

State of Louisiana

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LOUISIANA SCHOOL FOR MATH, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS
December 5, 2016**

The Board of Directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts met on December 5, 2016, 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

Ms. Kristina Bradford
Mr. Jed Cain
Mr. Hollis Conway
Mr. Tony Davis
Ms. Amy Deslattes
Mrs. Sharon Gahagan, Board Chair
Ms. Dianne Gauthier
Ms. Suzy Johnson
Mr. Gene Katsanis
Mr. Jimmy Long Jr.
Mr. Mike McGrath
Senator Dan Morrish
Mr. Jamie Smith
Mr. Lovan Thomas
Dr. Larry Tremblay
Ms. Jamie Wong

Absent

Dr. Vickie Gentry, Vice Chair
Mr. Ryan Jannise
Mr. Paul Rainwater
Mrs. Martha Kay T. Smiley
Senator Mike Walsworth

Guests

Mr. Ken Sills, LSMSA Attorney
Mr. Bill New, President, LSMSA Foundation

Dr. Steve Horton (Executive Director, serving as secretary)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mrs. Gahagan welcomed Ms. Wong to the Board of Directors and thanked her for her dedication to the school. She also congratulated Mr. Davis on the recent birth of their son.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Approval September 26, 2016, Board Minutes

Mrs. Gahagan requested the board's review of September 26, 2016, board minutes and requested any corrections or changes. She then asked for a motion.

Mr. Cain moved to approve the September 26, 2016, Board Minutes. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Call for Public Comment on Items Requiring Board Action

A call for public comment was made by Mrs. Gahagan. Dr. Arthur Williams and Sen. Gerald Long submitted public comment cards and were accepted by Mrs. Gahagan.

Dr. Williams formally addressed the board in support of the naming of the proposed residence hall in honor of the late Jimmy D. Long Sr. Dr. Williams provided a detailed history of the impact of Rep. Long on the LSMSA legacy and

how appropriate naming the School's living and learning community would be, since the residence hall would finalize the master plan for the school and cement his legacy.

Sen. Long thanked the Board of Directors and the LSMSA family for the outpouring of support for Mrs. Dorothy Long and the entire Long family during the past several months. He expressed gratitude for the proposal to name the residence hall in honor of his brother and added that Sen. Francis Thompson had requested to draft the legislation to honor Rep. Long's legacy.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Report on EXCEL Program

Jennifer Mangum, a mathematics faculty member and director of the EXCEL program, was ill and not present at the meeting. Her presentation will be scheduled for a future board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Report from the Executive Director

Dr. Horton provided an overview of several school accomplishments for the fall semester. He also shared with the board members specific details on their electronic access (myLSMSA) that provide them access to board agendas, minutes and exhibits. Several board members have already taken advantage of the new opportunity. He also cited various activities scheduled at the school over the next weeks.

He addressed several students' poor choices involving the misuse of illegal substances, mandatory sanctions, and students' decisions for voluntary withdrawal. To date, 15 students voluntarily withdrew from the school after they were found in possession of illegal substances (or misuse of said substances). School policy regarding illegal substance use is firm, and the leadership team recently met with the student body to review consequences of such actions. Dr. Horton said he was working with Northwestern and Natchitoches Parish law enforcement agencies to secure their canine task force to randomly search the school grounds for illegal substances. Members asked questions about the types of substances that students were using and also if an appeal process existed for students found in possession. Dr. Horton reiterated the school's "no tolerance" policy but did explain that there was programming for students who did want to address the impacts of their poor choices.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

AGENDA ITEM 5: Update on the Residence Hall Project

Dr. Horton updated the Board on the recent meeting held with Sen. Blade Morrish, Commissioner Jay Dardenne, Mrs. Gahagan, Mr. Allen, Mr. Bill New, Mr. Mark Moses (Director of Facility Planning and Control), and himself regarding the long-term construction plan as well as the necessary funding. Timelines were finalized, and Commissioner Dardenne approved the completion of the construction documents required for the bidding process to begin. The team encouraged LSMSA to continue to be vigilant in monitoring the status of the capital outlay expenditure (currently in Priority 5), as this year's legislature will need to advance the project to Priority 1 in order for construction to begin in late summer. Dr. Horton answered questions from board members.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

AGENDA ITEM 6: Emeritus Faculty Proposal

Dr. Horton introduced the Emeritus designation to the Board. This designation is intended to recognize academicians for lifetime contributions to the Louisiana School, to their field, or to both, upon their retirement. "Emeritus" status will be available to those full-time faculty members of LSMSA who retired with a minimum of 15 years of full-time academic service to LSMSA. As the senior academic officer of the institution, the designation of Director Emeritus may also be awarded.

Currently Dr. Richard Brown is the only LSMSA faculty member who held such a designation (Director Emeritus); at the time of this award no other faculty members or executive directors were deemed eligible. This designation terminates at the death of the respective faculty member.

Dr. Horton requested that the following faculty be designated Emeritus and will be honored at the school's retirement reception on May 8, 2017:

Dr. Arthur S. Williams	Faculty Emeritus, Humanities Executive Director Emeritus
Dr. Nahla Beier	Faculty Emeritus, Humanities
Dr. Rodney Allen	Faculty Emeritus, Humanities
Dr. Elizabeth Hall	Faculty Emeritus, Humanities
Dr. Lincoln Hall	Faculty Emeritus (upon retirement May 2017), Humanities
Linda Gleason	Faculty Emeritus, Mathematics
Dr. David Wood	Faculty Emeritus, Humanities (upon retirement May 2017)
Michael David Elvestrom	Faculty Emeritus, Creative and Performing Arts
Mazhar Jamil	Faculty Emeritus, Mathematics
Martha Kay Talbert Smiley	Faculty Emeritus, Mathematics
Dr. William McBride	Faculty Emeritus, Humanities
Dr. Clayton Delery	Faculty Emeritus, Humanities
Dr. Kenneth Olson	Faculty Emeritus (upon retirement May 2017), Humanities
Dr. James Findley	Faculty Emeritus, Humanities

Mr. Katsanis moved to approve the Emeritus designation for the forenamed faculty. Mr. Smith seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Naming of the Residence Hall

AGENDA ITEM 8: Awarding the Honorary LSMSA Degree

Dr. Horton addressed Agenda Item 7 and Agenda Item 8 concurrently. He provided the Board a chronology of Rep. Jimmy Long Sr.'s service and dedication to the school as one of its four Founding Fathers. He explained that Rep. Long was instrumental in the development of the school's Master Plan and remained active in the school's growth over the past 30 years, even after he retired from the Legislature. His legacy continues to be evident, as his son, Jimmy Jr., is an active board member, and his granddaughter, Elizabeth, is a member of the LSMSA Class of 2017.

Dr. Horton asked for approval for two requests: 1. To name the residence hall the Jimmy D. Long Sr. Living and Learning Community, and 2. To award the honorary LSMSA degree to Rep. Long posthumously at the Spring 2017 commencement. This honorary degree would be the first for the school.

Mr. Smith expressed concern on behalf of the Alumni Association about awarding of degrees and the impact that would have on the credibility of the degree held by all who completed the rigorous degree requirements over the past 32 years. Additionally, he expressed desire that future recipients are on the same level of accomplishment and contribution as given to the school by Rep. Long. Dr. Horton explained that the Board would not have the authority to award the LSMSA diploma to someone who had not completed degree requirements, and also that this degree is an honorary diploma and does not offer the same rights and privileges of the traditional diploma.

Mr. Conway moved to approve the naming of the proposed residence hall "The Jimmy D. Long Sr. Living and Learning Community". Mr. Davis seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Smith moved to approve the awarding of the Honorary LSMSA Diploma to Jimmy D. Long Sr., posthumously at the 2017 Commencement Exercises. Sen. Morrish seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Long Jr. withdrew from the meeting and did not participate in the discussion or votes on Agenda Items 7 and 8. Thereafter, he returned to the Board Room.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Report from Finance and Operations

Mr. Allen outlined activities and accomplishments for this division, noting that the school had avoided its first mid-year budget cut (proposed options were 7% and 10%). He submitted both the FY 18 operating and capital outlay budgets in late November. The school is moving closer to fully completing the stair railing modification project, and the Blackbaud system module implementation continues to move forward with few difficulties. He provided a detail of current income and expenditures for the Living and Learning community budget, noting that approximately 64% of the budget remained unexpended. Dr. Horton and Mr. Allen will testify before the House Committee on Appropriations in late December.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

AGENDA ITEM 11: Report from the Faculty

Mr. McGrath highlighted accomplishments of faculty in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service. He also noted that several scholars had completed presentations on campus during the fall semester. Dr. Horton added that Dr. Maggie Hodge, who chairs the Science Department, will begin her semester sabbatical (research-based) in January.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

AGENDA ITEM 12: Report from Academic Services

Dr. Key provided academic data for the first nine weeks grading period, noting that those on academic probation had dropped from 15% in 2015 to 13% in 2016. Retention figures remained consistent over the past year, She provided details on several students' accomplishments/participation in all disciplines. She asked the Board to remember Myrna Schexnider, LSMSA's founding director of its theatre program, who died in October.

Every senior has completed college applications and some have received early admissions decisions and scholarship offers. On-campus visits from in-state and out-of-state schools continue to increase. The division is updating its articulation agreements and is soliciting additional agreements from schools across the state. The 15/16 SPS/District Report Card rankings revealed LSMSA's "A" rating, with an increase in SPS.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

AGENDA ITEM 13: Student Services

Mrs. Shumate detailed results of the national search for the Assistant Director for Residential Life position, which was recently filled by Leroy James. Four finalists were interviewed prior to Mr. James being named.

She provided data on student participation in athletic programming, including those students participating in LHSSAA programs through St. Mary's and Natchitoches Central. Students will participate in two leadership retreats in the spring semester and over 10 community service activities.

The number of student code of conduct violations remains consistent from last year's data, and students continue to enjoy the privileges afforded to them for academic and behavioral performance. In addition to the over 50

organizational events held this semester, students are planning for additional spring activities, including the annual SLAMT competition with sister institutions.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

AGENDA ITEM 14: Report from LSMSA Foundation

Mrs. Thomakos provided a financial summary through October 31, noting that direct public support saw a 121% increase from last year. She noted that the Foundation was awarded a \$25,000 online academy grant to establish scholarships for the Virtual School. To date, over \$43,000 was raised by LSMSA alumni to support LSMSA flooding victims. To date, over \$17,000 of those funds were expended to assist impacted students.

She announced the Foundation's Brown Fund grant recipients for 2016 (Dr. Steve Costin, Leroy James, Dr. Charlie Jones, Chris King, and Jeff Thomakos). The 1983 Society event in New Orleans was a huge success, with over 60 donors, volunteers and representatives of the school's faculty/staff in attendance. Dr. Pat/Betsy Widhalm and Drs. Art/Sharon Williams were all recipients of the Wingspan Award. The Foundation staff continues to travel nationwide to meet school stakeholders and alumni. The Class of 1987 will be on campus March 31-April 2, 2017.

Mrs. Thomakos presented a Building Naming Policy generated by the Foundation Board of Directors, which outlines a procedure that would be comprehensively and consistently used in the naming of offices, classrooms, and residential life spaces. Donor levels will be established by the Foundation board and vetted through the LSMSA Foundation board on an annual basis and will be adjusted to reflect economic changes. To date the LSMSA Board has approved less than 10 name dedications. This policy recognizes these designations as "grandfathered." She addressed questions by Board members. She added that the school's leadership team was involved in the creation of this policy.

Mr. Conway moved to approve the proposed Building Naming Policy. Mr. Davis seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Report from Enrollment Services

Mr. Birch summarized school visits and campus visits completed during the fall semester. The office has participated in several broadcast programming initiatives regionally, and the office has increased mail outs to prospective students (nearly 12,000 mailings). The most recent Exploration Day held in October attracted nearly 300 guests (94 prospective students), and another is scheduled for early January. Historic enrollment data was provided to the Board, including inquiries and applications. The Blackbaud migration has been beneficial to the recruiting and admissions process. Mr. Birch plans to work with Mrs. Suzy Johnson to schedule school visits in gifted/talented classrooms throughout the state during the spring semester.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

AGENDA ITEM 16: Appointment of an Ad Hoc committee for the Evaluation of the Executive Director

Mrs. Gahagan appointed Mr. Janise (chair), Dr. Gentry, Mrs. Smiley, Mrs. Johnson, and Mr. Conway to serve on the Ad Hoc committee for the Evaluation of the Executive Director. Mr. Sills reviewed the process recently approved by the Board to be used for evaluation of Dr. Horton.

Mr. Davis moved to approve the Ad Hoc committee; Dr. Tremblay seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Other Business

Mr. Sills requested a meeting of the Board in an Executive Session under the provisions of L.R.S. 42:17(A)(2) to

discuss the following matter: Gregory Charlet, et al v. LSMSA, Docket No.: C-88921; 10th JDC; Division B.

Mr. Cain moved to go into Executive Session. Mr. Davis seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote of the Board.

The Board of Directors entered an Executive Session.

Following the Executive Session, Mrs. Johnson moved to return to the regular Board meeting agenda. Mr. Smith seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Gahagan asked the board members to remember:

- ETHICS TRAINING for all Board members is required by the state. Please go to the following site and complete: <https://eap.ethics.la.gov/EthicsTraining/login.aspx>
- FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS for all Board members are also required by the state and are due annually on May 15.

Mr. Smith inquired regarding the addition of Board of Directors seats, specifically a representative of the LSMSA Foundation. Following discussion, Sen. Morrish reminded the Board that the 2017 legislative session was restricted to fiscal matters, so there was sufficient time to plan for such action. Mrs. Gahagan added that discussion about the feasibility of such an addition was possible.

Mrs. Gahagan reminded members that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on **Monday, March 20, at 9:30 a.m.** in the Long Boardroom.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Adjournment

As there was no other business to come before the board, **Ms. Johnson moved to adjourn. Mr. Cain seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.** The board adjourned at 12:20 p.m.



Steven G. Horton, PhD.
Secretary



Sharon T. Gahagan, EdS.
Chair