Regular Meeting of St. Mary Parish School Board
10/01/2026 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

Absent Member
Lawrence Guillory, Board Member

I. Meeting Called to Order (Mrs. Black)
The meeting was called to order by Mrs. 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, October 1, 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. **Introduction of Students and Employees of the Month. (Mrs. Black)**

Recognition of Students and Employees of the Month was presented by their respective school administrator. Each administrator provided brief remarks highlighting the achievements and contributions of the honorees as follows:

A. Bayou Vista Elementary School

Bayou Vista Elementary School was unable to attend the meeting, and its presentation will be made at the November 3, 2026, Regular School Board Meeting.

B. W. P. Foster Elementary School

Londyn Stansbury - 5th Grade Student
Tina Ladday - 2nd Grade Teacher

C. Patterson Junior High School

Olivia Guillot- 8th Grade Student
Emma Thompson- 5th Grade Student
Dana Harden- Teacher

IV. Approval of Amended Agenda (Mrs. Black)
There was no amended agenda.

V. Approval of Official School Board Minutes (Mrs. Black)
The Board approved the following minutes in globo of the Budget Public Hearing held on September 3, 2026, at 5:15 p.m., and the Regular School Board Meeting held on September 3, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., as presented.

Motion made by: Ginger Griffin
Motion seconded by: Dr. Tammie Wilson
Voting results: Unanimously Approved

1. **Public Hearing: September 3, 2026**
2. **Regular Meeting: September 3, 2026**

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 items on the consent agenda.

The Board approved the following consent agenda as presented by Dr. Sanders.

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem
Motion seconded by: Chad Paradee
Voting results: Unanimously Approved

1. ***Discuss and/or take action on Request for Proposals (RFP) for Lawn Maintenance Services for St. Mary Parish School Board Properties. (Mr. Regard)**
2. ***Proclamations**
   - **A. * National Bullying Prevention Month (Ms. Mitchell)**
   - **B. *Learning Disability Awareness Month (Ms. Mitchell)**
   - **C. *Red Ribbon Week (Ms. Mitchell)**
   - **D. *National Principals Month (Ms. Mitchell)**
   - **E. *National School Lunch Week (Ms. Mitchell)**
   - **F. *School Bus Safety Week (Ms. Mitchell)**
3. ***Revise draft of Accountant Assistant-General Fund job description. (Ms. Gunner)**

VII. Personnel:

1. **Review and approve updated job descriptions. (Mrs. Gunner)**
   The revised job descriptions are part of an ongoing effort to ensure job descriptions accurately reflect current responsibilities and align with the operational and instructional needs of the district. These revisions do not create new positions; they update existing job descriptions for clarity and accuracy.

   The Board approved the following job descriptions as presented by Mrs. Gunner.

   Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem
   Motion seconded by: Rhonda Dennis
   Voting results: Unanimously Approved

   - **A. Draft Cafeteria Manager**
   - **B. Draft Coordinator of Accountability**

C. **Draft Data Analyst-Academics**

D. **Draft Food Service Technician**

E. **Draft Payroll Manager**

2. **Approval of Goldbook revision to include stipends. (Mrs. Gunner)**
The Goldbook has been updated to reflect the approved changes to employee compensation with a stipend during the 2026-2027 school year. The stipends will be distributed in April 2027.

The Board approved the Goldbook as presented by Mrs. Gunner.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso
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 informed the Board that an updated Group Claims Summary Report was not available at this time.

No discussion occurred, and no action was taken on the item.

2. **Receive update regarding 2027 Commercial Group Health Plan renewal. (Mr. James Perez)**
Mr. Perez reported that the 2027 Commercial Group Health plan renewal for active employees and non-Medicare retirees reflected an 11.9 percent premium increase, representing an estimated annual cost increase of approximately $1.6 million. An appeal letter was submitted to Blue Cross requesting a reduction in the proposed increase, with a response expected following the review of September claims data. In addition, a request for proposal was submitted to United Healthcare as an alternative provider, with a response anticipated by mid-next week.

No action was required or taken on this informational item.

3. **Receive 2027 Medicare Advantage Plan (MAP) renewal and take appropriate action. (Mr. James Perez-DJW Insurance)**
Mr. Perez presented an overview of the 2027 Medicare Advantage Plan renewal and reviewed four renewal options as follows:

Option 1: Maintain the current Blue Cross plan and benefits while increasing the retiree premium contribution from $90 to $122 per month, reflecting a $32 per member per month increase. The increase would be absorbed by retirees and would have no financial impact on the School Board. Blue Cross also offered a 2028 rate guarantee, limiting any increase to no more than $10 per member per month, subject to legislative changes affecting mandated benefits.

Option 2: Remain with Blue Cross and maintain the retiree premium contribution at $90 per month. Benefits would be modified to include a $500 annual deductible, copayments for certain services, and a $1,500 out-of-pocket maximum. The change would result in an estimated annual savings of approximately $200,000 to the School Board.

Option 3: Remain with Blue Cross and offer retirees a choice between two plans: (1) the current plan with no change in benefits and an increased monthly premium contribution of $122, or (2) a modified plan with a $90 monthly premium, a $500 annual deductible, applicable copayments, and a $1,500 out-of-pocket maximum. This option was projected to have no financial impact on the School Board, with retirees selecting the plan that best met their needs.

Option 4: Transition from Blue Cross to United Healthcare while maintaining the same Medicare Advantage benefits and keeping the retiree premium contribution at $90 per month. The change would reduce the premium cost to the District and generate an estimated annual savings of approximately $288,000. United Healthcare also offered a 2028 rate guarantee, with no anticipated change in

retiree premiums or benefits during the guarantee period.

A motion was made to approve option 1 to maintain the current Blue Cross plan and benefits while increasing the retiree premium contribution from $90 to $122 per month, reflecting a $32 per member per month increase. The increase would be absorbed by retirees and would have no financial impact on the School Board. Blue Cross also offered a 2028 rate guarantee, limiting any increase to no more than $10 per member per month, subject to legislative changes affecting mandated benefits.

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

Voting results:
Yes: Guienzy Brent
Yes: Dr. Tammie Wilson
Yes: Lindsey Anslem
Yes: Debra Jones
Yes: Ginger Griffin
No: Marilyn LaSalle
No: Chad Paradee
No: Alaina Black
No: Andrew Mancuso
No: Rhonda Dennis

The motion failed on a vote of 5 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 absent member.

The motion was substituted for option 3 to remain with Blue Cross and offer retirees a choice between two plans: (1) the current plan with no change in benefits and an increased monthly premium contribution of $122, or (2) a modified plan with a $90 monthly premium, a $500 annual deductible, applicable copayments, and a $1,500 out-of-pocket maximum.

The proposed option was expected to have no financial impact on the School Board while providing retirees with the flexibility to choose the plan that best fits their needs.

Motion made by: Lindsey Anslem
Motion seconded by: Dr. Tammie Wilson

Voting results:
Yes: Guienzy Brent
Yes: Dr. Tammie Wilson
Yes: Lindsey Anslem
Yes: Debra Jones
No: Ginger Griffin
No: Marilyn LaSalle
Yes: Chad Paradee
No: Alaina Black
No: Andrew Mancuso
No: Rhonda Dennis

The substitute motion for Option 3 failed on a vote of 5 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 absent member.

A substitute motion was made on option 4 to transition from Blue Cross to UnitedHealthcare while maintaining the same Medicare Advantage benefits and keeping the retiree premium contribution at $90 per month. The change would reduce the premium cost to the District and generate an estimated annual savings of approximately $288,000. United Healthcare also offered a 2028 rate guarantee, with no anticipated change in retiree premiums or benefits during the guarantee period.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso
Motion seconded by: Chad Paradee

Voting results:
No: Guienzy Brent
No: Dr. Tammie Wilson
No: Lindsey Anslem
No: Debra Jones
No: Ginger Griffin
No: Marilyn LaSalle
Yes: Chad Paradee
Yes: Alaina Black
Yes: Andrew Mancuso
Yes: Rhonda Dennis

The motion for Option 4 failed on a vote of 4 yeas, 6 nays, and 1 absent member.

The Board deferred action on renewal of the 2027 Medicare Advantage plan until a special meeting later in the month, pending additional information from Mr. Perez.

Mr. Perez advised the Board that the proposals received from United Healthcare and Express Scripts are subject to expiration dates and that he would request extensions to ensure Option 4 remains available for consideration at the special meeting.

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

4. **Discuss and/or take action on the St. Mary Parish School Board's process for participation in the Louisiana Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP). (Dr. Sanders)**
Dr. Sanders stated that Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP) applications will be brought to the full Board for discussion and guidance before she votes at the local ITEP committee meeting.

Mr. Evan Boudreaux also explained that if the local committee does not meet or take action, the application is automatically recommended for approval by the Board of Commerce and Industry.

No action was taken; the item was presented for informational purposes only.

5. **Discuss and/or action 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. Evan Boudreaux, Director of St. Mary Parish Economic Development, provided an update on the foreign trade zone applications. He stated that both companies and their legal counsel have confirmed the applications are seeking tariff relief only and do not request any local inventory tax abatements.

He also explained that a Letter of Support would only be required if the companies were seeking local tax abatements, which is not the case.

The Board approved issuing a Letter of No Objection for both applications.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso
Motion seconded by: Debra Jones
Voting results: Unanimously Approved

6. **Discuss and/or take action regarding bids on the 1.087-acre property located at 497 Hwy 317, Centerville, LA 70522. (Mrs. Jackson)**
The School Board re-solicited bids for the sale of the one-acre property located at 497 Highway 317 in Centerville. One bid in the amount of $7,323.87 was received, exceeding the reserve price of $6,800. Mrs. Jackson recommended awarding the sale of the property to Mr. John Hymes of Cuzan Services as the highest bidder.

The Board accepted the highest responsive bid of $7,323.87 and authorized the sale of the 1.087-acre property located at 497 Highway 317, Centerville, Louisiana, to Mr. John Hymes of Cuzan Services.

Motion made by: Chad Paradee

Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent
Voting results: Unanimously Approved

7. **Request for Approval to Piggyback on Rapides Parish School Board Bid No. 26-28 for Educational Materials and Supplies. (Mrs. Jackson)**
Mrs. Jackson requested Board approval to utilize the Rapides Parish School Board's bid contract for educational materials and supplies through a cooperative purchasing agreement to obtain discounted pricing and cost savings with existing vendors.

The Board approved Mrs. Jackson's recommendation to utilize the bid contract as presented.

Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso
Motion seconded by: Debra Jones
Voting results: Unanimously Approved

8. **Request Permission to Surplus Transportation Buses. (Mrs. Jackson)**
The Board approved Mrs. Jackson's recommendation to declare five inoperable transportation buses as surplus property and to authorize their sale through the GovDeals auction platform.

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

IX. Committee Reports

1. **The Policy Committee met on September 10, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana (Mr. Mancuso) to review and make recommendations regarding the following item:**
The Policy Review Committee met on September 10, 2026, at 4:30 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room to review proposed Louisiana School Boards Association (LSBA) policies in the 700 and 900 series, as well as policies in the 00 through 600 series affected by changes from the most recent legislative session. Approximately 200 policies were reviewed, discussed, and revised as needed based on committee recommendations. The revised policies have been made available through the district website via the Simbli platform. It was noted that the district's transition to the Simbli policy manual is intended to streamline the policy system and align district policies with state law and Louisiana Department of Education requirements while allowing for district-specific adjustments when appropriate.

   The Policy Review Committee recommended repealing the CAPS system policy manual and replacing it with the Simbli policy series 000-900, as revised by the committee over the previous months.

   A. **Discuss and/or take action regarding approval of the completed transition from the (CAPS) hosted St. Mary Parish Policy Manual to the (SIMBLI) hosted St. Mary Parish Policy Manual Section 00-900.**

      Motion made by: Andrew Mancuso
      Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent
      Voting results: Unanimously Approved

2. **The Special Education Advisory Council Committee met on September 21, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana (Ms. McClarity) Discussion included the following items:**
The Special Education Advisory Council Committee met on September 21, 2026, at 4:30 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room. The committee welcomed Ms. Aprill Payton as the new community representative. Ms. McClarity presented a PowerPoint regarding the district's Special Education Determination Report for the 2024-2025 school year. She also discussed the statewide assessment performance and growth data in English Language Arts and mathematics.

The committee was informed that upcoming committee meetings are scheduled for November 2, 2026, and January 25, 2027, at 4:30 p.m., in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana.

Ms. McClarity reported that the Special Education Olympic Bowling event will be held for junior high and high school students on October 21, 2026, and the elementary school event will be held on October 23, 2026. Both events are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. at Steelwood Lanes Bowling Alley, located at 3030 Highway 182 East, Morgan City, Louisiana.

No action was taken; the item was presented for informational purposes only.

A. Introduction of Committee Members

B. Introduction of New Community Representative

C. Report on Student Growth in St. Mary Parish

D. Upcoming Dates for Committee Meetings

E. Special Education Olympic Bowling Event

3. The Section 16 Land and Building Committee met on September 28, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. in the Evans Medine Meeting Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana (Dr. Sanders) to discuss and make recommendations regarding the following items:

Mr. Paradee requested that Items 3A-3D under Section 16, Land and Building Committee, be presented and voted on together.

The Land and Building Committee met on September 28, 2026, and received an update from Dr. Sanders regarding the progress of personnel relocations to new facilities and the utilization of vacated properties.

The committee discussed three properties and their potential future use.

The committee was advised that personnel from the Office of Special Services, located at 402 Iberia Street in Franklin, are in the process of relocating to the Central Office Complex, with completion anticipated by January 2027. The committee was advised that personnel from the Office of Special Services, located at 402 Iberia Street in Franklin, are in the process of relocating to the Central Office Complex, with completion anticipated by January 2027. To assist the Board in evaluating future options for selling or leasing the property, the committee requested that Dr. Sanders obtain an appraisal once the facility is fully vacated.

The committee also discussed the Materials and Operations Center located at 212 Onstead Street in Morgan City. Dr. Sanders reported that all School Board personnel have been relocated from the facility and that it is currently being used to store surplus materials and equipment. The committee further requested that Dr. Sanders explore potential leasing opportunities for the Materials and Operations Center property, as there is no interest in selling the facility at this time.

The final property discussed was the park property located behind the former Alternative Program site near the corner of Clausen Road South and Lou Street. Dr. Sanders reported that the property is currently leased to the parish through 2028 and that the City of Centerville has expressed interest in purchasing it. The parish's potential interest in opting out of the lease agreement to allow to the sale of the property.

During the discussion, it was confirmed that the park is part of a single parcel that also includes the current maintenance facility and former Alternative Program buildings. The committee requested that Mr. Regard conduct a survey of the property to determine the portion that could potentially be sold while retaining the maintenance facility and existing buildings.

Motion made by: Chad Paradee

Motion seconded by: Andrew Mancuso

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

A. Update regarding the consolidation of district offices.

B. Discuss and/or take action regarding the Office of Special Services facility and property located at 402 Iberia Street, Franklin, Louisiana 70538.

C. Discuss and/or take action regarding closure of the Materials and Operation Center (MOC) located at 212 Onstead Street, Morgan City, Louisiana 70380.

D. Discuss and/or take action regarding the park property located behind the former Alternative Program on the Corner of Clausen Road South and Lou Street, Franklin, Louisiana 70538.

X. Staff Reports

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

A. Sales Tax Update

Mrs. Voisin reported that, two months into the fiscal year, sales tax collections are exceeding budget expectations. Fiscal year-to-date sales tax revenues for July and August totaled approximately $1.2 million (25%) above budget. August collections were $3.157 million, which was $818,000 over budget.

The favorable variance was attributed primarily to one-time sales tax audit collections received in July and August, according to the Director of the St. Mary Parish Sales Tax Office. It was noted that the strong audit collections experienced over the past several years resulted from the completion of audits that had been delayed during the COVID-19 period. As these large, multi-year audits are now being closed, similar audit-related revenues are not expected to recur, as affected taxpayers will not be audited again for approximately three years.

B. Financial Statements (Major Funds Only)

The Board was provided financial statements for major funds only to review at their leisure.

C. Other Significant Items

Mrs. Voisin, Chief Financial Officer, clarified a statement made during the September board meeting regarding the district's CPA. She explained that she understood the question to be asking who would oversee the district's internal audits and responded that she would serve in that capacity as the district's degreed Chief Financial Officer and Certified Louisiana School Board Official. She stated that she is not a CPA and apologized for any misunderstanding or perception that her credentials had been misrepresented. She reaffirmed her commitment to serving the district and maintaining the trust of the Board and community.

Additionally, the CFO reported that the district received $272,000 in Career Development Funds on August 17 and $187,000 in Differentiated Compensation revenue on September 11. She noted that these funds are included in the budget and support expanded access to high-quality educational opportunities, including Career and Technical Education (CTE), Jump Start career pathways, and dual enrollment courses.

XI. Superintendent's Report (Dr. Sanders)

Dr. Sander reported that the official October 1 student enrollment count for the 2026-2027 school year was completed, with a total enrollment of 6,647 students in St. Mary Parish Public Schools.

She announced October as National Principals Month and expressed appreciation to the 22 parish principals for their year-round dedication to students, school facilities, and communities, as well as their responsiveness during emergencies and critical incidents.

The Board was informed that the Coastal Clubs at Morgan City High School and Patterson High School would be recognized as Ocean Guardian Schools for their work and projects related to coastal restoration and environmental stewardship.

The district’s Annual College and Career Fair will be held on October 6 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Berwick Civic Center, with participation from all parish high schools, including Hanson Memorial High School.

October 7 would mark the end of the first nine-week grading period and that Parent-Teacher Conference Day would be held on October 9, with no school for students. Parents were encouraged to contact their child's school to schedule conferences as needed.

Fall Break will be observed on October 12 and 13. Report cards will be distributed on October 14.

Special Olympics Bowling will be held at Steelwood Lanes in Morgan City, with students in grades 6–12 participating on October 21 at 10:00 a.m. and students in grades K-5 participating on October 23 at 10:00 a.m.

Red Ribbon Week will be observed from October 23 through October 31, with schools and community partners hosting activities promoting the theme, "Your Future Is Key. Be Drug Free."

M. E. Norman Elementary School had been selected as a stop on State Superintendent Dr. Cade Brumley's statewide tour. Dr. Brumley is scheduled to visit the campus on October 23, providing an opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of Norman Elementary School and welcome state education leaders to the district.

XII. Resolution of Respect (Mrs. Gunner)

Mrs. Gunner read aloud the resolution of respect for the late Dana Deslatte Parker, a retired teacher.

XIII. Executive Session

1. **Consider entering into executive session, pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(2), to discuss the status and strategy in the matter entitled: Ashlee Mitchell Naquin, individually and on behalf of her minor child, Jazlynn Mitchell versus St. Mary Parish School Board, Suit No. 140606, 16th Judicial District Court, Parish of St. Mary.(Mrs. Black)**

   A motion was made and duly seconded to enter into the executive session.

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

XIV. Return to Regular Session

A motion was made and duly seconded to return to regular session.

Motion made by: Debra Jones
Motion seconded by: Guienzy Brent
Voting results: Unanimously Approved

1. **Consideration of action in the matter entitled: Ashlee Mitchell Naquin, individually and on behalf of her minor child, Jazlynn Mitchell versus St. Mary Parish School Board, Suit No. 140606, 16th Judicial District Court, Parish of St. Mary. (Mrs. Black)**

   The Board voted to follow the recommendation of legal counsel.

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

XV. Closing - Adjournment (Mrs. Black)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Motion made by: Ginger Griffin
Motion seconded by: Lindsey Anslem
Voting results: Unanimously Approved