



Louisiana Special School District

Louisiana Special School District Board of Directors

Special Board Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2023 at 10:30 AM

Louisiana Schools for the Deaf and Visually Impaired

2888 Brightside Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70820

Student Activity Center, Room 196

I. Call to Order

The October 16, 2023 meeting of the Special School District Board of Directors was called to order at 10:25 AM by Ms. Kristy Flynn, Board President. Members present at the meeting included: Ms. Maria Annis, Mr. Anthony Celestine, Ms. Sherry Crosby, Mr. Kenny Davis, Ms. Michele Jones, Mr. Ronnie Morris, Ms. Bambi Polotzola, and Ms. Vickie Smith. Ms. Flynn announced Ms. Muslow-Hicks resignation as a member of the board. Members not in attendance: Dr. Edward Bell and Ms. Mary Smith.

II. 2023 - 2024 Finance Update

Superintendent Dr. David Martin provided the Board with a FY24 finance status.

III. 2024 - 2025 Fy Budget Priorities

During Superintendent Martin's presentation of the Current Budget Year Outlook, the Budget Process Time Lines, and Budget Priorities for FY 2025, the following were points of discussion:

Mr. Morris requested information regarding the district and schools' current vacancies and the effect of services due to the vacancies. Superintendent responded the effect of the vacancies created a greater burden on the current staff to provide services.

Mr. Morris also requested information on the salary averages for both SEC-state schools and special school districts serving similar student populations, nationwide. Superintendent Martin noted district's sampling of school districts in the geographic area and reported salaries for teachers in SSD were approximately 4% below the low end of the sampled salary scales.

Ms. Flynn noted findings from study related to teacher salary scales conducted by SSA consultants. The data from that study concluded that current teacher salaries in Louisiana would need to increase by 25% over the next five (5) years to meet national averages for teacher salaries.

Ms. Vickie Smith commented that in budget planning, district administrators remain mindful of the needs of students in the state's adult correctional facilities.

Mr. Celestine also commented about the recent 2% pay raises for unclassified employees and the 3% pay raises for classified employees.

In addition, Mr. Morris requested a list of CTE opportunities offered to students in the district's Career-Technical Education Programs.

Mr. Morris made the motion to accept Superintendent Martin's report on Agenda items II. and III. The motion was seconded by Mr. Celestine and unanimously passed.

IV. Adjournment



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The board accepted public comment by Dr. Delgado on the number of opened positions at the Louisiana School for the Deaf.

With no further business, Ms. Flynn adjourned the meeting at 11:51 AM. The next board meeting will be held on 11/07/2023.

1. Public Comment Policy – Members of the public shall be allowed to speak on items presented for action consistent with the Board’s public comment policy and for a time period to be determined at the Board’s discretion.
2. The Board reserves the right to enter into Executive Session, if needed, in accordance with La. R.S. 42:16 and 42:17, the Open Meetings Law.
3. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance regarding the meeting, please contact Amy Jones at Ajones@lsdvi.org.

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