**State of Louisiana**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

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

**December 4, 2017**

The Board of Directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts met on December 4, 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 Absent**

Rep. Beryl Amedee Dr. Cade Brumley

Joseph E. “Jed” Cain Hollis Conway

Tony Davis Amy Deslattes

Rep. Julie Emerson Ryan Jannise

Sharon T. Gahagan, Board Chair Dr. Vickie Gentry, Vice Chair

Anne Reese Johnson Tristen Guillory

Marian “Suzy” Johnson Paul Rainwater

Denise Karamales Sen. Mike Walsworth

Jimmy D. Long Jr.

Dr. Larry Tremblay **Guests**

Mike McGrath Ken Sills, LSMSA Attorney

Sen. Dan “Blade” Morrish John Allen, LSMSA

Martha T. SmileyEmily Shumate, LSMSA

Dr. Steve Horton (serving as secretary) Angela Robinson, LSMSA Foundation

 Bill New, LSMSA Foundation President

 Thorn Lacaze, LSMSA

 Ben Walker, LSMSA Student

 William Casey, LSMSA Student

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mrs. Gahagan welcomed members and guests to the quarterly board meeting. She introduced Rep. Emerson to the Board, who is representing the House Education Committee.

The chair commended the work of the School’s Leadership Team in hosting Gov. and Mrs. Edwards, Sen. Jay Luneau, and members of the Governor’s staff at LSMSA on Friday, December 1. The group toured all campus facilities; visited with students, faculty, staff, and alumni; and they attended a rehearsal for the Fall Chorale. They ended their visit in Caddo Hall at the annual Christmas “Trim the Tree” Party hosted by the student body. He visited several dormitory rooms and was able to see the detailed infrastructure of Caddo.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Approval of Sept. 25, 2017, Board Minutes**

Mrs. Gahagan requested the Board’s review of Sept. 25, 2017, board minutes and requested any corrections or changes.

**Rep. Amedee moved to approve the Sept. 25, 2017, Board Minutes. Dr. Tremblay seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

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

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

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Executive Director’s Report**

Dr. Horton summarized several of the activities over the past semester, specifically in the area of school and community relations. He previewed tentative enrollment data and also some of the major accomplishments of the student body over the past quarter.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Report from the School Name Change Committee.**

**Mr. Davis moved to approve the agenda and minutes of the Sept. 25, 2017, meeting of the Act 374 School Name Change Committee. Ms. Marian Johnson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously**.

Dr. Horton provided an overview of the discussions held in the meeting and the committee’s recommendation that some type of plaque be placed in the High School Building that documented the entire history of the School, including both name changes enacted by Louisiana law over the School’s history. He said that the School had already commissioned the construction of a display cabinet to be placed in the lobby of the High School Building where the plaque would be placed. Dr. Horton said it was his intention to have the display completed by spring commencement.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Update on the Proposed Residence Hall Project**

Dr. Horton answered questions regarding the project. In mid-November, Dr. Horton, Mrs. Gahagan, Mr. Allen and Mr. New visited with Commissioner Dardenne in Baton Rouge to reaffirm the School’s need for the proposed residence hall. Commissioner Dardenne was very receptive to the School’s concerns and confirmed his support of the project; however, he did confirm that there was no new capital outlay funding available to begin the project this year unless the existing $1 billion deficit was resolved.

 **NO ACTION REQUIRED**

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Report from the Faculty**

Mr. McGrath summarized the accomplishments of the faculty in the areas of teaching, research, and service. He noted that Jeff Thomakos would be leaving LSMSA at the end of the semester to join his wife in Michigan. Board members commended Mr. Thomakos’ work with the theater program and wished him and his wife well.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

**AGENDA ITEM 7: DIVISION REPORTS**

Directors provided the Board with written reports that detailed activities/accomplishments in their respective areas. Complete reports will be included in the permanent Board file.

Mr. Allen confirmed that the School submitted both the FY19 operating and capital outlay budgets, purchased two new vans and a maintenance truck, continued painting and repair work in the High School Building, and began a requisite search to replace the departing accountant.

Dr. Horton and Ms. Shumate noted that retention statistics for the current class continued to improve (currently above 95%). Dr. Horton also commended the work of the College Counseling Center staff for having a 100% rate of seniors completing college applications. Scholarship offers are beginning to come in for the senior class. Dr. Key continues to enhance existing articulation agreements with colleges and universities across the country.

Ms. Shumate summarized attendance data for night informational meetings throughout the state, campus Exploration Days, and middle school outreach initiatives. She noted that Leroy James (assistant director for residential life) left LSMSA on Dec. 1, and Jenny Schmitt would be assuming a significant part of his work responsibilities in the interim period.

Ms. Robinson shared fundraising data with the Board, including that the Foundation has provided more than $102,000 in direct support to LSMSA from July 1 to the present. Six faculty/staff members have received grants from the Brown Fund for Faculty Advancement; and the Student Enrichment Fund continues to provide support for students in financial need.

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Other Business**

Mrs. Gahagan welcomed Mr. Ken Sills, LSMSA attorney and thanked him for his continuous support of the School.

 **NO ACTION REQUIRED**

**AGENDA ITEM 9: Date for Next Board Meeting**

Mrs. Gahagan reminded board members of the next meeting slated for March 19, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: Adjournment**

As there was no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Smith moved to adjourn. Ms. Marian Johnson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. The Board adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

 

Steven G. Horton, PhD. Sharon T. Gahagan, EdS.

Secretary Chair