



Budget Public Hearing of the St. Mary Parish
School Board
09/03/2026 05:15 PM
Evans Medine Meeting Room
474 Highway 317
Centerville, LA 70522

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Voting Members

Guienzy Brent, Board Member
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
Lawrence Guillory, Board Member

Absent Members

Marilyn LaSalle, Board Member
Rhonda Dennis, 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. Budget Public Hearing (Mrs. Voisin)

The St. Mary Parish School Board held a Budget Public Hearing on Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 5:15 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. Review and Receive Input on the St. Mary Parish School Board Consolidated Budget for the Year Ending June 30, 2027. (General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and all other Funds of the St. Mary Parish School Board). This Consolidated Budget is available for public inspection at the Central Office Complex located at 474 Hwy 317, Centerville, LA

Chief Financial Officer Becky Voisin stated that the St. Mary Parish School Board is required to adopt its annual operating budget of revenues and expenditures by September 15 of each fiscal year and that a public hearing is required prior to adoption. She reported that the Board had previously reviewed the General Fund, Maintenance Funds, and School Food Service budgets in detail during the August 8, 2026, Budget Workshop, at which revisions were made. She explained

that the original General Fund budget deficit of \$2,084,026 was reduced by decreasing the transfer to the Technology Fund by \$57,000.

Additional expenditures were added to the 2026-2027 budget as follows:

- \$460,000: Employee stipends (\$2K & \$1K)
- \$100,000: Bus repair labor and materials
- \$75,413: Disposal services
- \$70,000: 16th Judicial District Court (unfunded state mandate)
- \$50,000: PEAC Solutions rental for two Xerox copiers
- \$8,500: Staff development travel (set to 25% of 2025/2026 actual spending)

No additional travel reductions were made because the travel budget had already been reduced by 35% compared to FY 2025-2026 actual expenditures, exceeding the Board's requested 25% reduction.

These additions bring the revised 2026/2027 General Fund budgeted deficit to (\$2,791,228) as follows:

- A \$2.7M Projected Fund Balance in Medicaid as of 06/30/27 that can be utilized at the Board's discretion on any "allowable" General Fund Expense;
- The General Funds budgeted \$2.791M deficit is overwhelmingly driven by two costs totaling \$2.738M: \$2.318M for employee stipends (\$1.858M state-mandated by the Governor's Executive Order plus \$460K to include all staff) and \$420K for projected health insurance premium increases.

In other words, due to the collaborative efforts to cut expenses where possible by all district departments and school-based personnel, nearly the entire projected deficit is attributable to these two extraordinary and largely unavoidable costs.

These efforts demonstrate strong fiscal responsibility, especially since SMSB lost \$1.8M in MFP funding mainly due to a decline in student enrollment all while maintaining essential educational services.

Other Changes that were made since the 08/08/26 Budget Workshop are as follows:

- Technology (Fund#:005), Differentiated Compensation (Fund 007), Goldman Trust (Fund 008) & Education Excellence Funds (Fund 009) are projected to end 26/27 Fund balances are now zero.
- School allocation expenditures decreased by \$6,480 after parental involvement expenditures were removed from the FY 2026-2027 budget that were required to be paid through Title I funds.
- Maintenance District I (Fund 11's) 26/27 budgeted surplus went from \$3,063,783 to \$883,783 since we added \$2,180,000 to Maintenance District I's "Special Projects" for an HVAC replacement at FHS and HVAC Repairs to Centerville.
- Maintenance District II (Fund 12's) 26/27 budgeted surplus went from \$330,315 to \$579,315, which is an increase of \$249K:
- To address declining property tax revenues, Maintenance District II board members requested postponing the remaining three loan

payments—totaling \$747,000 over the next 5 fiscal years—from 2026/2027 to 2030/2031, with payments resuming in 2031/2032.

This will have no financial impact on Maintenance District I or Maintenance District III.

The impact to the General Fund will be limited to maintaining the \$847,000 as reserved funds, rather than reclassifying the amount as a contingency.

The President opened the floor for questions from Board members and the public. Hearing none, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the FY 2026-2027 budget.

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

III. Closing of Public Hearing - Adjournment (Mrs. Black)

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Motion made by: Debra Jones

Motion seconded by: Lindsey Anslem

Voting results: Unanimously Approved