

Louisiana Special School District Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes

Date: August 8, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM CDT

Location: Hybrid, Louisiana Schools for the Deaf and Visually Impaired, 2888 Brightside dr, Baton Rouge, La 70820; Zoom

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 AM CDT by board president, Jamar Innes.

Members in attendance included:

- Jamar Innes
- Maria Annis
- Dee Budgewater
- Dr. Rachel Granier
- Audra Hicks
- Katherine Presley
- Vicki Smith
- Dr. Jessica White

Eight members constituted a quorum.

Amendment to Agenda

- President Innes requested motion to amend agenda to include public comment. The motion was made by Katherine Presley, seconded by Audra Hicks and approved by unanimous roll call vote
- President Innes opened up the floor to hear public comments.
- Maria Annis requested clarification as to why past LSSD board members Sherry Crosby and Kenny are no longer on the board. President Innes stated that this matter will be addressed fully at the upcoming meeting on 09/09/2025. He explained that their membership lapsed due to the fact that their senate appointments were not confirmed in time and that discussion of policies and procedures to ensure that this does not happen in the future will occur at the upcoming meeting as well. He added that Governor Landry has left the positions vacant to allow the board to fill them and stressed the importance of filling the positions to ensure the deaf community is not underserved.
- No further public comments were given.

Ratification of July 23, 2025 Emergency Vote

Item 1: Approval for appointments of Louisiana Special School District board President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer, as voted upon at the July 23, 2025 emergency board meeting

- President Innes called for motion to approve the appointments of himself as President, Dr. Jessica White as Vice President and Katherine Presley as Secretary-Treasurer. Motion was made by Vicki Smith, seconded by Dee Budgewater and Maria Annis, and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Item 2: Installation of Dr. Shirley Lewis as interim superintendent of the Louisiana Special School District

- President Innes called for motion to approve appointment of Dr. Lewis as interim superintendent. The motion was made by Dr. Jessica White, seconded by Dr. Rachel Granier and Maria Annis, and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Item 3: Allowance for Dr. Lewis to maintain signing authority and/or delegate signing authority while interim superintendent

- President Innes called for a motion to provide Dr. Lewis with signing authority or delegate signing authority while interim superintendent. The motion was made by Dee Budgewater, seconded by Vicki Smith and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Adjournment

- President Innes called for motion to adjourn meeting. The motion was made by Katherine Presley, seconded by Vicki Smith and approved by unanimous roll call vote.
- The next meeting is set for Tuesday, September 9, 2025 from 9:00 AM CDT until 1:00 PM CDT, to be held on the LSDVI campus and virtually.
- Meeting Adjourned at 9:29 AM CDT