



Louisiana Special School District

Louisiana Special School District Board of Directors

Board Meeting

August 13, 2024 at 10:30 AM

Louisiana Schools for the Deaf and Visually Impaired

2888 Brightside Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70820

Student Activity Center, Room 196

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The August 13, 2024 Board meeting of the Special School District Board of Directors was called to order at 10:35 AM by Ms. Kristy Flynn, Board President. Members present at the meeting included: Ms. Maria Annis; Ms. Sherry Crosby; Mr. Kenny Davis; Mr. Jamar Ennis; Mr. Ronnie Morris and Ms. Vickie Smith. Members not in attendance: Mr. Anthony Celestine

Public comment: None

II. Approval of the May 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Sherry Crosby made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kenny Davis and unanimously approved.

III. Old Business

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

The Superintendent's Performance Evaluation was to Board President Ms. Kristy Flynn by the board's legal counsel.

Mr. Ronnie Morris made a motion to table the discussion of the Superintendent's Evaluation and allow the Personnel Committee to perform the appropriate assessments for their quantitative measures for the evaluation of the superintendent. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vickie Smith and unanimously approved,

Legal counsel to the Special School District's board, explained to board member Ronnie Morris, a discretion on the amount of the proposed raise of up to 5%. Board Member Ronnie Morris requested that discussion of the Superintendent's Evaluation be discussed in executive session prior to any considerations in a public venue. Mr. Ronnie Morris made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the proposed percentage of the Superintendent's salary increase. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kenny Davis and unanimously approved.

The SSD Board entered an executive session to discuss the proposed percentage of Dr. Martin's pay increase based on job performance.

The board returned from executive session to the Special School District's board room where Mr. Jamar Ennis made a motion to end the executive session and return to regular agenda items. The motion was second by Ms. Sherry Crosby and unanimously approved.



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Mr. Ronnie Morris made a motion for the board to approve a 4.5% increase associated with Dr. Martin's contract renewal. The motion was seconded by Sherry Crosby and unanimously approved.

Dr. Martin stated his intention to forgo the 4.5% pay increase until after discussion of New Business, Agenda Item IV., B. associated with the board's discussion of Teacher's Salary Schedules.

Mr Ronnie Morris made a motion to defer action on the 4.5 % pay increase proposed for Superintendent Dr. David Martin until Agenda item IV. B.associated with the board's discussion of Teacher's Salary Schedules. Included in the motion, Mr. Morris added that discussion of the superintendent's pay increase should take place prior to the end of the August 13th, 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jamar Ennis and unanimously approved.

B. District Accountability

Superintendent Martin reported the Louisiana Department of Education revised accountability system has been adopted and will take effect for the 2025-2026 school year. The Special School District will engage in discussion with the Department of Education in a conversation to compare the cumulative scores of students identified with disabilities throughout Louisiana with the cumulative scores of students that receive educational services at the K-12 grade Louisiana Schools for the Deaf and Visually Impaired.

IV. New Business

A. Date selection of 2024-2025 additional board meetings

October 15, 2024, February 11, 2025, March 18, 2025, May 13, 2025

Ms. Sherry Crosby made a motion to accept and plan for four (4) additional Special School District Board meetings on October 15, 2024, February 11, 2024, March 18, 2025, May 13, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ronnie Morris and unanimously approved.

B. Teacher's Salary Schedule

Superintendent Dr. David Martin discussed a plan, retroactive to July 1, 2024, to grant all teachers and paraeducators a 4% salary increase. The Superintendent then discussed a plan to grant all unclassified employee's a 2% salary increase at the time the increase is approved.

Mr. Ronnie Morris made a motion to adopt the salary schedule as proposed by Superintendent Dr. David Martin, with an increase in teachers and paraeducators pay of up 4%. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vickie Smith and unanimously approved.

Mr. Jamar Ennis made a motion to place the discussion for the Superintendent's 4.5% raise on the October 15, 2024 meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kenny David and unanimously approved.

C. Student Internships

Superintendent Dr. David Martin informed members of the board that the district has applied for a 9 million dollar grant. Dr. Martin added that his office is investigating the possibility of paid student internships through the district's Career Technical Education programs.

D. Virtual Platform

Superintendent Martin reported that in order to allow virtual participation to Special School District's board meetings, the district must develop a notice of intent and rules for such meetings. In addition, the letter of intent and rules will be then filed with the Office of State registry for promulgation in the Louisiana administrative code. The legal counsel for the Special School District's Board is in the process of finalizing rules consistent with Act 393 - Open Meetings via Electronic Means.



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Mr. Jamar Ennis made a motion to recess for lunch time with the Special School District's board meeting to resume at 12:53pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vickie Smith and unanimously approved. Ms. Kristy Flynn called the roll of Special School District's board members to return to regular meeting from lunch break at 12:55pm. Members answering the roll as present were Ms. Vicky Smith, Mr. Jamar Ennis, Ms. Sherry Crosby, Mr. Ronnie Morris, Mr. Kenny Davis, Ms. Maria Annis, and Ms. Kristy Flynn.

V. Reports

Special School Programs (SSP)- Dr. Shirley Lewis, Executive Director of Special School Programs, provided updates for SSP on students' test scores.

LA School for the Visually Impaired (LSVI)- Susan Covington, Executive Director of LSVI provided updates on LSVI school events and students' test scores

LA School for the Deaf (LSD) - Dr. Natalie Delgado, Executive Director of LSD, provided updates on LSD school events and test scores

District Wide Supports (DWS) - Nancy Rawls, Executive Director of District Wide Supports and Edward Boyd Director of CTE and Transition presented updates

Shared Service - Kathleen Carr, Executive Director of Shared Services, provided updates on Non-Academic Shared Services

Dr. Superintendent David Martin provided updates on the Cyber Attack, Staffing, Theme for 24-25 school year, School Handbooks being updated to reflect recent state legislation, Lean 6 leadership training, Flexpoint contract for the schools, and the Superintendent Leadership award.

B. Personnel Report

Ms. Santa Patterson, Executive Director of Human Resources, provided the Board with updates of agency filled positions, vacant positions, new hires, and current workmen's compensation claims.

C. Financial Report

Ms. Del Picou, Executive Director for Business Services, provided the board with updates of the agency's budget and her plan on moving the district forward with her vision.

VI. Adjournment

With no further business, Mr. Ronnie Morris made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Sherry Crosby seconded the motion.