. Policy Committee Meeting will meet on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 4:30 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room. (Mr. Mancuso)

Mr. Mancuso reminded committee members to review the policies included in their board packets in preparation for the August 11, 2026, Policy Committee meeting. He noted that the policies represent part of the continued effort to transition fully to the Simbli policy system.

X. Staff Reports

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

A. Sales Tax Update

Mrs. Voisin reported that the St. Mary Parish School Board ended Fiscal Year 2025-2026 with a sales tax collection surplus of approximately $772,000, as collections totaled $28.8 million compared to the budgeted amount of $28.1 million.

B. Financial Statements (Major Funds Only)

Financial statement actuals through July 2026 for the major funds were included in the Board packet for their review.

C. Other Significant Items

No other significant items were reported.

XI. Superintendent's Report (Dr. Sanders)

Dr. Sanders welcomed Mr. J Ina as the District's new Child Welfare and Attendance Supervisor and thanked him for his service. She also welcomed students, families, and staff to the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year and encouraged students to take advantage of the academic, career and technical, athletic, and extracurricular opportunities available through St. Mary Parish Public Schools. Dr. Sanders reminded the community to exercise caution around school campuses and bus stops as students return to school and emphasized the importance of regular student attendance. She further noted that all students will continue to receive free breakfast and lunch during the school year and expressed appreciation for the continued support of families, the community, and the School Board. She concluded her report with the statement, “We remain committed to every student, every day because together we grow.”

XII. Resolution of Respect (Mrs. Gunner)

Mrs. Gunner read aloud the resolutions of respect for the late Wade Boudreaux, Sr. (retired science teacher), Myra Guillotte (retired administrative secretary), Alice Howard (retired teacher), Foster Johnson (retired principal and board member), Ruth Landry (retired paraprofessional), and Robert Wamble (retired assistant principal).

XIII. Closing - Adjournment (Mrs. Black)

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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