St. Mary Parish School Board Budget Workshop and District Board Member Workshop
08/08/2026 08:00 AM
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
Lawrence Guillory, Board Member

Absent:
Rhonda Dennis, Board Member

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Black.

1. Roll Call

The roll call was conducted by Dr. Sanders.

II. Budget

1. 8:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. - Provide board members with an understanding of financial budget.

The Budget Workshop is for informational purposes only and no action will be taken during this session.

Chief Financial Officer, Becky Voisin, and Chief Accountant, Mason Foret, provided the Board with a Budget Workshop booklet and other supporting documents for the 2026-2027 budget projections on the General Funds, Maintenance District Funds, and School Food Service Funds.

Mrs. Voisin reported that the School Food Service budget annual MFP contribution was reduced from $500,000 to $100,000, resulting in an estimated savings of $400,000 in MFP funds. The recommendation was made after consultation with the School Food Service Director, who indicated the reduction was manageable due to the department's strong fund balance.

It was reported that School Food Service began the year with a fund balance of approximately $2.8 million and is projected to have a $2.9 million balance as of July 1, 2026. The FY 2026-2027 budget includes estimated revenues of $6.1 million and expenditures of approximately $7.8 million, resulting in a projected deficit of $1.7 million and an ending fund balance of approximately $1.1 million. The majority of revenues are derived from federal meal reimbursements, while salaries, benefits, and food costs account for the largest share of expenditures. Mrs. Voisin noted that the projected deficit reflects conservative budgeting practices and planned one-time expenditures.

Mrs. Voisin presented the FY 2026-2027 maintenance and capital project fund projections for all three maintenance districts. Regular maintenance and special projects are as follows:

District I is projected to end the year with a fund balance of approximately $3.1 million, reflecting a projected surplus of $724,000.

District II is projected to end with a fund balance of approximately $330,000, including a projected deficit of $113,000 due in part to the budgeted $100,000 Berwick Elementary mold remediation project.

District III is projected to end with a fund balance of approximately $4.0 million, reflecting a projected surplus of $258,000.

Mrs. Voisin also reviewed capital project funds (27, 28, and 29), identifying both encumbered and unencumbered balances within each district. After accounting for previously approved FY 2026-2027 capital project expenditures, projected capital fund balances are approximately $2.5 million in District I, $1.4 million in District II, and $3.9 million in District III.

Combined projected maintenance and capital fund balances are estimated at approximately $5.6 million for District I, $1.7 million for District II and $7.9 million for District III.

Mrs. Voisin briefly explained that the proposed 2026–2027 school allocations (Dollar Per Pupil) funding will not be provided to schools up front due to the new law.

Mrs. Voisin presented a consolidated summary of maintenance and capital project finances for all three maintenance districts, including projected beginning balances, revenues, expenditures, and ending fund balances for FY 2026-2027.

For regular maintenance and special projects, projected ending fund balances were reported as approximately $3.1 million for District I, $330,000 for District II, and $4.0 million for District III. District II reflects a projected deficit of approximately $113,000, primarily due to the inclusion of $100,000 for Berwick Elementary mold remediation.

Mrs. Voisin also reviewed capital project fund balances, noting encumbered and unencumbered amounts within each district. After accounting for previously approved capital expenditures, projected capital fund balances were reported as approximately $2.5 million for District I, $1.4 million for District II, and $3.9 million for District III.

Combined projected maintenance and capital fund balances total approximately $5.6 million for District I, $1.7 million for District II, and $7.9 million for District III.

The General Fund consists of nine funds, including Career Development, Technology, Stipends, Differentiated Compensation, Goldman Trust, Education Excellence, High Dosage Tutoring, and Medicaid. For FY 2026-27, the district projects a beginning General Fund balance of $38.1 million, with $89 million in revenues and $91 million in expenditures, resulting in an estimated $2 million deficit and an ending fund balance of approximately $36 million. Of the projected deficit, $1.895 million is attributed to the Governor's executive order.

Dr. Sanders recommended holding maintenance committee meetings earlier this year to allow each committee to review all maintenance project accounts and remaining balances. The intent is for committee members, along with maintenance and finance staff, to review completed and incomplete projects, identify any unused funds remaining from prior projects, and determine whether those funds should remain allocated or be reassigned. It was noted that some project balances have accumulated over multiple years and should be reviewed and cleaned up. The Board agreed that this review is necessary, and a maintenance committee meeting will be scheduled to address the matter.

The formal adoption of the St. Mary Parish School Board Consolidated Budget will be approved at the Thursday, September 3, 2026, regular school board meeting at 5:30 p.m., at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana.

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 5:15 p.m., prior to the regular school board meeting of the St. Mary Parish School Board, at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana for the purpose of reviewing and receiving input from the public on the Consolidated Budget General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and all other Funds of the St. Mary Parish School Board for the year ending June 30, 2027.

The Consolidated Budget will be available for public inspection at the Central Office Complex located at 474 Hwy 317, Centerville, Louisiana.

III. Child Welfare and Attendance and Student Safety

1. 11:15 a.m. -12:00 p.m. - To provide board members with an understanding of last year's truancy data, discipline data, and plans to increase attendance, reduce the number of disciplinary hearings, and to provide an understanding of emergency and incident response measures.

Ms. Jill Tamporello, McKinney-Vento Liaison, presented an overview of attendance and truancy services, including the district's use of the Louisiana Department of Education's Power of Presence framework and the work of the Truancy Support Panel (TSP) to improve student attendance. She reviewed attendance monitoring procedures, weekly truancy hearings, collaboration with school personnel, and coordination with the judicial system. Ms. Tamporello also explained excused and unexcused absences, noting that excused absences may still contribute to chronic absenteeism.

Mr. J. Ina, Child Welfare and Attendance Supervisor, reviewed 2025-2026 discipline data by grade level. He reported that the most common violations were cell phone offenses at the high school level, willful disobedience at the middle school level, and conduct injurious to others at the elementary level. He discussed plans to reduce discipline referrals through proactive interventions, administrator support, and a restorative approach to discipline. He also highlighted mentorship opportunities and community partnerships designed to provide positive role models and support for students.

Mrs. Gidget Everett, Student Services and Safety, provided an overview of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and efforts to reinforce positive student behavior. She reviewed district bullying prevention procedures, reporting processes, and investigation requirements. She discussed the importance of educating students, staff, and families on the distinction between bullying and peer conflict. Ms. Everett also addressed questions regarding bullying investigations involving students with disabilities and the district's efforts to ensure student safety. She reviewed the district's anonymous reporting system through Crime Stoppers, which allows students and community members to report safety concerns directly to district administrators and support personnel for prompt response and intervention. Ms. Everett also highlighted the role of School Resource Officers (SROs) in supporting school safety, conducting drills and security activities, and building positive relationships with students throughout the district.

Ms. Kentrell Lewis, Behavior Interventionist and Licensed Therapist, presented information on the district's implementation of the Outreach platform for threat assessments and student safety monitoring. He reported that 77 threat assessments were conducted during the 2025-2026 school year, including 64 suicide-related assessments and 13 violence-related assessments, and that more than 80 students received counseling and behavioral support services. Mr. Lewis reviewed procedures for student mental health interventions, emergency responses, and the district's anonymous reporting system. He also explained that students returning from emergency interventions must receive medical clearance and participate in a reentry meeting to develop appropriate support and monitoring plans.

Dr. Kristin Percle, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented an update on district academic performance and instructional initiatives. She reported gains in all four tested content areas during the 2025-2026 school year and noted that St. Mary Parish was recognized as one of Louisiana’s fastest-growing school systems. She reviewed changes to the state accountability system and emphasized the district’s focus on student growth, college and career readiness, and post-secondary success.
Dr. Percle identified middle school mathematics as a key area of focus and outlined the district’s improvement efforts, including targeted interventions and expanded instructional supports. She also highlighted the district’s expansion of career pathways, dual enrollment, workforce readiness programs, and industry-based credentials, noting that students earned more than 1,500 credentials this year. Additionally, she discussed leadership development initiatives designed to strengthen instructional support and improve student outcomes across the district.

Ms. Hoffpauir presented an update on elementary student achievement, highlighting literacy, numeracy, and early childhood education as key district priorities. She reported a 21-point increase in K-3 literacy proficiency over the past three years, with improvement demonstrated at every elementary school, and attributed the growth to evidence-based instructional practices, high-quality instructional materials, professional development, and targeted interventions. Ms. Hoffpauir also reported gains in elementary mathematics across all elementary schools and emphasized the district’s continued commitment to strengthening foundational skills to support long-term student success.

IV. Instruction

1. **12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Provide board members with an overview of district academic performance, emerging educational trends, instructional priorities,**

and strategic initiatives that support student achievement and future readiness.

Ms. McClarity, Director of Special Education, presented an overview of the district's special education services, funding, and student support programs. She explained the difference between the district's special education IEP count (1,327 students) and the MFP count (1,829 students), noting that special education funds are restricted for services to students with disabilities, while MFP funding generated by gifted, talented, and other eligible students flows into the district's general fund. She reported that the district earned a 94.4% score on the state's Special Education LEA Determination Report and highlighted strong outcomes for students with disabilities, including graduation rates exceeding state targets, timely evaluations, and continued academic improvement. Ms. McClarity also emphasized the district's focus on compliance, behavior supports, mental health services, and inclusive practices to ensure students receive the interventions and support needed for success.

Ms. Bonnie Daste, Coordinator of Pupil Appraisal Services, provided an overview of the district's Child Find program, which identifies and evaluates children who may need special education services. She emphasized the importance of early intervention and highlighted the district's efforts to support students through evaluations, targeted services, and collaboration with families. Ms. Daste also noted that School Building Level Committees at each campus help identify student needs and provide appropriate interventions and support.

Ms. Carmen LaGarde, Elementary Special Education Coordinator, reported academic gains among elementary students with disabilities, including improvements in ELA, math, and science proficiency. She explained that LEAP Connect is an alternate assessment administered to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities and is provided with individualized accommodations. She also highlighted the district's commitment to inclusion, ensuring students receive appropriate access to general education settings and school activities, and emphasized the use of literacy, numeracy, and data-driven interventions to support continued student growth.

Mrs. Almetra Stansbury, Secondary Special Education Coordinator, presented an overview of secondary special education performance and student outcomes. She highlighted positive results in graduation, accountability, and credential attainment for students with disabilities, noting that the district exceeded state targets in several areas and continues to show academic growth. Ms. Stanbury also emphasized the district's commitment to preparing students for success after high school through graduation pathways, industry-based credentials, and individualized support. She noted that special education staff continue to focus on improving student achievement, increasing opportunities for post-secondary success, and ensuring compliance with state and federal requirements.

Ms. Sadie Clinton, IEP Facilitator, presented an overview of the district's Individualized Education Program (IEP) process and compliance efforts. She emphasized the importance of developing and monitoring IEPs to ensure students with disabilities receive appropriate services and support. Ms. Clinton highlighted the collaborative work of special education staff, educators, and families in maintaining compliance with state and federal requirements while addressing the individual needs of students.
She also noted the district's continued focus on timely documentation, effective communication, and procedural compliance to support positive educational outcomes for students with disabilities.

Ms. Susan Tregle, Gifted and Talented Coordinator, presented an overview of the district's Gifted and Talented Program, which provides specialized instruction and enrichment opportunities for students with exceptional academic abilities and talents. She highlighted the program's growth and emphasized its focus on challenging students through advanced learning experiences that promote critical thinking, creativity, and academic achievement. Ms. Tregle also recognized senior Kyle Vitor as an example of the program's impact through the Talented Music Program. She noted that Kyle has participated in the program for six years and has been involved in honor band, robotics, track and field, drama productions, and Nicholls State University's jazz band. Kyle concluded the presentation with a jazz performance for the Board.

Mr. Stephen Harris, Coordinator of Related Services, explained that Assistive Technology provides students with disabilities with the tools and support they need to access instruction, communicate effectively, and participate more independently in school. He emphasized that services and devices are selected based on each student's individual needs to help support academic success and independence.

V. Closing - Adjournment

The Board Workshop adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

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