LOUISIANA LOTTERY CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 25, 2025

Chairperson Mickey Parenton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Directors Conference Room located at the Louisiana Lottery Corporation Headquarters, 555 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

I. Attendance

- A. Members Present: Chairperson Mickey Parenton; Directors: Whalen Gibbs, Gail McKay, Thomas Brumfield, Dan Morrish, Anna Jones, Carmen Jones, Michael Raymond, and Louisiana State Department of Treasury Executive Counsel Renee Free
- **B.** Members Absent: Director: Sheridan Shamburg
- C. Staff Present: President/CEO, Rose Hudson, Senior Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer, Karen Fournet, Senior Vice President/General Counsel, John Carruth.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Parenton asked President Hudson to lead the Board of Directors and all attendees in our Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of the Minutes of Prior Board Meeting

Chairperson Parenton began by asking if anyone had any questions or corrections to the minutes of the February 28, 2025, Board Meeting. He called for a **motion** to approve, Director Brumfield made the motion, and Director Morrish **seconded** the motion, there being no objections or changes, the minutes were **approved**.

The meeting was then turned over to President Hudson for the President's Report.

IV. President's Report

Ms. Hudson began by welcoming the new board member Michael Raymond and congratulating him on being appointed to serve. Ms. Hudson shared the budget was approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget with no objections. Ms. Hudson mentioned the only bill the Lottery is watching for the current session is a bill allowing the Lottery to offer iLottery or internet sales. The bill is being sponsored by Representative Vanessa LaFleur. Ms. Hudson thinks we are still another year away from being successful, but this process will be educational for legislators and provide some traction for the future.

Ms. Hudson discussed the issues of syndicate purchases and lottery couriers plaguing the Texas Lottery. The related scandal in Texas involved a collusive effort on behalf of couriers and investors to purchase every ticket combination for a \$95 million Texas Lotto jackpot,

which the lottery allowed. This incident has led to the resignation of a number of lottery executives and a possible legislative "defunding" of the lottery. Ms. Hudson as well as the Governor and the Attorney General's Office, opinion is that lottery couriers are illegal in Louisiana as well as is syndicate play or bulk purchasing of tickets.

Ms. Hudson gave an update on the Walmart project to sell our daily "pick" game tickets inlane at Walmart Superstores. During the pilot, Walmart noticed an issue with their systems that need to be addressed. The issue did not concern the Lottery's nor Lazlo's systems, but sales have paused while Walmart addresses it. The plan was to also offer Powerball and Mega Millions in the future; however, this has still not been approved by the Multistate Lottery Association (MUSL), which oversees the games. Rose believes the issue is political, not operational, since this project represents changes, and a disruption to the industry. Ms. Hudson is optimistic that other lotteries will see the benefits as this is the way of the future. Ms. Hudson introduced Karleen Green who gave a presentation on Board Governance. Ms. Green's presentation included a review of the Mission Statement, Board Compensation, Duties, Fiduciary Duties, and the Division of Labor between the Board and the President.

The floor was then turned over to Senior VP, Secretary/Treasurer Karen Fournet.

Mrs. Fournet began by reviewing total sales through the end of April for the last five fiscal years. Sales are projected to reach \$487.5 million by the end of April, about \$57.8 million below last year at this time but higher than 2020. She noted that decline is attributed to lower sales of the Lottery's jackpot games at \$98 million, versus \$152 million last year, as jackpot fatigue and economic pressures continue to hurt sales. She emphasized, this year we have had only one multistate game jackpot above \$1 billion, while in 2024 there were five. This is resulting in a combined deficit of \$51 million for Powerball and Mega Millions compared to last fiscal year. Mrs. Fournet informed the board Mega Millions recently moved from a \$2 price point to a \$5 price with larger starting jackpots and faster growing jackpots, in the hope that the game consortium will help increase sales. She noted our sales did increase slightly at launch, but it is still too early to determine the long-term impact of the change. She mentioned inflationary pressures have hurt the game participation of the daily numbers game with sales of \$113 million, \$6 million lower than last year as payouts have been statistically lower than the 50% average. Mrs. Fournet said overall instant-win game sales at \$276 million are running \$1 million above last year thanks to scratch-off game sales. She noted while starting the year down, since October, scratch-offs sales have increased due to implementation of prize structure strategies derived from our Vinformatix data analytics partnership.

Mrs. Fournet reviewed the Lottery plans to launch new Hasbro themed scratch-offs and Fast Play games to reinvigorate that product line's offering. She also mentioned that due to the random nature of large jackpots, predicting sales over a short period of time is extremely difficult. She then compared the budget for the first 10 months of the fiscal year, sales are about \$32 million under budget, while general and administrative expenses are running about \$1.6 million under budget as of the end of March, as the Lottery controls expenses.

Mrs. Fournet reported that transfers to the state treasury through the end of April are projected at \$150.6 million, which is \$13 million less than budget due to decreased sales. Mrs. Fournet was still optimistic the gap could be closed by the years end.

V. Board Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Chairperson of the Board of Directors

VI. Announcements

The next meeting of the Louisiana Lottery Board of Directors is scheduled for Friday, June 27, 2025, to be held in the Board of Directors Conference Room of the Louisiana Lottery Corporation Headquarters located at 555 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairperson Parenton adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Date Approved: 06/27/2025
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Adene Schroeder
Executive Administrative Assistant
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Dan "Blade" Morrish
Secretary to the Board of Directors
Al Ho
Michael Parenton