

State of Louisiana

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LOUISIANA SCHOOL FOR MATH, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS

April 27, 2016

The Board of Directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts met on April 27, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the Jimmy D. Long Boardroom, LSMSA, and Natchitoches, LA. Mrs. Sharon Gahagan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present

Mrs. Sharon Gahagan
Ms. Kristina Bradford
Dr. Vickie Gentry
Mr. Gene Katsanis
Mr. Mike McGrath
Ms. Martha Smiley
Mr. Scriven Taylor, Sr.
Mr. Lovan Thomas
Mr. Arthur Welch
Mr. JC Wells
Dr. Margaret Wheat-Carter

Absent:

Ms. Amy Deslattes
Ms. Dianne Gauthier
Mr. Ryan Jannise
Ms. Marian Johnson
Ms. Ellyn McKinney
Supt. Hollis Milton
Mr. Glen Monsour
Sen. Dan Morrish
Dr. Larry Tremblay
Sen. Mike Walsworth

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mrs. Gahagan welcomed the two new Board Members, Ms. Kristina Bradford and Mr. Tony Davis. Ms. Bradford is the Director of Policy and Reporting for the State Department of Education and she is a 1994 graduate of the Louisiana School. Mr. Tony

Davis grew up in Natchitoches and is the BESE representative for District 4. He is also the CEO/President of the Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call for Public Comment

Mrs. Gahagan indicated there were public comment cards available should any guest want to complete a card regarding one of the agenda items.

No Board action required.

Mr. McGrath made the motion, pursuant to the Chair's request, to amend the agenda to include the Executive Director job description approval, the approval of the Search Committee's minutes (the meeting was held prior to the Special Called Board meeting), and the recommendation for the hiring of the Executive Director. Mr. Katsanis seconded the motion; all Board Members unanimously agreed to the motion by show of hands.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Executive Director Selection Process Report

Mrs. Gahagan thanked the Search Committee for their dedication. The members of the Committee included: Committee Chair Dr. Gentry, Mr. McGrath, Dr. Wheat-Carter, Mr. New, Mr. Allen, Mr. Wells, Dr. Feske, and Mrs. Gahagan served in an Ex Officio capacity.

Dr. Gentry provided details about the search and selection process, which was held in a thorough, fair, and equitable manner. The committee met a total of nine times, starting on January 5. The final meeting was held on April 27 and the Board was asked to approve those minutes.

At the January 5 meeting, the committee created and refined the Executive Director job description, determined advertising means, and the manner to receive applications. Applications were received and opened on three selected dates: on January 29, eight applications were opened; on February 19, ten applications were opened; and on March 11, eleven applications were opened, making a total of twenty-nine applications. Following a review of the applicants' credentials and materials, five applicants were selected for Skype interviews on April 6 & 7, 2016.

After the Skype interviews, two finalists, Dr. Kevin Durand from the LISA Academy in Little Rock, AR and Dr. Steve Horton from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA, were selected to visit campus for their final interviews. Each finalist was on campus for two full days meeting with various groups. The Search Committee met on the morning of April 27 and recommended the appointment of Dr. Steve Horton for the position of Executive Director.

Report only.

Agenda Item 3: Receive the Search Committee's Recommendation for the hiring of the Executive Director

Mr. Davis moved to accept the Executive Director job description as created by the Executive Director Search Committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Smiley; carried unanimously.

Dr. Wheat-Carter made a motion to approve the Executive Director Search Committee minutes from April 27, 2016. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Finally, Mr. Welch moved to accept the recommendation to hire Dr. Horton as the next Executive Director of the Louisiana School. The motion was seconded by Ms. Smiley; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Authorization of the Board Chair, Vice Chair, and Attorney to meet with the Executive Director-Elect and his Attorney to agree upon terms and conditions of the contract effective July 1, 2016

Mrs. Gahagan made a request for this agenda item to be approved.

Mr. Katsanis made a motion to approve the authorization of the Board Chair, Vice Chair, and Attorney to meet with the Executive Director-Elect, and his Attorney, to agree upon terms and conditions of the contract effective July 1, 2016. Motion seconded by Ms. Smiley; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5: To authorize the Executive Director-Elect to begin working on a per diem basis in May and June as recommended

Mrs. Gahagan indicated that Dr. Horton was willing to work with Dr. Widhalm and the administrative staff for a smooth transition. Payment would be based on a per diem contract.

Ms. Smiley made a motion to approve the authorization of the Executive Director-Elect to work on a per diem basis in May and June. Motion seconded by Mr. Taylor; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Other Business


Mr. Sills shared with the Board that the Executive Director-Elect Contract will be presented at the June Board Meeting for the contract to be effective July 1, 2016.

Mrs. Gahagan will be contacting both candidates to let them know the outcome.

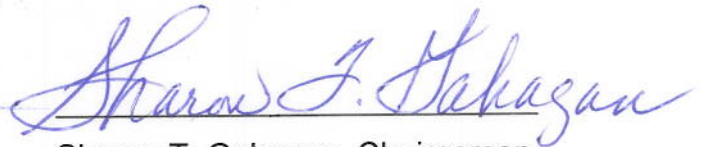
AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Katsanis; carried unanimously. Time:

3:27 p.m.



Dr. Patrick Widhalm
Executive Director/Board Secretary
LSMSA Board of Directors



Sharon T. Gahagan, Chairperson
LSMSA Board of Directors