



Louisiana Special School District

Louisiana Special School District Board of Directors

Board Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2022 at 9:00 AM

Louisiana Schools for the Deaf and Visually Impaired

2888 Brightside Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70820

Student Activity Center, Room 196

Agenda Item I

The November 1, 2022, meeting of the Special School District Board of Directors was called to order at 9:00 AM by Ms. Kristy Flynn, Board President. Members present at the meeting included: Ms. Maria Annis, Dr. Edward Bell, Mr. David Burton, Ms. Sherry Crosby, Mr. Kenny Davis, Ms. Michele Jones, Mr. Ronnie Morris, Ms. Audra Muslow-Hicks, Ms. Mary Smith, and Ms. Alishia Vallien. Members not in attendance: Ms. Vickie Smith.

Public comment was given by Mr. Nigel Burkhalter, Mr. Dustin Cutrer, Mr. Jay Isch, Mr. Jimmy Gore, Ms. April Gremillion, Ms. Barbara Gresham, Ms. Karen Harris, Dr. Heather Laine, Ms. Bambi Polotzola, Ms. Sheryl Russell, Ms. Tiffany Sanders, Ms. Rosaline Watson, Ms. Meghan Wimberly, and Ms. Norma Zeringue.

Agenda Item II

- 1 Mr. Kenny Davis made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the August 9, 2022, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ronnie Morris and unanimously approved.

Agenda Item III

Ms. Katherine Granier presented the Acting Superintendent’s Report.

Agenda Item IV

- 2 Dr. Bell motioned to approve moving the February 21, 2023, meeting to February 28, 2023. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sherry Crosby and unanimously approved.

Agenda V

Ms. Kristy Flynn motioned to approve the recommendations of the Grievance Committee. The Committee recommends the following:

- 1. The Board and SSD administrators should undergo at least annual training in the areas of Deafness, Deaf cultural competency, blindness, and blind cultural competency and any other disabilities impacting students at the SSD to foster improvement in communication and relationships between those individual schools, SSP, SSD and the SSD board to begin as soon as possible.



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2. SSD should appoint a section 504 / ADA coordinator to monitor and implement the district's compliance with the ADA including developing appropriate policies and procedures, developing training for staff and administrators, ensuring accessibility and accommodations and reviewing complaints and assisting the district counsel in conducting investigations. To the extent that that person already exists, the SSD board will review the policies and procedures in place and make sure those policies are appropriate and ensure there are appropriate procedures for hearing grievances related to the ADA. In reviewing these policies, the SSD board may hire a contractor to help review the policies and ensure that they are compliant.

3. The board shall review the job performance of Katherine Granier, the Acting Superintendent, at the November 1, 2022, board meeting. Ms. Granier should be provided the opportunity to discuss her actions related to these grievances directly with the board.

4. SSD should revise its current grievance process policy to provide a clear opportunity for board review in instances such as the present matter. Alternatively, the SSD should provide a clear definition for who the superintendent's designee will be to hear grievances that go above level two. Additionally, the board should draft hearing procedures for grievances should the board be required to hear such a grievance. The board should also adopt a formal process for providing hearings for issues and complaints and providing feedback.

3 The motion was seconded by Mr. Ronnie Morris, and the motion carried with a vote of ten (10) to one (1). Ms. Sherry Crosby voted in opposition to the motion.

Agenda VI

Mr. Ronnie Morris made the motion for a roll-call vote for the board to move to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters related to the job performance of the Acting Superintendent Katherine Granier. The motion was seconded by Ms. Audra Muslow-Hicks. The board entered Executive Session at 12:10 PM.

Following Executive Session, the board returned to Regular session at 3:05 PM.

4. Dr. Bell made a motion to affirm the appointment of Ms. Katherine Granier as the Acting Superintendent and to grant her limited authority to approve the district's Americans with Disabilities policy and work-from-home policy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kenny Davis and carried with a vote of nine (9) with one (1) abstention. Ms. Mary Smith, Ms. Sherry Crosby, Dr. Edward Bell, Ms. Alishia Vallien, Mr. Kenny Davis, Ms. Maria Annis, Ms. Audra Muslow-Hicks, Mr. David Burton, and Ms. Kristy Flynn voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Michele Jones abstained. Mr. Ronnie Morris was not present for the vote.

5. Dr. Bell made a motion to request that the Human Resources office compensate Katherine Granier with a stipend no greater than 20% of her total salary to cover duties assigned as Acting Superintendent and



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Chief Financial Officer for Special School District. The motion was seconded by Kenny Davis and carried with a vote of six (6) to four (4). Ms. Mary Smith, Dr. Edward Bell, Mr. Kenny Davis, Ms. Audra Muslow-Hicks, Mr. David Burton, and Ms. Kristy Flynn voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Sherry Crosby, Ms. Michele Jones, Ms. Alishia Vallien, and Ms. Maria Annis voted in opposition to the motion. Mr. Ronnie Morris was not present for the vote.

Agenda VII

Mr. Morris presented an update on the Superintendent’s search with action plan for stakeholder engagement to be held in November 2022, second group of interviews to be held in December 2022, and finalists to be selected in January of 2023.

The Board received public comment. With no further business, Ms. Flynn adjourned the meeting at 3:59 PM.