State of Louisiana

APPROVED MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

JIMMY D. LONG, SR. LOUISIANA SCHOOL FOR MATH, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS
March 13, 2026

The Jimmy D. Long, Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts Board of Directors met on Friday, March 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the Jimmy D. Long Board Room, LSMSA, in Natchitoches, LA. Dr. Vickie S. Gentry served as Chair. She welcomed members and guests and called the meeting to order. Donna Martin recorded the minutes. Roll was called, and a quorum was established.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

- Rep. Beryl Amedee
- Leanne M. Broussard
- Dr. Susannah Craig
- Dr. Vickie S. Gentry (Chair)
- Dr. Greg Handel (Vice Chair)
- Nikki Landry
- Dr. William Luster
- Tana Luther
- William C. "Bill" New
- Jeff Powell
- Dr. Kyle Stephens
- Dr. Arthur S. Williams

Members Absent

- Joseph E. "Jed" Cain
- Dr. Micah Bruce-Davis
- Jared R. Dunahoe (attended meeting via Teams beginning 1:10 pm and did not vote)
- Kirby Hopkins
- Denise Karamales
- Jimmy D. Long, Jr.
- Stacey Melerine
- Sen. Blake Miguez
- Rep. Charles A. Owen
- Regina B. Pierce
- Sen. Alan Seabaugh
- Carolyn Wilkinson

Guests Present

- Dr. Jason Anderson
- Jonathan Baily
- Tedra Cheatham
- Chris Coco
- Angela Couvillion
- Danielle Duffourc
- Dr. Bill Ebarb
- Stacey Hawkins
- Donald Hodge
- Emilyn Horton
- Holly Magliolo
- Ben Marcel
- Mindy Marcks
- Rolanda Myers
- Cindy Pugh
- Lenny Richoux
- Michelle Robinson
- Dr. Wayne Stewart
- Clayton Trosclair
- Randi Washington
- Dr. Sharon Williams

AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Gentry welcomed everyone and recognized the newest Board member, Nikki Landry, who was formally pinned by Ms. Luther and Dr. Gentry.

AGENDA ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 8, 2025, BOARD MINUTES

Board members reviewed December 8, 2025, minutes.

> **Upon motion made by Rep. Amedee and seconded by Mr. New, the minutes of December 8, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.**

AGENDA ITEM 3: STATEMENT REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT

Prior to the meeting, three public comment requests were submitted for Agenda Items 4, 9, and 12. Dr. Gentry clarified that because Agenda Item 12 is a report only and does not require Board action, pursuant to Board policy, public comments related to that item would not be heard.

Dr. Gentry then read the statement outlining the rules for public comment. She reminded attendees that comments must address the specific agenda item for which they were submitted. Each commenter is allotted three (3) minutes to speak, with a one (1) minute warning provided.

AENDA ITEM 4: UPDATE AND APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Dr. Gentry introduced the agenda item and called for public comments; no one indicated an intention to speak to the agenda item.

Dr. Handel, Chair of the Search Committee, provided an update on the Executive Director search. He reported that the committee began its work in Fall of 2025, conducting a national and international search that yielded 12 applications. After initial screening, four candidates were advanced for further review. Following additional committee deliberations, two candidates participated in virtual interviews. One candidate subsequently withdrew, leaving one remaining candidate. The committee recommended proceeding with an in-person interview with the remaining candidate, who was interviewed today.

> **Upon a motion made by Mr. Powell and seconded by Dr. Luster, a roll call vote was conducted and was unanimous in favor of accepting the Search Committee's recommendation for Dr. Jason Anderson to be interviewed as the sole finalist.**

YES	**NO**
Rep. Beryl Amedee	**None**
Leanne M. Broussard	
Dr. Susannah Craig	
Dr. Vickie S. Gentry	
Dr. Greg Handel	
Nikki Landry	
Dr. William Luster	
Jeff Powell	
Dr. Kyle Stephens	
Dr. Arthur S. Williams	
Bill New	
Tana Luther	

AGENDA ITEM 5: RATIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE EVALUATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Jason Anderson explained that the evaluation survey is distributed to Board members, faculty, and staff in early April each year and remains open for ten (10) days, with daily reminders sent throughout the response period. Once the survey closes, the results are compiled and forwarded to the Board Chair. The members who agreed to serve this year on the Ad Hoc Committee for the Evaluation of the Executive Director include Ms. Pierce, Ms. Broussard, Dr. Handel, Dr. Stephens, and Mr. Cain.

> **Upon a motion made by Dr. Handel and seconded by Dr. Williams, a roll call vote was conducted and was unanimous in favor of approving the membership of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Evaluation of the Executive Director.**

YES	**NO**
Rep. Beryl Amedee	**None**
Leanne M. Broussard	
Dr. Susannah Craig	
Dr. Vickie S. Gentry	
Dr. Greg Handel	
Nikki Landry	
Dr. William Luster	
Jeff Powell	
Dr. Kyle Stephens	
Dr. Arthur S. Williams	
Bill New	
Tana Luther	

AGENDA ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF NEW COURSES

Dr. Anderson presented a list of proposed new courses for implementation in the upcoming academic year, ranging from the Eagle Orientation first-year seminar to offerings such as *Fairytales* and *Quantum Computing*. He requested Board approval of the proposed courses and invited questions from members. Dr. Anderson also confirmed that Dr. Horton would teach *Debate Practicum* and noted that Board members are welcome to attend the class.

> **Upon a motion made by Dr. Stephens and seconded by Ms. Broussard, a roll call vote was conducted and was unanimous in favor of approving the new courses.**

YES	**NO**
Rep. Beryl Amedee	**None**

Leanne M. Broussard
Dr. Susannah Craig
Dr. Vickie S. Gentry
Dr. Greg Handel
Nikki Landry
Dr. William Luster
Jeff Powell
Dr. Kyle Stephens
Dr. Arthur S. Williams
Bill New
Tana Luther

AGENDA ITEM 7: APPROVAL OF STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES FOR AY 2026-27

Agenda Item 7 was deferred to the June 15, 2026, BOD meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8: APPROVAL OF FEE FOR THIRD PARTY EDUCATION VERIFICATION (PARCHMENT)

> **Following discussion of the agenda item, a motion was made by Dr. Handel and seconded by Mr. Powell to table Agenda Item 8. A roll call vote was conducted and was unanimous in favor of tabling the item until the June 15, 2026, meeting.**

YES	**NO**
Rep. Beryl Amedee	**None**
Leanne M. Broussard	
Dr. Susannah Craig	
Dr. Vickie S. Gentry	
Dr. Greg Handel	
Nikki Landry	
Dr. William Luster	
Jeff Powell	
Dr. Kyle Stephens	
Dr. Arthur S. Williams	
Bill New	
Tana Luther	

AGENDA ITEM 9: APPROVAL FOR CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

Dr. Gentry introduced and called for public comments; no one indicated an intention to speak to the agenda item.

Dr. Kyle Stephens offered a board resolution approving a one-year contract for professional legal services with Wayne T. Stewart and the firm Hammonds, Sills, Adkins, Guice, Noah, & Perkins, L.L.P., effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, not to exceed $125,000. The resolution authorizes submission of the contract to the Louisiana Attorney General for approval.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Stephens and seconded by Rep. Amedee, a roll call vote was conducted and was unanimous in favor of the motion to approve the contract for professional legal services effective July 1, 2026.

YES	**NO**
Rep. Beryl Amedee	**None**
Leanne M. Broussard	
Dr. Susannah Craig	
Dr. Vickie S. Gentry	
Dr. Greg Handel	
Nikki Landry	
Dr. William Luster	
Jeff Powell	
Dr. Kyle Stephens	
Dr. Arthur S. Williams	
Bill New	
Tana Luther	

AGENDA ITEM 10: RATIFICATION OF FOUNDATION FACULTY/STAFF REIMBURSEMENTS SINCE DECEMBER 8, 2026, BOARD MEETING

Dr. Horton reported that six faculty and staff members have received reimbursements from the LSMSA Foundation since the December meeting, with most reimbursements issued through the Brown Fund. Five of the reimbursements were for travel expenses, and one reimbursement covered the cost of replacing part of the Santa costume used at Christmas.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Luther and seconded by Dr. Luster, a roll call vote was conducted and was unanimous in favor of approving the faculty and staff reimbursements for this quarter.

YES	**NO**
Rep. Beryl Amedee	**None**
Leanne M. Broussard	
Dr. Susannah Craig	

Dr. Vickie S. Gentry
Dr. Greg Handel
Nikki Landry
Dr. William Luster
Jeff Powell
Dr. Kyle Stephens
Dr. Arthur S. Williams
Bill New
Tana Luther

AGENDA ITEM 11: REPORT FROM THE FACULTY

Dr. Stephens delivered the faculty report, expressing appreciation for the LSMSA Foundation, and highlighting the success of recent Pi Day initiatives. He noted improved student engagement and performance across all grade levels, reporting strong academic effort from sophomores and positive progress among juniors and seniors as they conclude the year. Dr. Stephens also previewed upcoming Blue and Gold Week activities and reported an increase in Capstone Projects and Distinction Projects.

In response to a question from Dr. Williams, Dr. Stephens provided an example of a senior capstone project focused on the history of the U.S. gold standard.

Dr. Gentry encouraged Board members to review all directors' reports included in the Board exhibits and invited them to reach out to individual directors with any questions.

AGENDA ITEM 12: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND DIVISION REPORTS

Dr. Horton reported that Reunion Weekend and Pi Day activities were underway. Ms. Robinson provided an update on Pi Week fundraising, noting strong student participation and approximately $24,000–$25,000 raised to date, with 314 expected donors. She expressed appreciation to faculty and staff for their support of the event.

AGENDA ITEM 13: OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Horton reminded Board members that the state mandated Ethics Disclosure Form is due by May 15 for anyone who served on the Board between January 1 and December 31, 2026. He announced several upcoming events, including Blue and Gold Week (April 20–26), the Ring Ceremony (April 26 at 11:00 a.m. in Magale Recital Hall), Senior Recognition Ceremony (May 15), and Commencement (May 16). He also noted that the next Board meeting is scheduled for June 15. Dr. Horton confirmed that ethics training requirements apply to all members who served at any time during the calendar year.

AGENDA ITEM 14: DATE FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at 1 p.m., June 15, 2026, in the Long Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

> **Upon a motion made by Dr. Stephens and seconded by Ms. Broussard, and with unanimous approval, the meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.**

Respectively Submitted,

Vickie Gentry

Vickie S. Gentry, Ph.D.
Chair

Steven G. Horton

Steven G. Horton, Ph.D.
Secretary