

State of Louisiana

APPROVED Minutes

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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

June 15, 2026

The Jimmy D. Long, Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts Board of Directors met on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the Jimmy D. Long Board Room, LSMSA, in Natchitoches, LA. Dr. Vickie S. Gentry 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

- Representative Bery Amedee
- LeAnne M. Broussard
- Jared Dunahoe
- Dr. Vickie Gentry (Chair)
- Dr. Greg Handel (Vice-Chair)
- Kirby Hopkins
- Nikki Landry
- Dr. William B. Luster
- Tana Luther
- William C. "Bill" New
- Representative Charles A. Owen
- Regina Pierce
- Dr. Kyle Stephens
- Carolyn Wilkinson
- Dr. Arthur S. Williams

Members Absent

- Dr. Misty Davis

- Joseph E. “Jed” Cain
- Dr. Susanna Craig (attended meeting via Teams, did not count toward quorum, non-voting)
- Dr. Micah Bruce-Davis
- Jimmy D. Long, Jr.
- Stacey Melerine
- Senator Blake Miguez
- Jeff Powell
- Senator Alan Seabaugh

Guests Present

- Monica Llorence
- Angela Couvillion
- Emilyn Horton
- Karen Townsend
- Ben Marcel
- Michele Robinson
- Jami Becnel
- Anne Lucas
- Phyllis Anderson
- Dr. Jason Anderson
- Signorah Thomas
- Dr. Bill Ebarb
- Emily Shumate
- Randi Washington
- Ro Slutsky
- Danette Shepherd

AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Gentry welcomed everyone and recognized Ms. Signorah Thomas, representative from Congressman Cleo Fields’ office from the Louisiana 6th Congressional District. Ms. Thomas presented Dr. Horton with a Certificate of Special Recognition for his “distinguished service and dedicated leadership at LSMSA.” Ms. Thomas recognized Dr. Horton for his “unwavering commitment to academic excellence and student achievement on behalf of the 6th Congressional District’s constituents of Louisiana.”

Dr. Gentry mentioned that the two (2) new Board members, not present, would be recognized at a future meeting.

AMENDMENT TO THE FINAL AGENDA

Dr. Handel moved to amend the agenda pursuant to Section F of the Bylaws of the Board of Directors to include Item 3.1: Ratification and Approval of the Executive Committee's Recommendation for a Contract for the new LSMSA Executive Director as reflected in the March 27, 2026, Executive Committee minutes; Dr. Stephens seconded. A roll-call vote was taken of the members present; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MARCH 13, 2026, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Rep. Amedee requested a correction to March 13, 2026, minutes as they pertained to updating the wording to the financial disclosure requirement for Board members (Item 13: Other Business, on the March 13 Agenda) to the state mandated Ethics Disclosure Form. Correction was acknowledged and minutes were updated.

Dr. Williams moved to amend and approve March 13, 2026, minutes, and Rep. Amedee seconded. A roll-call vote was taken of the members present; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MARCH 27, 2026, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Mrs. Pierce moved to approve March 27, 2026, Executive Committee meeting minutes, and Mr. New seconded. A roll-call vote was taken of the members present; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3.1: RATIFICATION AND APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR A CONTRACT FOR THE NEW LSMSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Dunahoe moved to approve the Ratification and Approval of the Executive Committee's recommendation for a contract for the new LSMSA Executive Director, and Mrs. Pierce seconded. A roll-call vote was taken of the members present; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF CREDENTIALS OF NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Dr. Anderson presented the credentials of three new faculty members joining LSMSA in Fall 2026 in Humanities-English, Mathematics, and Physics.

Dr. Stephens moved to approve the credentials of new faculty members, seconded by Mrs. Broussard. A roll-call vote was taken of the members present; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

Dr. Anderson noted that staff also teach select courses, including *Early Medieval Europe*, invited questions, and confirmed (with Dr. Stephens) that Heather Tichenor will teach the course. She holds a master's degree in Medieval Studies from the University of Toronto.

Mr. Dunahoe moved to approve the new course proposal, seconded by Dr. Stephens. A roll-call vote was taken of the members present; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6: EXECUTIVE SESSION TO REPORT ON AD HOC COMMITTEE REVIEW REGARDING ANNUAL EVALUATION OF LSMSA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Broussard moved to enter Executive Session to report on the Ad Hoc Committee Review regarding the Annual Evaluation of LSMSA's Executive Director, seconded by Dr. Handel. A roll-call vote was taken of the members present; the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session began: 1:19 p.m.

Executive Session ended: 1:29 p.m.

Mr. Dunahoe moved to approve the Executive Director's Evaluation, and Dr. Williams seconded. A roll-call vote was taken of the members present; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7: RATIFICATION OF FOUNDATION FACULTY/STAFF REIMBURSEMENTS SINCE MARCH 13, 2026, BOARD MEETING

Dr. Horton reported eleven (11) Foundation reimbursements to faculty and staff since the March meeting, requiring Board ratification, and invited questions.

Mr. Dunahoe moved to approve ratification of faculty and staff reimbursements since March 13, 2026, seconded by Mr. Hopkins. A roll-call vote was taken of the members present; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8: APPROVAL OF FEE FOR THIRD-PARTY EDUCATION VERIFICATION (PARCHMENT) (DEFERRED FROM MARCH 13, 2026, BOARD MEETING)

Ms. Couvillion clarified that the proposed fee applies to third-party background verification companies (not graduates), supports secure transmission of education records, noted current request volume, and addressed legal and procedural questions, with counsel indicating no apparent issues.

Mr. Hopkins moved to approve a fee for third-party education verification, and Dr. Williams seconded. A roll-call vote was taken of members present; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9: APPROVAL OF STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES FOR AY 2026-27 (DEFERRED FROM MARCH 13, 2026, BOARD MEETING)

Dr. Ebarb explained that the voluntary fee (not part of the legislative package) supports student services and programming, with adjustments made to address past deficits and surpluses, including a new medical services fee; overall cost increases slightly and may be waived for students in need.

Dr. Stephens moved to approve the student activity fee, and Mr. Hopkins seconded. A roll-call vote was taken of the members present; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 10: APPROVAL OF 2026-2027 TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE

Ms. Llorencia presented the required salary schedule with a recommended increase from \$50,565 to \$52,500 (approximately 3%). Board members discussed comparability with other districts, retention goals, and statutory requirements, noting LSMSA's 10-month salary structure and strong faculty retention practices.

Dr. Williams moved to approve the 2026-2027 teacher salary schedule, and Mr. Hopkins seconded. A roll-call vote was taken of the members present; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11: APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LSMSA SEXUAL HARRASSMENT POLICY & TITLE IX GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Ms. Couvillion noted minor updates to the Sexual Harassment Policy and Title IX Procedures – primarily clarifying definitions and aligning with FBI reporting standards – effective July 1, 2026.

Mr. Dunahoe moved to approve the amendments to LSMSA's Sexual Harassment Policy and Title IX Grievance Procedures, and Rep. Amedee seconded. A roll-call vote was taken of the members present; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 12: APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CRISIS LEAVE POLICY

Dr. Horton summarized updates to the crisis leave policy to align with Division of Administration and State Civil Service standards, including minimum leave value, donor requirements, and reapplication provisions, noting leave is tracked through the state LEO system and invited questions.

Mr. Dunahoe moved to approve the proposed amendments to the Crisis Leave Policy, and Mrs. Broussard seconded. A roll-call vote was taken of the members present; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 13: APPROVAL OF 2026-2027 EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Dr. Horton outlined annual *Employee Handbook* updates effective July 1, 2026, including separating two administrative roles, clarifying compensatory pay for overtime and holiday work, and aligning compensatory time rollover limits with state policy; responsibilities of the Deputy Executive Director were also clarified.

Mrs. Pierce moved to approve the 2026-2027 *Employee Handbook*, and Mr. Dunahoe seconded. A roll-call vote was taken by the members present (Rep. Amedee was not present for this vote); the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 14: APPROVAL OF 2026-2027 SAFETY MANUAL

Dr. Horton requested approval of the 2026-2027 *Safety Manual*, noting that there were no changes, and commended staff for maintaining full alignment with state health and safety regulations.

Mr. Dunahoe moved to approve the 2026-2027 *Safety Manual*, and Dr. Williams seconded. A roll-call vote was taken of the members present (Rep. Amedee was not present for this vote); and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 15: REPORT FROM THE FACULTY

Dr. Stephens reflected on the academic year, highlighting faculty dedication, student growth, and strong morale, and expressed appreciation for Dr. Horton while voicing confidence in Dr. Jason Anderson's leadership.

AGENDA ITEM 16: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (HORTON AND ANDERSON) AND DIVISION REPORTS

Dr. Horton summarized a successful year at LSMSA, highlighting strong academic outcomes, student achievements, faculty contributions, operational improvements and significant upcoming funding for campus expansion, and expressed gratitude before introducing Dr. Anderson as the newly chosen Executive Director.

Dr. Anderson provided an overview of the transition, highlighting recent leadership hires, ongoing summer programs and enrollment efforts, and outlined priorities for strategic planning, while noting student retention challenges and expressing appreciation for Dr. Horton's leadership.

Dr. Gentry invited questions on director reports; the discussion focused on increased utility costs, with Dr. Ebarb attributing spikes to billing errors, rate changes, and a meter issue (partially credited), noting budget adjustments and ongoing analysis; additional discussion addressed state funding changes, MFP impacts, and potential effects on salary adjustments.

Rep. Amedee and Dr. Ebarb will continue discussions regarding funding; teacher and support staff salary adjustments for better understanding.

AGENDA ITEM 17: OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Marcel expressed appreciation for Dr. Horton's leadership, highlighting his dedication and impact, and presented Dr. Horton with a commemorative engraved brick in recognition from the Foundation.

Dr. Stephens read a formal resolution recognizing Dr. Horton's 10 years of leadership and contributions to LSMSA's stability and growth, awarding him the title of Executive Director Emeritus effective July 1, 2026.

Dr. Stephens moved to approve the Executive Director Emeritus designation for Dr. Horton, and Mrs. Pierce seconded. A roll-call vote was taken of the members present; the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 18: DATE FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

Dr. Gentry noted upcoming agenda dates (faculty in-service, move-in day, first day of classes, and matriculation ceremony). The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., followed by a retirement celebration; invitations will be sent.

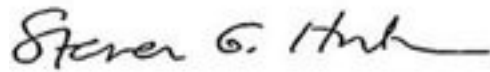
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dunahoe moved to adjourn, and Ms. Landry seconded; the meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Vickie S. Gentry, PhD.
Chair



Steven G. Horton, PhD.
Secretary