

Grandparents Day is being planned as an additional family and community engagement activity. Eighty-one learners from St. Helena Early Learning Center completed the 2026 summer reading assignment. Based on improved literacy performance and continued academic growth, the school is projected to receive a “B” letter grade. The school remains focused on learner success, educator effectiveness, family engagement, data-driven interventions, and improving the quality of instruction. Bernard McPherson, Principal, St. Helena Arts & Technology Academy, reported on the school’s opening of the 2026–2027 school year and instructional priorities. Key points included:	The district tied for #3 in Louisiana for Science growth and ranked #7 in Louisiana for Math growth. The district was recognized by the Louisiana Department of Education for its Zearn performance. District mathematics performance reached double-digit growth, increasing from approximately 6% to 10%. Academic growth was supported through planning, instructional coaching, high-quality instructional materials, implementation, and progress monitoring. The department will focus on the growth component of the new accountability system. Math priorities include increasing Zearn completion, strengthening the use of Zearn reports, and emphasizing end-of-mission and mid-mission assessments. Professional development will focus on strengthening teacher content knowledge. Science instruction will emphasize Tier 1 curriculum implementation, Science and Engineering Practices, CER strategies, questioning, modeling, and productive struggle. A three-week observation cycle will continue to provide instructional support, observation and feedback, and in-classroom coaching. Ms. Tracy Womack, Director of Child Nutrition and Wellness, provided an update on the district’s nutrition program. Key points included:
The school established “Year of Being Incredible” as its theme for the 2026–2027 school year. The school began the year with a strong focus on instruction, academic performance, and learner achievement. A first-day pep rally was held to establish school culture and expectations. Learners identified as no-shows or having a history of habitual truancy were identified, and safeguards were implemented. Tier 1 instruction was implemented beginning the first week of school. Class rosters were intentionally balanced using LEAP and other assessment data to support targeted instruction. Teachers participate in weekly Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and classroom walkthroughs. Model lessons and targeted support are being provided to educators as needed. Support for new teachers and ESS staff has been strengthened. Two rounds of observation and data-feedback cycles have been completed with core-content teachers. Parent and community engagement continues to be strengthened through social media and the Chalkline parent portal. Instructional priorities include improving Tier 1 instructional fidelity, using data to drive instruction, and ensuring mastery of grade-level content. Reading and mathematics data will be used to establish targeted learner support groups. PLC teams will review mastery data and make instructional adjustments in real time. Exit-ticket analysis and common formative assessments will be used to identify learning gaps early. The school remains committed to building upon the academic growth achieved during the previous school year.	The department reviewed organizational structures, systems, processes, and outcomes as part of its continuous improvement efforts. Managers and staff participated in retraining and professional development to reinforce expectations and improve operations. The department continues to focus on providing nutritious meals and improving meal-service efficiency. Increasing meal participation, particularly at the high school level, remains a primary goal. Learner feedback is being used to improve menus and increase participation. The department is emphasizing employee development, training, and leadership. Meal services include classroom service at St. Helena Early Learning Center and St. Helena College and Career Academy and grab-and-go service at St. Helena Arts & Technology Academy. Schools established goals related to meal participation and waste reduction. The department is targeting a 3%–10% increase in meal participation at each school. Continued collaboration among school administrators, staff, learners, and the Child Nutrition Department will support program improvement. Additional District Initiative Deshaun Muse presented the proposed “St. Helena Winning: From Here to Anywhere” learner inspiration and career exposure initiative. The presentation highlighted:
Mr. Jason St. Pierre, Principal, St. Helena College and Career Academy, provided an update on school performance, noting that, based on increased literacy performance and continued academic growth, the school is projected to receive a “B” letter grade. The principal credited the school’s staff and learners for their commitment to using data, establishing individual goals, and continuously improving academic performance.	Connecting learners with successful professionals, mentors, career opportunities, and postsecondary pathways. Bringing together schools, families, churches, businesses, alumni, government leaders, and community organizations. Proposed activities including a Walk of Winners, alumni recognition, inspirational panels, college and career expo, Entrepreneur Street, financial literacy workshops, career exploration zones, and a learner “Winning Wall.” Opportunities for partnerships with colleges, universities, technical schools, military representatives, businesses, and community organizations. A long-term vision of expanding the initiative to include mentorship opportunities and scholarship opportunities. Goals of increasing learner career awareness, confidence, aspirations, mentorship opportunities, scholarship awareness, and exposure to future careers. A learner survey will be administered to help guide the planning and activities for the event.
Directors’ Reports	
Ms. Singleton, Director of Special Programs and Initiatives, provided updates on the department’s initiatives for the 2026–2027 school year, highlighting the following key points:	
Two LA4 Pre-K classrooms are operating at maximum capacity, serving approximately 40 Pre-K learners. The district received LDOE Preschool Development Grant funding to strengthen early language and literacy instruction for children birth through age five. Pre-K teachers received training on the Goldfinch platform to enhance assessment and learner development. The department received allocations to support K–5 learners in ELA and mathematics, including an EIR pilot allocation for second-grade ELA learners. Forty-six learners completed applications for dual enrollment through Northshore Technical Community College, including 38 pursuing technical programs and eight pursuing general education coursework. Thirteen learners are participating in the returning Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) program at St. Helena College and Career Academy. Community partnerships continue to expand, including improved electronic tracking and certification procedures through the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. The district’s internship partnership network continues to grow, with 14 interns receiving full state funding. More than 24 learners were trained as peer mediators during the previous school year, with additional training scheduled. Nine learners successfully completed the Jump Start Summer Program through Northshore Technical Community College’s welding program, with three earning new certifications. Department priorities include strengthening early childhood access and readiness, expanding academic intervention services, developing a coordinated learner and family support system, and increasing stakeholder awareness and confidence.	E. Approve Committee Reports 1. Approve Committee Reports – August 13, 2026 Temporary increase, not to exceed \$1.50 per gallon, in the diesel fuel cost allotment for two (2) owner/operator bus drivers, effective until diesel fuel prices return to pre-war levels or below \$2.85 per gallon; the motion failed by a 3–3 tie vote, and the item was not approved by the Committee. \$50.00 reduction in the monthly allotment for School Board members for each absence from a regularly scheduled Board meeting. The reduction may be waived upon submission of a written excuse to the Board President for an absence due to a medical emergency or work-related obligation. The item was not approved due to lack of support. Mr. Alton Travis made the motion, seconded by Ms. Virginia Bell, to approve the Committee Reports from the August 13, 2026 Committee Meetings collectively. The motion was approved by General Consent.
Ms. Kristie Nettles, Director of Academic Programs for ELA and Social Studies, reported on academic accomplishments and instructional priorities. Key points included:	2026-2027 Organizational Chart
Three hundred seventy learners completed the 2026 summer reading assignment, including 81 learners from St. Helena Early Learning Center, 117 learners from St. Helena Arts & Technology Academy, and 181 learners from St. Helena College and Career Academy. The district will continue implementation of the Amira AI Reading Tutor, beginning September 8, to provide real-time reading intervention and feedback. The district ranked #1 in Louisiana for Social Studies growth on the 2026 spring assessment. The district also ranked #1 in the state for Amira usage, with data demonstrating positive learner growth. ELA and Social Studies priorities are aligned with the district’s instructional focus areas of using data to drive instruction, ensuring mastery of content, and improving the quality of instruction. An ELA LEAP Writing Cycle will be implemented across grade levels. Standards-aligned exit tickets and LEAP-aligned “Do Now” activities will be used to identify and address learning gaps. Social Studies instruction will incorporate checkpoints, unit assessments, source analysis, CER responses, and LEAP-style assessments. A three-week observation cycle will include PLC collaboration, classroom observations, feedback, and targeted instructional support. The department will focus on improving ELA reading and writing proficiency while sustaining the district’s strong Social Studies growth.	Payment of Governor’s Executive Order and district-funded stipends in the amounts of \$2,000.00 and \$1,000.00 to all eligible employees. The district will absorb the cost for all employees who are not eligible under the executive order. 2026-2027 Media Proposal from Flying Ghost Productions, Inc. Requests for Proposal for High Dosage Tutoring and ACT Tutoring services. The Kirkland Group - High Dosage Tutoring Top Tutors - ACT Tutoring F. Executive Session 1. Vernon Gordon, et al v. St. Helena Parish School Board, et al, 21st JDC No. 25510 Mrs. Joyce Porter made the motion, seconded by Mr. George Hughes, to enter into Executive Session to discuss the matter of Vernon Gordon, et al. v. St. Helena Parish School Board, et al., 21st JDC No. 25510. The motion was approved by General Consent. Mrs. Joyce Porter made the motion, seconded by Mr. George Hughes, to return from Executive Session. G. Meeting Closing Ms. Linda Chaney stated that the matter was discussed during Executive Session and no action was taken. 1. Announcement of Next Meeting Date: September 10, 2026 2. Closing Comments - Board Members 3. Adjourn Meeting adjourned by General Consent of all members present.
Dr. Joshua John Paul, Director of Academic Programs for Math and Science, presented academic performance data and instructional priorities. Key points included: The district ranked #2 among Louisiana LIFT districts for Zearn completion during the 2025–2026 school year.	SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 26-09-42 Cost of Notices: \$87.60