State of Louisiana
MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JIMMY D. LONG SR. LOUISIANA SCHOOL FOR MATH, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS

August 7, 2025

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts met on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., in the Jimmy D. Long Board Room, LSMSA, in Natchitoches, LA. Dr. Vickie Gentry called the meeting to order. Anne Dejoie-Lucas recorded the minutes. Roll was called, and quorum was established.

ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present

- Dr Vickie Gentry (chair)
- Dr. Greg Handel (vice chair)
- Dr. William “Bill” Luster
- Dr. Kyle Stephens
- Dr. Steve Horton, LSMSA Executive Director (non-voting)

Committee Members Absent

- Regina Pierce

Guests Present

- Dr. Bill Ebarb, Director of Finance, Operations & Technology/Deputy Exec. Dir.
- Emily Shumate, Director of Enrollment Management & Outreach
- Ro Slutsky, Director of Student Support Services
- Randi Washington, Dean of Students
- Michelle Robinson, LSMSA Foundation Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM 1: CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
Dr. Gentry reported that she had no requests for public comment.

AGENDA ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT REPORT WITH NO FINDINGS FOR LSMSA
The Louisiana Legislative Auditor performed procedures at the Jimmy D. Long Sr. Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts (LSMSA), to evaluate certain controls that LSMSA uses to ensure accurate financial reporting, compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and accountability over public funds for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 26, 2025. Based on the results of these procedures, they did not report any findings and noted that Management had resolved the prior report finding in the 2023 audit related to a weakness in controls over expenses. These audits are conducted every two years.

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Handel, seconded by Dr. Stephens, and unanimously passed, the Committee approved the Legislative Audit Report with no findings for LSMSA.

AGENDA ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF THE EMPLOYEE/STUDENT TRAINING PROGRAM IN VECTOR

LSMSA is switching its platform for employee and student training to Vector Solutions, a training software platform used throughout the United States in a majority of school districts. It utilizes state-mandated trainings and also allows incorporation of trainings required by the Department of Education. These meet state requirements for training and align with legislative statutes. Dr. Horton asked Board members to consider the specific training program for 2025-2026 that is tailored to LSMSA's needs as well as state/federal mandates for training.

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Luster, seconded by Dr. Handel, and unanimously passed, the Committee approved the employee/student training program in Vector.

AGENDA ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF CREDENTIALS OF NEW FACULTY

Credentials for three new faculty members were approved at the June meeting. In July, an offer of employment was extended to a physicist. Mr. Faria Mazhandu holds Master of Science degrees in physics and applied physics from a university abroad. His expertise in Quantum Physics and his interest in robotics will complement the development of the Maker Space. He taught for one year as a graduate assistant and was also a faculty member at the Oklahoma School for Math and Science.

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Stephens, seconded by Dr. Handel, and unanimously passed, the Committee approved the credentials of the new faculty.

AGENDA ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF POLICY REVISIONS: POSSESSION AND DELIVERY OF OTC AND CONTROLLED MEDICATIONS

Several students take medications, including controlled substances, and they must be able to take medications home during extended weekends and breaks to remain consistent with dosages. Many utilize Eagle Bus or drive themselves, and in the past, have not been allowed to travel with medications for these extended breaks. This policy allows students, with parental consent and signed documentation, to travel home with a limited number (not the complete prescription) of medication doses for use while at home. Counsel has reviewed and approved the policy to make sure it protects the student and the School. The policy must also be approved by the Board to retroactively amend the *Academic and Residential Handbook*, effective July 1, 2025. The document signed by the parent will include a list of medications allowed and the dates during which the student can travel home with them. They would be kept in the actual prescription bottles, so students are not carrying meds in random packaging. The policy contains wording to hold students accountable per the Code of Conduct.

If approved by the Board, parents will be notified during new student orientation sessions and before move-in day so they can review, ask questions, and sign both forms before students move into the LLC.

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Stephens, seconded by Dr. Luster, and unanimously passed, the Committee approved the policy revision regarding possession and delivery of OTC and controlled medications.

AGENDA ITEM 6: EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SEARCH COMMITTEE MATTERS

> **Upon motion duly made by Dr. Handel, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts moved into Executive Session pursuant to R.S. 427 to discuss Search Committee Matters. The motion was seconded by Dr. Stephens and unanimously passed by roll call vote of the members present.**

Mrs. Lucas announced that all audio recording devices would be turned off during the Session, and all guests were asked to leave the room.

The Executive Committee entered into Executive Session at 12:20 p.m.

> **Upon motion duly made by Dr. Handel, seconded by Dr. Luster, and unanimously passed, the Executive Committee returned to regular session at 1:10 p.m.**

> **Upon motion duly made by Dr. Luster, seconded by Dr. Handel, and unanimously passed, the Executive Committee agreed during the Session to give the Chair authority to form a Search Committee from a list of approved names. This approved motion supersedes AGENDA ITEM 7: NAMING OF APPROVED SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**

AGENDA ITEM 8: OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Horton asked the Committee to consider a request from the Foundation, presented by Michelle Robinson. The Board has a regular meeting scheduled for Monday, March 16. Mrs. Robinson asked that they consider moving that date to Friday, March 13, to allow the School's Board to have a joint luncheon with the Foundation's Board of Trustees, which will be here that weekend for their annual retreat and to take part in Pi-Day and Reunion Weekend events. The Foundation's Board of Trustees will also be launching its *Growing Beyond* Comprehensive Campaign that weekend. LSMSA students would be off campus for an extended weekend, so there would be no interruption to classes.

Dr. Gentry will announce this change to the Board at the next meeting, scheduled for Monday, September 16, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

> **Upon motion duly made by Dr. Luster, seconded by Dr. Handel, and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Vickie S. Gentry

Vickie S. Gentry, Ph.D.
Chair

Steven G. Horton

Steven G. Horton, Ph.D.
Secretary