

State of Louisiana

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
LOUISIANA SCHOOL FOR MATH, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS

September 8, 2014

The Board of Directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts met on September 8, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Jimmy D. Long Boardroom, LSMSA, Natchitoches, LA. Mrs. Sharon Gahagan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present

Mrs. Sharon Gahagan
Dr. Vickie Gentry
Ms. Marian Johnson
Mr. Walter Lee
Mr. Derek Little
Mr. Mike McGrath
Ms. Martha Smiley
Dr. Larry Tremblay
Mr. Arthur Welch
Mr. John C. Wells
Dr. Margaret Wheat-Carter

Guests

Mr. Ken Sills, Attorney

Absent

Rep. Chris Broadwater
Mr. Ryan Jannise
Mr. Gene Katsanis
Sen. Eric LaFleur
Ms. Stephanie Marcum
Ms. Ellyn McKinney
Mr. Glen Monsour
Mr. Scriven Taylor, Sr.
Mr. Lovan Thomas
Rep. Jeff Thompson
Supt. Doris Voitier
Sen. Mike Walsworth

AGENDA ITEM 1: Approval of Board Minutes - Mr. Lee made a motion to approve the Board minutes with the corrections [reference Item 1 support document]. Motion seconded by Ms. Johnson; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Ratification of the Chair's Nomination to Executive Committee - Mr. Lee made a motion to ratify the Chair's nominations to Executive Committee. Motion seconded by Ms. Smiley; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Proposed Revisions in the Faculty/Staff Handbook – Grievance Policy and Procedure; Sabbatical Policy and Procedure - Dr. Widhalm introduced the proposed changes in both policies as an expansion of language and clarification of process. The Grievance Policy was considered first. Mr. Little made a motion to approve the Handbook Changes to the Grievance Policy and Procedure [reference Item 3 support document] with the following modifications: 1. for each grievance scenario there is an appeal process to the Executive Committee of the Board; 2. when the Executive Director is the charged party and the grievant is not satisfied with the response of the Human Resources Coordinator, or if the first step is not provided within the prescribed time limit, the grievant may present the grievance to the Executive Committee of the Board;

and 3. "in such case the Executive Committee of the Board must conduct a hearing, an investigation if deemed appropriate, or a review of the first and second step responses, and must issue a written decision within ten (10) working days following the date of the grievance...." Motion seconded by Mr. Wells; carried unanimously.

Dr. Widhalm introduced the changes in Sabbatical Leave Policy and Procedure with the news that funding was being provided by the LSMSA Foundation; two one-semester sabbaticals beginning in the fall of 2015. He indicated that the proposed changes had been reviewed by department chairs and Dr. Delery. Dr. Widhalm stated that seniority is the driving factor in awarding sabbaticals. Dr. Gentry made a motion to approve the Sabbatical Policy and Procedure [reference Item 3 support document] with two modifications: 1. "Compensation shall be set at not less than the percentage of salary set by the University of Louisiana system." and 2. "A sabbatical leave shall be considered a break in consecutive semesters of service." Motion seconded by Mr. Lee; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Proposed Revision in the Student Handbook – Bullying Policy - Dr. Widhalm introduced the proposed revisions as primarily an expansion of definitions. Ms. Shumate discussed how the changes grew out of her research in preparing for faculty and staff in-service on the topic, and in the statutory training for students. Mr. Sills discussed some of the specifics related to cyberbullying. Mr. Little made a motion to approve the Proposed Student Handbook Changes [reference Item 4 support document] with the modification that in the section labeled Disciplinary Action, a bullet point be added that states, "In addition, the school will comply with all reporting as required by law, which may result in additional legal action." Motion seconded by Ms. Johnson; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Proposed New Courses - Dr. Widhalm introduced two new courses, Electromagnetism and Qualitative Methods. Ms. Johnson made a motion to accept the Proposed New Courses. Motion seconded by Dr. Gentry; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Proposed Funding Formula for FY15 - Mr. Allen presented the Funding Formula and its parameters and goals. He reminded the Board of the impact from being moved from level I to level IV funding in the MFP, which is an increase of per student funding. Mr. Lee made a motion to accept the Proposed Funding Formula. Motion seconded by Mr. Little; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Report on Admissions Results and 2014-2015 Plan - Mr. Thorp reported on this item. He provided indicators of the work in admissions and was pleased to report an increase. Report only, no Board action required at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Update on Residence Hall and Summer Projects - Dr. Widhalm reported that Weinzettle, Ashe and Broussard, along with Tipton and Associates have completed the schematic design phase and showed proposals that the firm had provided. Mr. Allen reported on other important Capital Outlay projects. Report only, no Board action required at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Report from the Safety Network - Mr. Allen presented this item. Report only, no Board action required at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Report from the Wellness Network - Ms. Shumate reported on the work of the Wellness. Report only, no Board action required at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Report from the Faculty

Mr. McGrath gave a brief report of faculty activities that were also included in a handout. Report only, no Board action required at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Report from the Foundation - Ms. Katja Thomakos, Director of the LSMSA Foundation, gave an overview of the Foundations work and growth over the past five years. Of particular note was her announcement that assets reaching \$1 million in February, and that the first ever audit was passed without exception. Report only, no Board action required at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Administrative Staff Reports - Written reports were distributed in advance of the meeting and there were no questions or additional comments. Report only, no Board action required at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Other Business - Mr. Welch informed the Board that the Rotary Club of Natchitoches held its meeting in the LSMSA cafeteria and that it was a very successful way for club members to gain a better understanding of LSMSA and its important work. Mrs. Gahagan reminded members that they would be receiving invitations to the Christmas Festival.

ADJOURNMENT - As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Welch made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Dr. Margaret Wheat-Carter; carried unanimously.
Time: 12:06 p.m.