

State of Louisiana

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

December 6, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts met on Monday Dec. 6, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. in the Jimmy D. Long Board Room, LSMSA, in Natchitoches, LA. Mrs. Gahagan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Mrs. Anne Dejoie-Lucas recorded the minutes. Mrs. Gahagan welcomed members and guests to the meeting, including new Board member Dr. William "Bill" Luster.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Mrs. Sharon T. Gahagan (Chair)
Dr. Jason C. Anderson
Mr. Joseph E. "Jed" Cain
Ms. Lisa DeJean
Mr. Jared Dunahoe
Dr. Vickie S. Gentry (Vice Chair)
Mr. Kirby Hopkins
Ms. Chanda Johnson
Ms. Marian "Suzy" Johnson
Ms. Denise Karamales
Mr. Jimmy D. Long Jr.
William "Bill" Luster, MD
Ms. Regina Pierce
Dr. Larry Tremblay
Dr. Arthur S. Williams
Dr. Steve Horton, LSMSA Executive Director (non-voting)

Members Absent

Representative Beryl Amedee
Ms. Leanne M Broussard
Mr. Preston Castille
Senator Katrina Jackson
Mr. Sheldon Jones
Dr. Kimberly Walker McAlister
Ms. Meredith McGovern
Senator Beth Mizell
Representative Charles Owens

Guests Present

Attorney Ken Sills, LSMSA Counsel (via Zoom)

Mr. John Allen, LSMSA Chief of Staff
Dr. Kristy Pope-Key, LSMSA Director of Academic Services
Ms. Emily Shumate, LSMSA Director of Enrollment and Student Services
Ms. Ali Landry, LSMSA Foundation Executive Director (via Zoom)
Ms. Rebekah Maricelli, LSMSA External Affairs
Mr. Doug Ashe, Ashe Broussard Weinzettle Architects
Mr. Mike Nichols, Ashe Broussard Weinzettle Architects
Mr. Bill New, LSMSA Foundation Capital Campaign Chair
Ms. Mary Ellen Slayter, LSMSA Foundation Board of Trustees President
Dr. Beverly Brooks-Thompson, Carter Global Managing Director

AGENDA ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2021, BOARD MINUTES

Mrs. Gahagan requested the Board's review of the Sept. 20, 2021, Board minutes and requested any additions or corrections.

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Art Williams, seconded by Dr. Vickie Gentry, and unanimously passed, the minutes of the Sept. 20, 2021, meeting stand approved as read/reviewed.

AGENDA ITEM 2: CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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

AGENDA ITEM 3: INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mrs. Gahagan again welcomed Dr. Luster, a 2001 graduate of LSMSA who is a Family Medicine Specialist in Natchitoches, LA, with over 12 years of experience in the medical field.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE 2020-2021 STUDENT HANDBOOK

Ms. Shumate explained that most of the changes were "housekeeping" matters to ensure the school was compliant with new laws regarding disciplinary action and sanctions, most of which reduce the number of expulsions to keep students in school. Modifications to the appeals process were also addressed in the changes, along with changes modifying in-house suspension to in-room suspensions. The changes also addressed the policy regarding make-up work if a student is suspended from the campus.

In response to questions posed by Dr. Williams regarding vehicle searches and weapons, Attorney Sills clarified that by statute, the Board is given the full authority to determine discipline for the School's operations and complete authority to determine its own discipline rules.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, and unanimously passed, the proposed changes to the 2020-2021 Student Handbook were approved.

AGENDA ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF FOUNDATION FACULTY/STAFF REIMBURSEMENTS SINCE JUNE 2011 BOARD MEETING

Mrs. Gahagan reminded the Board that these reimbursements must be approved on a quarterly basis due to a recent change in state law.

Dr. Horton identified the expenditures that were approved by him for payment by the Foundation since June 2021. Reimbursements were made to two faculty members, Scott Theriot and Dr. John Littlejohn.

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Cain, and unanimously passed, the reimbursements paid to faculty members by the Foundation were approved.

Following the vote, Dr. Gentry asked for clarification regarding whether or not there is a maximum amount that can be requested, and if it's paid from operating funds.

Dr. Key explained that these reimbursements are made from funds set aside by the Foundation for annual Flex School Support. There is no maximum amount; faculty/staff make the requests that must be approved by their department head, Dr. Key, LSMSA senior administration, and Dr. Horton.

AGENDA ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF PROPOSED NEW LSMSA NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

The state of Louisiana amended laws regulating requirements of employers with more than 25 employees as they relate to pregnancy/childbirth. The new notice is updated to include the information from the Louisiana Commission for Human Rights. The legislation addresses guidelines if an undue hardship is placed on the employer.

Dr. Horton reminded the Board that the School's Title IX policy addresses teen pregnancy while at LSMSA.

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Anderson, seconded by Dr. Williams, and unanimously passed, the new LSMS Non-Discrimination Notice was approved.

AGENDA ITEM 7: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Horton's report included updates on the LSU Chancellor's trip to LSMSA and the work being done to establish an articulation agreement with LSU; the recent Rotary Club meeting held at LSMSA and the opportunity it provided to further introduce the School to the community; and NSU's recent selection of Dr. Marcus Jones as president and how this relationship affects LSMSA. As this was the first non-Zoom Board meeting since March 2020, he also gave a quick update about the journey and progress these past two years and LSMSA's success with reported Covid cases, vaccinations, construction of the new LLC, and efforts to maintain virtual learning.

He further updated the Board on the hiring of an additional LPN and the agreement with Natchitoches Regional Medical Center for telehealth and other services that were vital during the pandemic, and beyond. Emily Shumate's report covers enrollment and retention information, but Dr. Horton did add that LSMSA is taking every precaution to keep the students safe. He also indicated that a ribbon cutting ceremony with Governor Edwards has been scheduled for January.

Dr. Horton answered questions in regards to the 1% for Art initiative and indicated that more info is forthcoming on that program, which will provide for, among other things, an outside component with lots of visual features and work representing the accomplishments of Caroline Dorman.

AGENDA ITEM 8: APPROVAL OF REVISED NAMING POLICY FOR LSMSA PROPERTIES (LSMSA FOUNDATION)

The need to revise the Campus Naming Policy as it pertains to academic units and endowments came into play at the end of the Capital Campaign and has been revised to mirror the policy of LSU and the University of Louisiana System, particularly amounts required in order to have something named. It gives the Board the authority to approve and name the gifts, and allows provisions if there comes a need to remove a name.

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Gentry, seconded by Dr. Tremblay, and unanimously passed, the naming policy for LSMSA Properties (LSMSA Foundation) was approved.

AGENDA ITEM 9: LSMSA FOUNDATION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE AND RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Mrs. Gahagan welcomed Ms. Landry, Executive Director of LSMSA's Foundation; Mr. New, Chair for the Capital Campaign; Dr. Brooks-Thompson, Carter Global Managing Director; and Ms. Slayter, LSMSA Foundation's Board of Trustees President.

Dr. Horton was asked to share his vision for the Capital Campaign's goals and expectations, and he expressed the need to be able to teach the students beyond the classroom and give them some hands-on experience in life lessons to teach them how to be problem solvers and provide opportunities outside of the traditional classroom setting.

Mr. New presented the timeline and informed the Board that the purpose of the presentation is to ask for a Resolution of Support for the Capital Campaign. Dr. Brooks-Thompson's team has done the preliminary research to find donors who are willing to support the Campaign – deep qualitative and quantitative research over 18 months of planning. The campaign theme, "Growing Beyond" comes from LSMSA's mantra of "Above.Beyond.", and builds on the pillars of Leading Beyond, Thriving Beyond, Building Beyond and Soaring Beyond.

Having presented the case for support, the Foundation asked for a motion to approve a Resolution of Support.

Chair called for a brief break before continuing with this Agenda Item. (2:25 p.m.)

The Board and guests reconvened at 2:33 p.m. Roll was taken, and all members were present.

CONTINUATION OF AGENDA ITEM 9: LSMSA FOUNDATION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE AND RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Mr. Ashe and Mr. Nichols of Ashe, Broussard, Weinzettle Architects spoke about the building concept and design for the Innovation Center being funded by this Capital Campaign and answered questions from

the Board. The cutting edge design would reflect the aesthetics established with the new LLC and define the western edge of the campus.

The campaign goal for this project is \$10 million and includes leadership development, student life and wellness, Innovation Center donations, and monies from the Eagles Soar Fun; the Foundation would like LSMSA's support to move forward with fundraising.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Marian "Suzy" Johnson, seconded by Ms. Dejean, and unanimously passed, the Board approved a Resolution of Support to the LSMSA Foundation to continue the campaign process.

AGENDA ITEM 10: REPORT FROM THE FACULTY

Dr. Anderson's report on faculty accomplishments since the last meeting included accomplishments made by Dr. Allison Landry, Mrs. Lisa Benner, Dr. Casey Green, Dr. Scott Atkins, Dr. Morris Tichenor, and Dr. Kira Braham. A complete list of those accomplishments is included in Exhibit A10E1. He concluded by reiterating that the faculty is thankful for the support these past couple of years and is glad to have the students back on campus.

Dr. Williams asked Dr. Anderson to send back a thanks and congratulations to the faculty on behalf of the Board for the work that they are doing. "It's very important that they hear that from this Board," he said.

AGENDA ITEM 11: DIVISION REPORTS

Mrs. Gahagan referred the Board to the respective reports and asked that specific questions be directed to Mr. Allen, Dr. Keys, Mrs. Shumate and Ms. Landry for the sake of time. She invited each director to speak briefly if needed.

Dr. Kristi Key reiterated her support for the Capital Campaign and encouraged Board members to take a closer look at the slide presentation for more clarity on the project.

Dr. Tremblay asked what impact, if any, the decline in student enrollment is having on the budget. Mr. Allen responded that the October 1st count was a good number due to Enrollment Services bringing in students impacted by the hurricane. However, the recent decline after some of those students returned to their home schools will result in a dip in MFP. Mrs. Shumate and Enrollment Services are challenged to bring in more students next year. Money from the Department of Education's ESSER and CARES Act funding helped with salaries.

AGENDA ITEM 12: OTHER BUSINESS / UPCOMING EVENTS

Mrs. Gahagan reminded everyone that Mr. Allen would be providing a tour of the LLC following the meeting. She also noted that Gov. Edwards will be on campus Jan. 20, 2022, for the LLC ribbon cutting ceremony.


AGENDA ITEM 13: DATE FOR NEXT BOARD MEETINGS

Dates for future Board meetings are March 21, 2022 and June 13, 2022, at 1 p.m. in the Boardroom.

There being no further business,

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Dr. Tremblay, and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



Sharon T. Gahagan, EdS.
Chair



Steven G. Horton, PhD.
Secretary