

**State of Louisiana**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

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

**September 24, 2018**

The Board of Directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts met on Sept. 24, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. in the Jimmy D. Long Boardroom, LSMSA, in Natchitoches, LA. Mrs. Sharon Gahagan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present**

Representative Beryl Amedee  
Jimmy D. Berry  
Hollis Conway  
Raphiel Curtis  
Tony Davis  
Amy Deslattes  
Sharon T. Gahagan, Board Chair  
Ryan Jannise  
Marian Johnson  
Mike McGrath  
Senator Dan "Blade" Morrish  
Martha T. Smiley  
James G. Smith  
Dr. Larry Tremblay  
  
Dr. Steve Horton (in capacity of secretary)

**Absent**

Joseph "Jed" Cain  
Anne Reese Johnson  
Chanda Johnson  
Dr. Kelli Joseph  
Jimmy D. Long, Jr.  
Dr. Kimberly W. McAlister  
Paul W. Rainwater  
Senator Mike Walsworth  
Representative Julie Emerson

**Guests**

John Allen, LSMSA  
Dr. Kristi Key, LSMSA  
Emily Shumate, LSMSA  
Angela Robinson, LSMSA Foundation  
William Heitman, President, SGO  
Song LeJeune, Secretary, SGO  
Ben Walker, LSMSA Student  
Emily Cormier, LSMSA Student  
Andrew Bagart, LSMSA Student

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mrs. Gahagan welcomed members and guests to the quarterly Board meeting. She introduced Raphiel Curtis, who replaces Tristen Guillory as the designee of the State Superintendent of Education. She also welcomed Will Heitman, SGO President; Song LeJeune, SGO Secretary; and Ben Walker, a LSMSA senior.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF JUNE 25, 2018, BOARD MINUTES**

Mrs. Gahagan requested the Board's review of June 25, 2018, Board minutes and requested any corrections or changes.

**Rep. Amedee moved to approve the June 25, 2018, Board minutes. Mr. Davis seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2: CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mrs. Gahagan reported that she had no requests for public comment.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3: INTRODUCTION OF NEW FACULTY AND STAFF**

Dr. Key introduced faculty joining LSMSA in August: Crystal Lewis, dance (shared position with NSU); Scott Theriot, theatre; Morris Tichenor, Latin; and Edwin Perez Lopez, computer science.

Mrs. Shumate introduced Regina Brossett, Coordinator of Residential Life (CLA) for Caddo Hall; John Shore has returned to LSMSA as CRL for Prudhomme Hall; Student Life Advisors Emily Duet, Ariel Fontenot, Cache Haley, Brielle Moore (Caddo); and Jeffrey Nieman (Prudhomme)

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: APPROVAL/CREDENTIALING OF NEW FACULTY (Agenda Item 4 Exhibit 1) (requires Board action)**

Dr. Key requested credentialing approval for Dr. Christina Hillesheim who joined the Sciences faculty in August (chemistry). She meets all SACS credentialing requirements.

**Mr. Davis moved to approve Dr. Hillesheim's credentials. Ms. Marian Johnson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Horton updated the Board on the news of the residence hall funding. He recapped the Governor's visit to the campus and the impact his words had on the student body. Dr. Horton said that the projected start date would be early to mid-spring with a 24-month construction period. Move-in would be planned for the Fall 2021 semester.

Dr. Horton referred members to all of the directors' reports that provide detailed information about accomplishments in each area of the past quarter. He commended faculty and staff for their numerous service accomplishments and how visible the faculty have been in the community and state over the

past months. He also provided a brief calendar of what types of events were held on the campus during the summer months.

The School most recently purchased TapApp with funding provided by the LSMSA Foundation. The online program allows for administration to quickly notify faculty, staff, students, and even parents of any type of emergency requiring a lockdown or evacuation. The School is currently piloting the program with senior administration and plans to incorporate all faculty, staff, and students by mid Spring 2019.

Additional initiatives to assure the safe and welfare of the campus are being considered by administration.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

**AGENDA ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF BUDGET FOR FY 2019**

Mr. Allen presented the LSMSA Agency budget for FY2019 to the Board as part of the Exhibits, which was approved as part of the General Appropriation Bills, House Bill 1, Act 2, of the Third Extraordinary Session. The School has been operating since July 1 using this appropriation. The Board was not able to approve the budget at the June meeting because the Third Extraordinary Session had just begun, and the Agency budget had not been settled.

**Mr. Jannise moved to approve the Agency budget for FY2019. Mr. Berry seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM 7: APPROVAL OF PROPOSED FUNDING FORMULA FOR FY20**

Mr. Allen provided a detailed overview of the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) and that LSMSA receives an allocation based on state allocations per pupil annually. He explained that state statute requires LSMSA funding levels to be incrementally increased to reach national average per student funding. He further explained the process for calculating the annual funding, which includes an assessment of the average of sister schools' funding levels, a determination of the SGF appropriation, and inclusion of any other continuation and one-time budget requests. All other sources of revenues for LSMSA are considered as well. Based on all of these factors, the base SGF appropriation request will be \$4,914,465, with an additional \$344,184 to sustain a 6.8% increase in enrollment (total \$5,248,648).

**Mr. Jannise moved to approve the proposed funding formula for FY20. Mr. Davis seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM 8: APPROVAL OF REVISION OF APPROVED USE OF EEF FUNDS FOR FY 2019**

Mr. Allen requested approval of a revision of the proposed use of Education Excellence Funds. Based on current school needs, he requested approval to use \$300,000 of the balance, which included five major areas. The current balance of the EEF account is \$696,948.

**Mr. Jannise moved to approve the revision of the EEF Funds expenditure request. Mr. Davis seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM 9: REPORT FROM THE FACULTY**

Mr. McGrath provided a summary report of activities of the faculty during the past quarter. Faculty are actively engaged in conferences, paper presentations, recitals, and manuscripts. He answered questions from the Board.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

**AGENDA ITEM 10: REPORT ON SUMMER@LSMSA**

Mr. Thorn Lacaze overviewed the School’s outreach summer program—Summer@LSMSA. Summer@LSMSA provides middle school students one-week residential (or non-residential) exploratory classes for students who are looking for challenges in the math, science, arts, and humanities. He added an additional week of programming this year. He noted that several who had participated in the previous summer programming had enrolled at LSMSA this year (Mrs. Shumate confirmed that 25 students who had participated. His office will begin to gather and analyze student enrollment data to identify trends for future planning. He answered questions from the Board.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

**AGENDA ITEM 11: DIVISION REPORTS**

Mrs. Gahagan introduced each of the four members of the senior administration and asked them to share their divisions’ accomplishments for the quarter. Each referred Board members to their written reports which included comprehensive information for the quarter. Directors answered questions from Board members.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

**AGENDA ITEM 12: OTHER BUSINESS**

**NONE**

**AGENDA ITEM 13: DATES FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS**

Mrs. Gahagan reminded Board members of upcoming Board meetings: Monday, Dec. 1, at 9:30 a.m.; Monday, March 18, at 9:30 a.m.; and Monday, June 17, at 9:30 a.m. Since ground breaking ceremonies are planned to be held the week of March 18, 2019, she said that this Board meeting date may change so that members can attend the groundbreaking ceremonies. More information regarding groundbreaking will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

**AGENDA ITEM 14: ADJOURNMENT**

**As there was no other business to come before the Board, Ms. Marian Johnson moved to adjourn. Mrs. Smiley seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. The Board adjourned at 11:25 a.m.**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



Steven G. Horton, PhD.  
Secretary



Sharon T. Gahagan, EdS.  
Chair