**LETA Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, January 14, 2021**

**12:00 Noon**

**This Board meeting was held by Zoom Teleconference**

**Members Present:** Valencia Burton, Conrad Comeaux, Eartha Cross, Julie Cherry, Kathy Kliebert, Laura Lindsay, Sonny Cranch, Bo Harris, Christopher Wegmann, and Tina Holland.

**Absent:** Richard Hartley, Belinda Davis, Robert King III, Dan Hare, Nancy Harrelson, and Tracie Woods

**Staff Present:** Beth Courtney, C.C. Copeland, Kimberly Ducote, Linda Midgett, Clay Fourrier, John Tooraen, Nancy Tooraen and Kathy Scherer.

**Call to Order:** Conrad, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:01PM, with a quorum present.

**Approval of Minutes:** Conrad Comeaux, Vice Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting sent by email in the Board packet. A motion to approve was made by Eartha Cross and seconded by Julie Cherry. The minutes were adopted unanimously. The motion carried**.**

**Financial Updates:** Christopher Wegmann, Treasurer, presented the LETA and Foundation Finances sent by email in the Board packet. After Board discussion, Conrad asked for a motion to approve the financials. A motion was made by Bo Harris to approve and seconded by Kathy Kliebert. The financials were adopted unanimously. The motion carried.

**Friends Update:** Bo Harris, FLPB Chairman, presented the Friends update sent by email in the Board packet. Updates were given including totals to date for the raffle, year-to-date and membership revenues, and the most recent transfer of funds. Conrad asked for a motion to approve the Friends report. A motion was made to approve by Tina Holland and seconded by Laura Lindsay. The Friends Report was adopted unanimously. The motion carried.

**President’s Report:** Beth Courtney reported on personnel changes: Clay Fourrier’s retirement as Executive Producer and the hire of new Executive Producer Linda Midgett. Beth also reported that she, C.C, and Kim will be meeting with Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne to discuss the budget and LPB’s funding needs especially for maintenance and repairs. Beth mentioned LPB’s preview screening of The Black Church by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and LPB’s production of Louisiana’s Black Church. We are looking for partnerships with HBCU’S. They could assist with this series. Linda provided information on other upcoming news, public affairs, and education program content in the works.

Beth asked Bo Harris about Friends moving forward with the Louisiana Legends Gala on Thursday, May 6. There will be new measures for the safety of guests are being put in place.

Nancy Tooraen, LPB Education Manager, mentioned The Sesame Street in Communities website, and gave an overview of the grant and what the funding will be used for.

Sonny Cranch gave an overview of the Homestart program announced this week as a project of the Baton Rouge Early Childhood Education Collaborative. The initiative seeks to introduce the use of technology in the homes of low income pre- K children so they may access educational resources. Homestart will rely on LPB’s programs, chief among them Bright by Text. The project is funded by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation and will engage 50 families in its first year.

Kathy Scherer, Public Information Officer, gave the board an update on the Young Heroes Program and how we are moving forward with plans to recognize six exceptional high school students.

C.C. Copeland, LPB Deputy Director, reported on the router maintenance, as well as the need for upgraded equipment to keep LPB on the air.

**Other Business:** None discussed

**Adjournment:** Conrad adjourned the meeting at 12:55 PM.

Minutes submitted by Marlesha Ross and Kathy Scherer