



# Louisiana Special School District

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## Louisiana Special School District Board of Directors

Board Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2023 at 10:30 AM

Louisiana Schools for the Deaf and Visually Impaired

2888 Brightside Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70820

Student Activity Center, Room 196

### I. Call to Order

The August 22, 2023 meeting of the Special School District Board of Directors was called to order at 10:45 AM by Ms. Kristy Flynn, Board President. Members present at the meeting includes: Ms. Maria Annis, Dr. Edward Bell, Mr. Anthony Celestine, Ms. Sherry Crosby, Mr. Kenny Davis, and Ms. Bambi Polotzola. Members not in attendance: Mr. Ronnie Morris, Ms. Audra Muslow-Hicks, Ms. Mary Smith, and Ms. Vickie Smith. Ms. Danielle Pierce participated in the place of Mr. Ronnie Morris at the meeting and was recognized as a non-voting member of the Board of Directors.

### II. Approval of the May 16, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Sherry Crosby requested correction to the May 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes to include a motion for a subcommittee related to Agenda Item IV related to a subcommittee being formed to discuss the feasibility of a shared meeting with the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf and the Special School District Board of Directors meeting. This motion was deferred to the 11/07/2023 meeting of the Special School District Board of Directors.

### III. Reports

- a. Superintendent's Report
- b. Personnel Report
- c. Financial Report

### IV. Old Business

- a. LCD Meeting

Note Superintendent Martin's discussion of his intention to present to the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf on October 20, 2023

Ms. Sherry Crosby made the motion to accept Old Business and was seconded by Dr. Bell, and was unanimously approved.

### V. New Business

- a. Election of the Board's 2023-24 Chairs
  - i. Secretary-Treasurer  
Ms. Crosby nominated Dr. Edward Bell as Secretary-Treasurer for the Special School District Boards of Directors.  
The motion was seconded by Ms. Polotzola and unanimously approved.
- b. Consideration of the adoption of SSD policies
  - i. Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace  
Ms. Crosby moved to adopt the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace policy. The motion was seconded by ? and unanimously approved.
  - ii. Employee Expectations



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Dr. Bell moved to adopt the Employee Expectations policy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Celestine and unanimously approved.

iii. Outside Employment

Ms. Crosby moved to adopt the Outside Employment Policy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis and unanimously approved.

iv. Overtime

Ms. Crosby moved to adopt the Overtime Policy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis and unanimously approved.

v. Student Visitation and Transportation

Ms. Crosby moved to adopt the Student Visitation and Transportation Policy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Celestine and unanimously approved.

c. Consideration of engaging a Court Reporting service/Captioning to stenographically record and transcribe all SSD Board Meetings

Dr. Bell made the motion to consider engaging a Court Reporting service/Captioning to stenographically record and transcribe all SSD Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Celestine and unanimously approved.

d. Consideration of adoption of Board/Superintendent Communication Plan

Ms. Crosby moved to adopt the Boards/Superintendent Communication Plan. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bell and unanimously approved.

e. Consideration of engagement of litigation strategy concerning *Marie Smith v. State of Louisiana, et al*, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana (Civil Action No. 22-cv-00905-JWD-EWD)<sup>2</sup>

Motion was made to move to Executive Session following break for lunch.

The Board Members discussed Rodel and Parsons law firm to represent Special School District in the litigation concerning Marie Smith v. State of Louisiana.

Mr. Celestine moved for The Special School District's Board to amend the current contract with Rodel and Parsons law firm to engage the law firm to represent Special School District in the litigation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bell and unanimously approved.

**VI. SSA Workshop for SSD Board Development**

Mr. Gomez, representing SSA consulting, suggested this item be moved to be included in the agenda of the next SSD Board meeting, scheduled to be held on November 7, 2023.

**VII. Adjournment**

The Board received no public comment. With no further business, Ms. Flynn adjourned the meeting at 2:51 PM.

1. Public Comment Policy – Members of the public shall be allowed to speak on items presented for action consistent with the Board's public comment policy and for a time period to be determined at the Board's discretion.
2. The Board reserves the right to enter into Executive Session, if needed, in accordance with La. R.S. 42:16 and 42:17, the Open Meetings Law.
3. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance regarding the meeting, please contact Amy Jones at [Ajones@lsdvi.org](mailto:Ajones@lsdvi.org).