

State of Louisiana

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JIMMY D. LONG SR. LOUISIANA SCHOOL FOR MATH, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS

Monday, June 15, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts met on Monday June 15, 2020, at 10:40 a.m. in the Jimmy D. Long Board Room, LSMSA, in Natchitoches, LA. Ms. Sharon Gahagan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order. Ms. Anne Dejoie-Lucas recorded the minutes. Ms. Gahagan welcomed members and guests to the meeting, giving special welcome to Mr. Kirby Hopkins, new president of LSMSA's Alumni Association. Mr. Hopkins expressed his thanks for the welcome and said he looks forward to this new role.

Roll was called, and a Quorum was established.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Ms. Sharon T. Gahagan (Chair)
Mr. Tony Davis (Vice Chair)
Rep. Beryl Amedee (via Zoom)
Dr. Jason C. Anderson
Ms. Leanne M Broussard
Mr. Joseph E. "Jed" Cain
Mr. Raphael Curtis (via Zoom)
Mr. Jared R. Dunahoe
Dr. Vickie S. Gentry (via Zoom)
Ms. Chanda Johnson (via Zoom)
Ms. Marian "Suzy" Johnson (via Zoom)
Ms. Denise Karamales (via Zoom)
Mr. Jimmy D. Long Jr. (via Zoom)
Dr. Kimberly Walker McAlister (via Zoom)
Senator Beth Mizell (via Zoom)
Dr. Larry Tremblay (via Zoom)
Dr. Arthur S. Williams
Dr. Steve Horton,
LSMSA Executive Director (non-voting)

Members Absent:

Ms. Martha T. Smiley
Mr. Jamie G. Smith
Mr. Richard Strong

Guests Present:

Mr. Kirby Hopkins, Incoming President, LSMSA
Alumni Association (via Zoom)
Mr. Ken Sills, Attorney, Hammonds, Sills Adkins
& Guice LLP (via Zoom)
Mr. Matthew Couvillion, LSMSA 1993 Graduate
(via Zoom)
Mr. John Allen, LSMSA Chief of Staff
Dr. Kristi Pope-Key, LSMSA Academic Services
Director
Ms. Emily Shumate, LSMSA Enrollment &
Student Services Director (via Zoom)
Ms. Mary Ellen Slayter, President, LSMSA
Foundation (via Zoom)

A Quorum of Board members being present, the meeting proceeded with business.

AGENDA ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF MARCH 9, 2020, BOARD MINUTES

Ms. Gahagan requested the Board's review of the March 9, 2020, Board minutes and requested any additions or corrections.

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Arthur Williams, seconded by Mr. Jared Dunahoe, and unanimously passed, the Minutes of the March 9, 2020, meeting stand approved as read/reviewed.

AGENDA ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MAY 21, 2020, and JUNE 8, 2020, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Ms. Gahagan requested the Board's review of the May 21, 2020, and June 8, 2020 Executive Committee minutes and requested any additions or corrections.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Tony Davis, seconded by Dr. Arthur Williams, and unanimously passed, the Minutes of the May 21, 2020 and June 8, 2020 Executive Committee meetings stand approved as read/reviewed.

AGENDA ITEM 3: CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Gahagan reported that she had one request for public comment. LSMSA 1993 graduate Matthew Couvillion read his comment in support and appreciation of the Board and School administration. A copy of the comment has been printed and attached to the permanent record related to this Board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Dr. Horton explained that it's the Board's responsibility every four years to call for nominations for the positions of Board Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Tony Davis, seconded by Mr. Jed Cain, and unanimously passed, Ms. Sharon Gahagan was nominated for the position of Board Chair. No other persons were nominated.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jed Cain, seconded by Mr. Dunahoe, and unanimously passed, Nominations were closed for the position of Board Chair and vote was called. Unanimously passed, Ms. Sharon Gahagan was re-elected to serve a 4-year term as Board Chair.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jared Dunahoe, seconded by Dr. Jason Anderson, and unanimously passed, Mr. Tony Davis was nominated for the position of Vice Chair. No other persons were nominated.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jed Cain, seconded by Mr. Dunahoe, and unanimously passed, Nominations were closed for the position of Board Vice Chair and vote was called. Unanimously passed, Mr. Tony Davis was re-elected to serve a 4-year term as Vice Chair.

Ms. Gahagan and Mr. Davis graciously accepted their re-elections and thanked the Board for their support these past four years.

AGENDA ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF CREDENTIALS OF NEW FACULTY

Dr. Key answered questions related to the hiring of Dr. Dalton Burks (Chemistry). **(Agenda Item 5 Exhibit 1)** There being no questions or discussion,

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Arthur Williams, seconded by Mr. Tony Davis, and unanimously passed, the credentials of Dr. Dalton Burks were approved for his addition to LSMSA's faculty.

AGENDA ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF PROPOSED NEW COURSES

Dr. Key presented new courses being added to LSMSA course listing, including Nutrition, Dance Improvisation, Special Topics in Sanskrit, Chinese III, and Making of Modern East Asia: China and Japan 1600 to the Present. **(Agenda Item 6 Exhibit 1)** There being no questions or discussion,

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Jason Anderson, seconded by Mr. Jared Dunahoe, and unanimously passed, the new courses will be added to LSMSA's course listing as presented.

AGENDA ITEM 7: REPORT ON ANNUAL EVALUATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jed Cain that the Board go into Executive Session pursuant to L.R.S. 42:17(A)(2) to discuss the following matters: Annual Evaluation of the Executive Director; seconded by Dr. Art Williams, Ms. Lucas commenced the required Roll Call Vote:

Rep. Beryl Amedee (via Zoom), yes
Dr. Jason C. Anderson, yes
Ms. Leanne Broussard, yes
Mr. Joseph E. “Jed” Cain, yes
Mr. Raphael Curtis (via Zoom), yes
Mr. Tony Davis, yes
Mr. Jared R. Dunahoe, yes
Ms. Sharon T. Gahagan, yes
Dr. Vickie S. Gentry (via Zoom), yes
Ms. Chanda Johnson (via Zoom), yes
Ms. Marian “Suzy” Johnson (via Zoom) -
 it is noted that Ms. Johnson was
 experiencing audio difficulties and
 abstained from voting
Ms. Denise Karamales (via Zoom), yes
Mr. Jimmy D. Long Jr. (via Zoom), yes
Dr. Kimberly Walker McAlister (via Zoom), yes
Senator Beth Mizell (via Zoom) -
 it is noted that Sen. Mizell briefly left
 the meeting and abstained from voting
Dr. Larry Tremblay (via Zoom), yes
Dr. Arthur S. Williams, yes

Unanimously passed, the Chair gave permission to proceed and the Board entered into Executive Session (guests were excused from the Board room or placed into a Zoom waiting room).

At the completion of business addressed during Executive Session,

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jed, seconded by Mr. Tony Davis, and unanimously passed, the Board of Directors meeting resumed in regular session at 11:05 p.m., with Ms. Sharon Gagahan, Chair, presiding.

Ms. Gahagan noted that Dr. Horton is an exceptional Executive Director who demonstrates leadership, style and ability to effectively lead this school, and he is to be commended.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jed, seconded by Mr. Tony Davis, to approve the SATISFACTORY rating of Dr. Steve Horton, LSMSA Executive Director, Ms. Lucas commenced the required Roll Call Vote:

Rep. Beryl Amedee (via Zoom), yes
Dr. Jason C. Anderson, yes
Ms. Leanne Broussard, yes
Mr. Joseph E. “Jed” Cain, yes
Mr. Raphael Curtis (via Zoom), yes
Mr. Tony Davis, yes
Mr. Jared R. Dunahoe, yes

Ms. Sharon T. Gahagan, yes
Dr. Vickie S. Gentry (via Zoom), yes
Ms. Chanda Johnson (via Zoom), yes
Ms. Marian “Suzy” Johnson (via Zoom) -
it is noted that Ms. Johnson was
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Ms. Denise Karamales (via Zoom), yes
Mr. Jimmy D. Long Jr. (via Zoom), yes
Dr. Kimberly Walker McAlister (via Zoom), yes
Senator Beth Mizell (via Zoom) -
it is noted that Sen. Mizell briefly left
the meeting and abstained from voting
Dr. Larry Tremblay (via Zoom), yes
Dr. Arthur S. Williams, yes

The Board unanimously approved the SATISFACTORY rating of Dr. Steve Horton, LSMSA Executive Director.

AGENDA ITEM 8: REVIEW OF LSMSA 2020-2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mr. Allen started by recapping FY20 in an effort to understand FY21. LSMSA school operations stopped in March. LSMSA did not receive funds via the CARES Act since it’s not a Title I school. Instead, LSMSA applied its influx of unspent funds from Food Services toward cleaning and other COVID matters that might have been funded by the State, in lieu of returning it to the State Treasury. Summer school and the EXCEL program have been funded through the EEF Fund through the month of June. LSMSA is on-target to end FY20 on a positive note with less than 1% reversion back to the Treasury.

The Legislative session ended without approving a budget for FY21 and went into a special session on June 1, 2020, where HB 105 for funding will be re-introduced. Dr. Horton and Mr. Allen travelled to Baton Rouge on Friday June 12, 2020, to testify before the Senate Finance Committee and reported that things went smoothly.

Lower enrollment in the fall could result in an overall decrease of funds once the numbers are submitted. However, even with that decrease, Mr. Allen expects the overall reduction to be less than 1 percent (1%). A copy of Mr. Allen’s report has been printed and attached to the permanent record related to this Board meeting.

No Action Required

AGENDA ITEM 9: RATIFICATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO STUDENT HANDBOOK, RECOMMENDED DURING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 9, 2020

Dr. Key and Ms. Shumate answered questions related proposed changes to the Student Handbook. **(Agenda Item 9 Exhibit 1)** There being no questions or discussion,

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Tony Davis, seconded by Dr. Arthur Williams, and unanimously passed, the proposed amendments to the Student Handbook will be ratified.

AGENDA ITEM 10: RATIFICATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM, RECOMMENDED DURING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 9, 2020

Dr. Key and Ms. Shumate presented proposed changes to the Permission Form regarding electronic communication. **(Agenda Item 10 Exhibit 1)** There being no questions or discussion,

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jared Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Tony Davis, and unanimously passed, the proposed amendments to the Parental Permission Form will be ratified.

AGENDA ITEM 11: RATIFICATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR RECOMMENDED DURING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 9, 2020

Dr. Williams asked if this calendar **(Agenda Item 11 Exhibit 1)** will be open to revision pending further changes/guidance by the State in reopening schools, and was assured by Dr. Key that it would be. There being no further questions or discussion,

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Tony Davis, seconded by Dr. Jason Anderson, and unanimously passed, the proposed amendments to the 2020-2021 School Calendar will be ratified.

AGENDA ITEM 12: RATIFICATION OF PROPOSED ACTION ALLOWING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO OPEN/CLOSE CAMPUS BASED ON DIRECTIVES FROM THE GOVERNOR OR DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION WITH APPROVAL OF LSMSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, RECOMMENDED DURING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 9, 2020

This matter was discussed at previous Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings. There being no further questions or discussion,

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jed Cain, seconded by Mr. Tony Davis, and unanimously passed, the proposed action will be ratified to allow LSMSA's Executive Director to act in a manner outlined above with directive as also outlined above in matters related to opening/closing the Campus.

AGENDA ITEM 13: APPROVAL TO NAME LSMSA'S GYMNASIUM THE ROBERT A. ALOST GYMNASIUM, IN HONOR OF ONE OF THE SCHOOL'S FOUNDERS

Dr. Horton reminded the Board of Dr. Alost's recent passing and his role as a founder of LSMSA. Because of his love for athletics, wellness and fitness and his role in renovating the gym and curriculum for the school to promote health and wellness, Dr. Horton said the students, faculty and staff would like to recommend to the State Senate Committee that the gym be renamed for Dr. Alost. The auditorium has been named for former governor David Conner Treen, and the

School renamed for Jimmy D. Long Sr., also founders of the school. So it seems most fitting that Dr. Alost be recognized in a similar manner. There being no further questions or discussion,

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Art Williams, seconded by Mr. Tony Davis, and unanimously passed, the School will present recommendation to the State Senate Committee for a name change to the gymnasium as The Robert A. Alost Gymnasium.

AGENDA ITEM 14: APPROVAL TO BESTOW AN HONORARY DIPLOMA TO THE FAMILY OF DR. ROBERT A. ALOST, AND ALSO AWARD LSMSA DEGREE TO STUDENT ANDREW LUSE (POSTHUMUS)

Dr. Horton asked that an Honorary Diploma be bestowed to the family of Dr. Alost following his recent passing. He also said senior Andrew Luse had completed his requirements for graduation prior to his passing in January; therefore, it would be appropriate to present his family with his degree at the upcoming Commencement Ceremony. There being no questions or discussion,

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Tony Davis, seconded by Dr. Kimberly Walker McAlister, and unanimously passed, the School will bestow an honorary diploma to Dr. Robert A. Alost; and award LSMSA degree to Andrew Luse, both to be presented to their respective families at Commencement.

AGENDA ITEM 15: APPROVAL OF NEW TITLE IX GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT REPORTS OR COMPLAINTS; APPROVAL OF HARRASSMENT POLICY, INCLUDING SEXUAL HARRASSMENT; AND APPROVAL OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY.

Attorney Ken Sills explained that previous policies offered guidance only, whereas new laws have recently been passed that provide for actual regulation for Title IX grievances. The changes are directed mainly at colleges and universities regarding how these matters are handled. Ms. Gahagan stressed the importance of these policies and urged all Directors to take the time to read the materials presented. **(Agenda Item 15 Exhibits 1-3)**. Once approved, the Non-Discrimination Policy will also be loaded on the School's website. There being no questions or discussion,

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jared Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Jed Cain, and unanimously passed, the policies and procedures presented to the Board are approved, including Title IX Grievance Procedures; the Harassment Policy, including sexual harassment; and the Non-Discrimination Policy.

AGENDA ITEM 16: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Horton recapped past events since the last Board meeting, citing that the students were sent home two days after that meeting and transitioned to online classes. While successful for some, many students suffered a disadvantage of having no internet access, extra home responsibilities, etc. The Department of Education announced that every student at the school would graduate or be promoted, even if presenting a grade of "D." Many spring/year-end school traditions were missed; summer school and the EXCEL program had to be offered online and will end on Friday (June 19, 2020). LSMSA qualified as a Blue Ribbon School, completed all dual credit courses, and

conferred degrees in May. “If all goes as planned, the School will hold Commencement in August, and LSMSA is ‘planning’ to return to campus in the fall,” he said.

Dr. Horton then reiterated that the Board’s Executive Committee will be heavily relied on in the next few weeks, and it’s important that it be able to act on the Board’s behalf for matters such as those currently being faced by the School. Under Article C, Section a. of the Bylaws: “...All acts of the Executive Committee shall be submitted to the Board for ratification or rejection, at its next meeting, except in matters in which the Board shall have delegated to the Executive Committee full power to act with respect to any matter, affirmative action by majority of the entire membership of the Executive Committee shall be required. ...” Dr. Horton asked the Board to consider motion for such action as outlined in the bylaws during this time of pandemic and uncertainty.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jared Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Jed Cain, the Board authorized the Executive Committee to act with respect to any matters deemed necessary during this time.

Before voting can commence on this motion, the item must first be added to the agenda by roll call vote of the Board. Ms. Lucas commenced the required Roll Call Vote:

Rep. Beryl Amedee (via Zoom), yes

Dr. Jason C. Anderson, yes

Ms. Leanne Broussard, yes

Mr. Joseph E. “Jed” Cain, yes

Mr. Raphael Curtis (via Zoom), yes

Mr. Tony Davis - it is noted that Mr.

Davis had left the meeting and abstained from voting

Mr. Jared R. Dunahoe, yes

Ms. Sharon T. Gahagan, yes

Dr. Vickie S. Gentry (via Zoom), yes

Ms. Chanda Johnson (via Zoom), yes

Ms. Marian “Suzy” Johnson (via Zoom) -

it is noted that Ms. Johnson was experiencing audio difficulties and abstained from voting

Ms. Denise Karamales (via Zoom), yes

Mr. Jimmy D. Long Jr. (via Zoom), yes

Dr. Kimberly Walker McAlister (via Zoom), yes

Senator Beth Mizell (via Zoom) - yes

Dr. Larry Tremblay (via Zoom), yes

Dr. Arthur S. Williams, yes

The Board unanimously voted to add this item to the agenda in order to consider the motion on the floor by Mr. Dunahoe.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jared Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Jed Cain, and unanimously passed, the Executive Committee will have full power to act with respect to any matters deemed necessary during this time, as outlined in Article C, Section a. of the Bylaws. Such matters voted on by the Executive Committee will not require ratification at the next Board meeting but will stand as approved by The Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 17: REPORT FROM THE FACULTY

Dr. Anderson began by thanking his colleagues for the abrupt but seamless transition to online teaching this past spring that afforded most students an opportunity to continue their learning online after unexpectedly being sent home in March. "Thank you colleagues for providing the best education to the best and brightest students of Louisiana," he said. Dr. Anderson presented the list of faculty accomplishments submitted since March 2020, including accolades for Dr. Pamela Francis, Dr. Casey Green, Mr. Marcus Journey, Dr. Al Benner, and Dr. Scott Atkins. He also added that many faculty are successfully continuing to offer various summer programs online such as the EXCEL program, STEMrichment, and summer school. (Refer to Faculty Report/Faculty Accomplishments, **Agenda Item 17 Exhibit 1**). Dr. Anderson also reported on the results of his online poll, which concluded that electronic online evaluation was the preferred method of evaluation in responding to requests to evaluate the School's Executive Director. Those comments and results are contained in the noted Exhibit.

No Action Required

AGENDA ITEM 18: ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Gahagan recommended that for the sake of time, the Board read/refer to the reports presented as **Agenda Item 18 Exhibits 1-3**. Chair did recognize Mary Ellen Slayter, CEO, of Rep Cap Marketing Agency, & Publisher of *Managing Editor*, an online magazine. She is also President of LSMSA's Foundation. Ms. Slayter said general fundraising has been challenged due to current events; but thanks to the staff and volunteers, the Foundation will come close to reaching its fundraising goals for FY20. There is still time to make donations until June 30th. Ms. Slayter said that in the spirit of the School's newly created Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council, the Foundation's Board of Trustees established a new fund dedicated to supporting and aiding the work of that Council. The Foundation has allocated \$50,000 to get the fund started. Additionally, each Trustee has made a personal financial commitment to be added to The IDEA Fund, cumulatively totaling over \$25,000 for the upcoming year.

Ms. Slayter also said a frontrunner has been identified in the search for an Executive Director of the Foundation, and they hope to have someone in place in July.

No Action Required

AGENDA ITEM 19: OTHER BUSINESS

Dates to Remember:

- **Sunday, August 9 (Tentative)** Commencement, Ring Ceremony, Senior Recognition
- **Monday, August 10** Faculty In-Service Begins
- **Wed - Sat, August 12-15** New Student Orientation

Ms. Gahagan said the Board will be kept informed of any changes to these scheduled events and is looking forward to having a great fall.

No Action Required

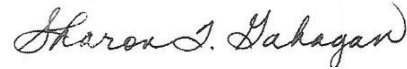
There being no further business:

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Jason Anderson, seconded by Mr. Jared Dunahoe, and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



Steven G. Horton, PhD.
Secretary



Sharon T. Gahagan, Eds.
Chair