

State of Louisiana

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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

June 18, 2018

The Board of Directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts met on June 18, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. in the Jimmy D. Long Boardroom, LSMSA, in Natchitoches, LA. Mrs. Sharon Gahagan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present

Rep. Beryl Amedee
Jimmy D. Berry
Joseph E. "Jed" Cain
Tony Davis
Amy Deslattes
Sharon T. Gahagan, Board Chair
Ryan Jannise
Chanda Johnson
Marian Johnson
Dr. Kimberly McAlister
Mike McGrath
Jamie G. Smith
Dr. Larry Tremblay

Absent

Dr. Cade Brumley
Hollis Conway
Rep. Julie Emerson
Tristen Guillory
Anne Reese Jonson
Denise Karamales
Jimmy Long Jr.
Sen. Dan "Blade" Morrish
Paul W. Rainwater
Martha T. Smiley
Sen. Mike Walsworth

Guests

Ken Sills, LSMSA Attorney
John Allen, LSMSA
Dr. Kristi Key, LSMSA
Emily Shumate, LSMSA
Angela Robinson, LSMSA Foundation
Crystal Evans, LSMSA
Juliana Sheffield, LSMSA Foundation
Michelle Smith, LSMSA Alumnus

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mrs. Gahagan welcomed members and guests to the quarterly Board meeting. She introduced Dr. Kimberly McAlister, who serves as the Dean of the Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development at Northwestern. She joins the Board this month in her capacity as Dean. She also welcomed Chanda Johnson, who joins the Board as the representative of the Office of Academic Content at the Louisiana Department of Education.

Ms. Angela Robinson introduced Ms. Juliana Sheffield to the Board as the new Development and Finance Assistant in the LSMSA Foundation Office.

AGENDA ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF MARCH 19, 2018, BOARD MINUTES

Mrs. Gahagan requested the Board's review of March 19, 2018, Board minutes and requested any corrections or changes.

Ms. Marian Johnson moved to approve the March 19, 2018, Board minutes. Mr. Davis seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2: CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Gahagan reported that she had no requests for public comment.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

AGENDA ITEM 3: ELECTION OF BOARD VICE CHAIR

With Dr. Vickie Gentry's departure from the Board, the position of Board vice president is open. Mrs. Gahagan referred Board members to its Bylaws, which directed the process by which an election of Board vice chair should follow. Mr. Berry nominated Mr. Davis for the office and cited his qualifications and contributions to the School and community as reasons for consideration. There were no other nominations. Rep. Amedee moved to close the nomination process, which was seconded by Ms. Marian Johnson.

Ms. Marian Johnson moved That Mr. Davis' nomination for vice president be accepted by acclamation. Dr. Tremblay seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Horton summarized the accomplishments of the School over the previous quarter, noting that more detailed information on endeavors of each division was included in each director's report. He elaborated on several school service activities and also highlighted events held at the school by various stakeholder groups. He answered questions regarding retention, test scores, and student graduation plans. He also noted that several of the 2018 graduates did accept scholarship offers to out-of-state institutions due to the uncertainty of TOPS funding.

Dr. Horton updated the Board on the School's progress toward security programming in the event of any type of disaster. The School's administration met with Jesse Taitano of the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office who assisted in the creation of a draft security plan for the school, which includes procedures for every type of drill. During the summer the protocols will be finalized, reviewed by Taitano, and shared with the faculty during fall in-service. He also said that the school is reviewing options for school-wide notification systems for these types of occurrences.

The School has been very engaged in service-related activities throughout the quarter; Dr. Horton overviewed those accomplishments with the Board.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

AGENDA ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF NEW FACULTY FOR THE 2018-2019 YEAR

Dr. Key requested approval of credentials for faculty joining LSMSA in August: Crystal Lewis, dance (shared position with NSU); Scott Theriot, theatre; Morris Tichenor, Latin; Dr. Todd Tichenor, mathematics/computer science; and Edwin Perez Lopez, computer science. She commended the faculty for conducting all of these searches and the finalists they presented for hiring approval. All will be introduced to the Board this fall.

Mr. Davis moved to accept the list of proposed new faculty for 2018-2019. Mr. Smith seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF PROPOSED NEW COURSES FOR 2018-2019 YEAR

Dr. Key presented a detailed list of new courses proposed for the 2018-2019 year. No formal changes to the curriculum were proposed, and the School remains in compliance with the Department of Education's core requirements for graduation and also state requirements for TOPS eligibility.

Mr. Smith moved to approve the list of new courses proposed for the 2018-2019 school year. Dr. McAlister seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7: REPORT ON ANNUAL EVALUATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Gahagan provided an overview of the process involved in the evaluation of Dr. Horton. All evaluations submitted by faculty/staff were delivered to Mr. Jannise, who chaired the committee. She thanked the committee—Mr. Jannise, Mr. Cain, Mr. McGrath—who met to review all of the components and complete the formal process.

Mr. Cain moved to go into Executive Session under the provisions of LRS 42:17(A)(2) to discuss Dr. Horton's evaluation. Mr. Davis seconded the motion; following a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:15 a.m.

Following Executive Session meeting, Mr. Jannise moved to return to the regular meeting. Mr. Smith seconded the motion; following a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 11:13 a.m.

Mr. Jannise moved to accept the committee's satisfactory evaluation rating of Dr. Horton. Mr. Davis seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Gahagan congratulated Dr. Horton and thanked him for a successful year and exceptional leadership. She noted his visibility on campus and in the community throughout the school year. Dr. Horton thanked the Board for their support during the year and said he looked forward to the next year. He attributed the successful year to the faculty and staff who give selflessly to the success of the School.

AGENDA ITEM 8: REPORT ON LSMSA's 2018-2019 BUDGET

Mr. Allen addressed questions regarding the pending LSMSA 2018-2019 operating budget. Since the budget approved by the Governor includes a near 25% cut to the operating budget, and currently discussions were being held in the Legislature to restore those cuts, Dr. Tremblay moved to suspend approval until a final budget was approved by the Governor following the Special Session. He further requested that the Executive Committee be charged with approving the final budget and requesting ratification from the entire Board in September.

Dr. Tremblay moved to authorize the Executive Committee of the Board to approve the 2018-2019 operating budget once it was approved by the Governor. Rep. Amedee seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: Following the Board meeting, the 2018-2019 operating budget was approved and adopted by Governor Edwards. On July 1 the budget allocation was enacted by the Governor and transactions for 2018-2019, including payroll, commenced. Mr. Sills confirmed that the Board could wait until the September meeting to approve the budget instead of convening the Executive Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 9: PROPOSED USE OF EEF FUNDS IN 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Mr. Allen presented the School's plan for use of the annual Education Excellence Funds appropriation. He explained that whatever funds are not used automatically roll forward to a school account with the state Treasury. As of this date, the balance exceeds \$700,000. Mr. Allen submitted an expenditure request including three areas: New Course Instructors (\$140,000), Education Supplies (\$40,000), and Professional Development (\$40,000). The total maximum expenditure for these is \$200,000. Depending on the status of the general fund budget for this fiscal year, this maximum may not be used, which has happened in prior years. Mr. Allen answered questions from Board members relevant to details for each area.

Mr. Jannise moved to approve the proposal. Mr. Davis seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 10: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TITLE IX POLICY

Mr. Sills provided a copy of the amended Title IX policy, which includes changes to the investigation process mandated by federal law. The School's policy complies with all federal statutes, according to Mr. Sills.

Mr. Cain moved to approve the proposal. Ms. Marian Johnson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO STUDENT HANDBOOK

Ms. Shumate introduced minor changes to the Handbook; specifically they reflect changes to state statutes to hazing laws. She shared copies of new state legislation that affects hazing; she identified each change throughout the Handbook.

Mr. Davis moved to approve the proposal. Ms. Marian Johnson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT FROM THE FACULTY

Mr. McGrath provided a summary report of activities of the faculty during the past quarter. Faculty are actively engaged in conferences, paper presentations, recitals, and manuscripts. He answered questions from the Board.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

AGENDA ITEM 13: ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORTS

Directors provided the Board with short written reports that detailed activities in their respective areas. Mrs. Gahagan encouraged members to visit with Directors afterward if they had any questions or comments.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

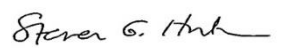
AGENDA ITEM 14: OTHER BUSINESS


Mrs. Gahagan reminded Board members of major school events: Faculty return for in-service on Monday, August 6. The 36th Matriculation Ceremony will be held on Friday, August 31, at 2 p.m. Formal invitations to Matriculation will be sent in the next weeks.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT

As there was no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Berry moved to adjourn; Mr. Smith seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. The Board adjourned at 12 p.m.


Steven G. Horton, PhD.
Secretary


Sharon T. Gahagan, EdS.
Chair