



Louisiana Special School District

Louisiana Special School District Board of Directors

Board Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2022 at 10:30 AM

Louisiana Schools for the Deaf and Visually Impaired

2888 Brightside Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70820

Student Activity Center, Room 196

Agenda Item I

The May 16, 2022 meeting of the Special School District Board of Directors was called to order at 10:32 AM by Mr. Larry LeBert, Board President. Members present at the meeting included: Ms. Maria Annis, Dr. Edward Bell, Ms. Sherry Crosby, Ms. Kristy Flynn, Ms. Michele Jones (arrived at 10:42 AM), Mr. Ronnie Morris, Ms. Audra Muslow-Hicks, and Ms. Vickie Smith. Members not in attendance: Mr. Jamar Ennis, and Judge Blair Edwards. Ms. Jackie Broussard resigned her position on the SSD Board of Directors on May 4, 2022 at 6:52 AM.

Public comment was given by Dr. Marie Smith and Mr. Nigel Burkhalter.

- 1 A motion was made by Dr. Bell to amend the agenda and move the Executive Session, Agenda item VII, to the beginning of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Morris and all approved without objection. The board entered into executive session to discuss the superintendent contract at 10:37 AM.

Agenda Item II

- 2 Dr. Bell motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February 21, 2022. Mr. Morris seconded the motion and all approved without objection.

Agenda Item VII

- 3 The board broke from Executive Session for lunch at 12:07 PM. A motion to return to executive session was made by Mr. Morris. The motion was seconded by Ms. Muslow-Hicks and all approved without objection. The board returned to executive session at 1:04 PM.
- 4 Mr. Morris made a motion to exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bell and all approved without objection. The board exited executive session at 1:55 PM.



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5 Dr. Bell motioned to request that the board president appoint the Personnel Committee members, as identified in the Board By-laws, Article 5.2, so the committee may start an investigation into the job performance of the superintendent and perform the duties of the committee as identified in the by-laws. The motion was seconded by Ms. Smith and all approved without objection. President LeBert appointed Dr. Bell, Mr. Morris, and Ms. Flynn to the Personnel Committee to begin their investigation, as they may determine, immediately.

6 Dr. Bell motioned to immediately place Superintendent Garrett on paid leave until the investigation into his job performance, initiated and conducted at the direction of the Personnel Committee, is completed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Muslow-Hicks and all approved without objection.

7 Dr. Bell motioned to place Ms. Katherine Granier as the acting superintendent of the Special School District while Superintendent Garrett is on paid leave and the Personnel Committee conducts its investigation into the job performance of Superintendent Garrett. The motion was seconded by Ms. Flynn and all approved without objection.

8 Mr. Morris motioned to amend Dr. Bell’s motion to place Ms. Katherine Granier as acting superintendent while Superintendent Garrett is on paid leave and the Personnel Committee conducts its investigation into the job performance of Superintendent Garrett to include that Ms. Granier identify an individual or individuals to be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the campus in the event of her absence. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bell and all approved without objection.

Agenda Item III

Superintendent Garrett did not present an update for the board

Ms. Katherine Granier provided a report on fiscal operations to the board.

Dr. Heather Laine, Ms. Melanie Brenckle, and Dr. Shirley Lewis provided reports on teacher shortage data to the board.



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Agenda Item IV

Ms. Leslie Hill provided an update on the 2022 Regular Legislative Session and the bills that most impact the Special School District to the board.

Agenda Item V

Superintendent Garrett presented the Special School District Strategic Plan to the board.

- 9 Dr. Bell motioned that the board receive a copy of the strategic plan as soon as possible. The motion was seconded by Ms. Flynn and all approved without objection.

Agenda Item VI

The board president, Mr. LeBert appointed the Personnel Committee in conjunction with a previous motion upon exiting executive session. Those committee members consist of Mr. Morris, Dr. Bell, and Ms. Flynn.

Agenda Item VII

- 10 Mr. Morris made a motion to discuss the process on hearing staff concerns in public instead of executive session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bell and all approved without objection.

The board took a break from 4:10 to 4:15 PM.

- 11 A motion was made by Mr. Morris that the SSD legal staff and Ms. Granier establish a formal process for staff to register complaints through a chain of command, including a pathway to a resolution for unresolved complaints, and provide a report to the board on the formal complaint process policy at the next board meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bell and all approved without objection.

- 12 A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Bell. Ms. Flynn seconded the motion. With no objection to the motion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.