

## Louisiana Sepcial School District Board of Directors Emergency Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 07/23/2025

Time: 3:30 PM

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 4:32 PM by Mr. Ronnie Morris, Board President.

### Roll Call

Members present: Ronnie Morris, Jamar Innes, Dr. Jessica White, Dr. Rachel Granier, Eric Guillory, Katherine Presley, and Vickie Smith.

### Election of Officers

- President: Mr. Ronnie Morris nominated Mr. Jamar Innes for President. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Eric Guillory. A roll call vote was conducted, with unanimous approval.
- Vice President: Dr. Jessica White was nominated by Mr. Ronnie Morris. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Eric Guillory. A roll call vote resulted in unanimous approval.
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ms. Katherine Presley was nominated by Mr. Eric Guillory, seconded by Dr. Jessica White. A roll call vote was unanimously in favor.

### Candidate Presentations for Interim Superintendent

#### *Dr. Shirley Lewis*

Dr. Lewis shared her background in education, including a degree from Louisiana Tech, a master's from LSU, plus 30 hours from Southern University, and a Ph.D. from Nova Southeastern University. She highlighted her passion for education, experience as a resource teacher, EBR, autism specialist, educational diagnostician, and extensive leadership roles in special education. Dr. Lewis served as a supervisor in the district and as Chief Academic Officer, overseeing curriculum, teacher development, and district-wide operations. She stated her commitment to ensuring high expectations and quality instructional materials for all students.

#### *Dr. Kathy Seegers*

Dr. Seegers, retired from the Georgia Department of Education, described her administrative and teaching roles, including serving as the state vision consultant and being named Georgia Deaf-Blind Teacher of the Year. She holds a degree in music from the University of Georgia, a master's in special education from Burnell, and advanced

degrees in educational leadership. Dr. Seegers emphasized collaboration, respect for all staff, and her desire to serve the Louisiana community.

#### Public Comment

Mr. Jay Isch, Executive Director of the Louisiana Association of the Deaf, expressed concerns regarding the superintendent search process and the importance of deaf representation. Mr. Isch spoke in support of Dr. Lewis and emphasized the need to prioritize students in decision-making.

#### Executive Session

Mr. Morris called for an executive session. Mr. Jamar Innes made a motion to waive the executive session and proceed with the appointment of Dr. Shirley Lewis as Interim Superintendent. Six of seven members voted in agreement; by majority, Dr. Lewis was appointed.

#### Other Actions

- Mr. Innes made a motion to grant signing authority to Dr. Lewis. Motion seconded and approved unanimously by roll call.
- The board discussed scheduling a meeting in 30 days to ratify the decision and ensure board review and approval of recent actions, as stated by board counsel, Mr. Andre Bourgeois.
- Members agreed (unanimous roll call) to respond regarding availability after consulting their calendars. The meeting structure will allow flexibility for in-person or Zoom attendance, with the presiding officer present at the anchor location.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting.

Adjourned: 5:34 PM