Special Meeting of St. Mary Parish School Board
10/22/2026 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 special session on Thursday, October 22, 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/UCnZ1z15IoF_FZnVcBe09cRQ*

1. **Invocation (Ms. Estay)**

   Ms. Estay 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. Business Affairs

1. **Commercial Group Health Insurance Plan – review 2027 renewal options and take appropriate action.**

   The Board reviewed 2027 renewal options for the Commercial Group Health Insurance Plan and the Group Medicare Advantage Plan. Mr. James Perez reported that Blue Cross Blue Shield reduced its initial commercial plan renewal increase from 11.9% to 7.9%, while United Healthcare declined to submit a quote.

   Mr. Perez further reported that, because a decision on the Medicare Advantage Plan was not made at the previous meeting, extensions were requested from United Healthcare for the Medicare Advantage portion and Express Scripts for the Part D prescription drug portion. Express Scripts declined to grant an extension, eliminating that option. As a result, Blue Cross Blue Shield remained the only Medicare Advantage option.

Mr. Perez also negotiated an additional reduction of $20 per member per month on the Medicare Advantage Plan, resulting in only a $12 per member per month increase.

Three renewal options were presented. Option 1, the recommended option, would maintain all current benefits, carriers, and employee/retiree premium contributions with no changes to payroll-deducted premiums. Mr. Perez explained that, although the Medicare Advantage Plan increased by $12 per member per month, the Board could absorb that increase so that employees and retirees would experience no increase in premiums, no change in carrier, and no changes in coverage. Under this option, the total additional cost to the School Board would be $1,151,903.09 annually for both the Commercial and Medicare Advantage Plans.

Option 2 would remain within the originally budgeted $420,000 increase but would require substantial premium increases for employees.

Option 3 would add a $250 prescription drug deductible for Plan 1 participants while providing only limited savings to the Board.

Mr. Perez recommended funding the additional cost through the Board's insurance reserve fund, which currently contains approximately $3 million set aside for potential self-insurance. Since $420,000 had already been budgeted for insurance increases, the Board discussed uncommitting and transferring the remaining $731,903.09 from the reserve fund to cover the full increase for both the Commercial and Medicare Advantage Plans and avoid passing costs on to employees and retirees.

The Board approved Items 1 and 2 in globo, adopting Option 1 for both the Commercial Group Health Insurance Plan and the Medicare Advantage Plan and uncommitting $731,903.09 from the self-insurance reserve fund to cover the additional premium costs.

Board members expressed appreciation to Mr. Perez, the administration and negotiating team, for securing significant reductions in the proposed premium increases, noting that negotiations reduced projected costs by $755,000 while maintaining current benefits, current carrier, and premium rates for employees and retirees.

Motion made by: Chad Paradee
Motion seconded by: Dr. Tammie Wilson
Voting results: Unanimously Approved

2. **Group Medicare Advantage Plan – review 2027 renewal options and take appropriate action.**

   This item was voted in globo with Item 1.

IV. Closing - Adjournment (Mrs. Black)

With there no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

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