

**State of Louisiana**  
**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**LOUISIANA SCHOOL FOR MATH, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS**  
**March 20, 2017**

The Board of Directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts met on March 20, 2017, 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**

Mr. Tony Davis  
Ms. Amy Deslattes  
Mrs. Sharon Gahagan, Board Chair  
Ms. Dianne Gauthier  
Dr. Vickie Gentry  
Mr. Ryan Jannise  
Ms. Suzy Johnson  
Mr. Gene Katsanis  
Mr. Jimmy Long Jr.  
Mr. Mike McGrath  
Senator Dan Morrish  
Mr. Paul W. Rainwater  
Mrs. Martha Kay Smiley  
Mr. Jamie Smith  
Senator Mike Walsworth

**Absent**

Ms. Kristina Bradford  
Mr. Jed Cain  
Mr. Hollis Conway  
Supt. Brian Lejeune  
Mr. Lovan Thomas  
Mr. Larry Tremblay  
Mrs. Jamie Wong

**Guests**

Mr. Ken Sills, LSMSA Attorney  
Mr. Bill New, President, LSMSA Foundation

Dr. Steve Horton (Executive Director, serving as secretary)

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mrs. Gahagan welcomed members to the quarterly board meeting and thanked them for their attendance and support for the school.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Approval December 5, 2016, Board Minutes**

Mrs. Gahagan requested the board's review of December 5, 2016, board minutes and requested any corrections or changes.

**Dr. Gentry moved to approve the December 5, 2016, Board Minutes. Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Call for Public Comment on Items Requiring Board Action**

Mrs. Gahagan reported that she had no request cards for public comment.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Proposed Name Change for School via Senate Bill 1 and Report of Results of Survey conducted by LSMSA Alumni Association**

Mr. Sills presented a letter to Mrs. Gahagan, addressed to Dr. Horton as Executive Director, concerning Senate Bill 1 and how members of the Board and administrators of the School should address requests for opinions or actions regarding SB1.

Specifically, he reminded the board that the school or Board are not legislatively authorized to name the school or any of its buildings and should not take any position concerning Senate Bill 1. He added that any employee—especially the Executive Director---may not in any official capacity lobby the legislature about any bill affecting LSMSA and can only provide factual information about the school. Individually, members may express individual opinions; he advised that if members opt to express their individual opinions that they do it in an appropriate way.

Following Mr. Sills' report, Mr. Bill New, on behalf of the Alumni Association and Foundation, presented results from the formal survey conducted regarding the proposed name change. He provided specific findings, including awareness of the filing of the bill, opinions regarding the naming of the school, and opinions regarding alternative naming options. There were no further questions.

**Mr. Davis moved that the document presented by President New be made part of the formal board meeting minutes (attached as part of these minutes); Mrs. Smiley seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Proposed 2017-2018 School Calendar**

Mrs. Shumate presented the proposed 2017-2018 calendar to the Board, noting that there were no significant changes from the past year. Additional break time was given between the fall and spring semesters; however, extended and required weekend time frames remained consistent. She added that the proposed calendar was vetted by representatives in each of the school's divisions before finalizing. Members reviewed the calendar and had no questions.

**Mrs. Johnson moved to approve the 2017-2018 school calendar. Dr. Gentry seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Proposed New Courses for 2017-2018**

Dr. Key presented a detailed list of new courses proposed for the 2017-2018 year. She said that many of the proposed additions were "catchups" from the past few years; actually many were special topic courses over the past two years that would now enter the course rotation schedule for upcoming academic years. No formal changes to the curriculum were proposed, and the school remains in compliance with the Department of Education's core requirements for graduation and also state requirements for TOPS eligibility. Mrs. Johnson asked Dr. Key if proper coding of courses continued to accurately reflect the nature of the courses; Dr. Key confirmed that the coding did accurately reflect the nature of the courses.

**Mrs. Smiley moved to accept the list of proposed new courses for 2017-2018. Mr. Davis seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Proposed Student Activities Fee for 2017 Summer School Program**

Dr. Horton requested approval for the addition of a student activities fee (\$25) for those students attending LSMSA summer school. Since the summer program's inception, student activities programming expenses have been absorbed by the school's operating budget. Due to the rising costs of simple activities planning (Dr. Horton noted that a simple dinner and movie could cost in excess of \$25 when transportation was considered). Though this fee would not be mandatory, it would provide minimal support to the school's reduced budget allocation.

**Mr. Davis moved to approve the request. Dr. Katsanis seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM 7: School Attorney Contract for 2017-2018**

Dr. Horton presented the school attorney contract for 2017-2018 for Hammons, Sills, Adkins & Guide to serve the Board as counsel. All proposed fees and charges align with state mandates, and the contract reflects these amounts. Dr. Horton and Mrs. Gahagan both commended Mr. Sills and his firm for the tremendous support and immediate assistance they always provide to the School. Mr. Sills made himself available for any questions.

**Mr. Jannise moved to approve the contract. Mr. Long seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Report on Current Year Budget**

Mr. Allen provided an overview of the current operating budget as of the date of the meeting. He noted that the school has successfully avoided two mid-year budget reductions based on testimony given by the school. The school has responded to all inquiries regarding current year and next year budgets. Additionally, the school began three non-capital outlay projects for school improvements (carpeting on first floor of HSB; creating of the Student Success Center in the CPT; and the roof repair project). He also noted that the stair railing modification was completed in December but did not meet state fire codes. The fire marshal and architect are working on a plan for resolution.

The school's biannual audit regarding control and compliance procedures began January 13. He hoped that the data and samples would be completed by the end of the month, and the Board would receive a report from the LLA, that may include recommendations for improvements.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

**AGENDA ITEM 9: Report on Status of Residence Hall**

Dr. Horton reported that the project architect was completing the final construction documents on schedule. He reviewed the timeline, which included a late summer ground breaking. As of the day of the Board meeting, necessary Priority 1 funding had not been established; however, the School and its stakeholder partners have all worked to share our needs with appropriate state agencies. Dr. Horton thanked Sens. Morrish and Walsworth for all they have done to help the school move this project forward. Dr. Horton said he would share any new information as it came to him. There were no questions.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

**AGENDA ITEM 10: Report on Evaluation of Executive Director**

Mr. Jannise reviewed the timeline for the completing of the Executive Director Evaluation process. He said that the committee would meet in early June to finalize the process for the year. Mrs. Gahagan added that faculty and staff would receive their evaluation component by early April and would have sufficient time to submit their evaluations to her (confidentially). All components (3) of the evaluation process would be utilized this year (Board evaluation, faculty/staff evaluation, and Executive Director self-evaluation).

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

**AGENDA ITEM 11: 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. Many serve in leadership roles in their respective organizations.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

**AGENDA ITEM 12: Administrative Staff Reports**

Directors provided the Board short reports, both verbal and written, that detailed activities in their respective areas.

- Dr. Key provided data on student academic standing and retention, and provided updates on programs and services in the **Academic Services** division. She reported that juniors and seniors would be traveling to Baton Rouge for a joint college fair in early April. Also, seniors have applied to over 200 colleges and universities across the country. Updates to the students' matriculation plans would be provided at the June meeting. Students are preparing for the ACT and EOC testing as the school moves into the final weeks of the semester.
- Mrs. Shumate (**Student Services**) introduced David DeVillier as the newest member of the student services staff (SLA in Prudhomme). She shared accomplishments of the student body and the student services staff in terms of student programming, professional development, and wellness programming. She shared some of the division's priorities for the upcoming weeks, including New Student Orientation (May 26-28), and the updating of the *Eagle Guide Book*.
- Dr. Horton summarized activities of the **Enrollment Services** division in Mr. Birch's absence. Staff have completed school visits/campus visits; mailed reminder postcards; and hosted various information sessions and Exploration Days. Staff members are planning a recruit-a-thon in late March, and Spring Testing Day will allow new students to come to campus to complete placement tests. Enrollment data for the current year and projections for the upcoming year were provided in the Division's report.
- Mr. New updated the Board on **Foundation activities**, including contributions to date, comparisons to previous years, net assets, results from the annual Phonation, and upcoming Foundation-sponsored activities. The Foundation has enjoyed a very successful year in terms of growth and support, and Dr. Horton added that the school continues to benefit from the work of this entity.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

Mrs. Gahagan reminded members that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on **Monday, June 19, at 9:30 a.m.**, in the Long Boardroom. Moving the meeting to this date would allow for time between the ending of the state legislative session and the meeting so that the budget for the upcoming year could be approved.

She reminded members of Blue Gold Week (April 17-22); Senior Recognition Ceremony (May 19), and Commencement (May 20). Members would receive formal invites to each of these events.

**AGENDA ITEM 18: Adjournment**

As there was no other business to come before the board, **Mrs. Smiley moved to adjourn. Mr. McGrath seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.** The board adjourned at 10:55 a.m.



Steven G. Horton, PhD.  
Secretary



Sharon T. Gahagan, EdS.  
Chair



# Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts Alumni Association

March 20, 2017

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the recent survey on the renaming of LSMSA to the "Jimmy D. Long Sr. Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts". We would also like to extend our gratitude to the alumni who volunteered their time to get this survey to you.

As promised, here are the results of the survey:

- 34% of respondents were not aware of the senate bill proposal to rename the school before this survey. *More information on Senate Bill 1 can be found on the school website at <https://www.lsmsa.edu/page/news-archives>. The naming of a state building or institution requires an act of the Louisiana Legislature.*
- 75% of respondents opposed the renaming effort.
- 7% supported the renaming effort.
- 18% of respondents did not have an opinion on the renaming effort.
- 82% of those who said they opposed renaming the school for Rep. Long expressed support for renaming a dorm or other school facility after him.
- Many of the comments voiced admiration for Rep. Long and support for honoring his legacy in a different way.

When this survey was created, the intent was to use these results to guide an official position on the renaming. We have since learned that LSMSA cannot legally take a stance on the renaming. Additionally, the Alumni Association and Parents' Council, as affiliate groups under the umbrella of the LSMSA Foundation, are prohibited from engaging in substantial legislative activity (lobbying) due to the Foundation's 501(c)(3) status. Our attorneys have directed the school and the Foundation against issuing an official position or opinion on this matter.

The above results of the survey were shared with the LSMSA Board of Directors, the school's governing body at their March 20, 2017, meeting. As more information becomes available, it will be shared with the LSMSA community.

If you have questions or concerns about the status of Senate Bill 1, please direct them to [Dr. Steve Horton](#), Executive Director, LSMSA.

Thank you for your continuing commitment to LSMSA.

LSMSA Alumni Association