

# MINUTES

State of Louisiana

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS LOUISIANA SCHOOL FOR MATH, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS

December 5, 2005

The Board of Directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts met on December 5, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. in the Louisiana School Board Room, Natchitoches, LA. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Sharon Gahagan, Board Chairman.

### ROLL CALL:

#### Present:

Ms. Maura Brady  
Mrs. Mary R. Doucet  
Mrs. Sharon Gahagan  
Dr. Vickie Gentry  
Mr. Gene Katsanis  
Mr. Walter Lee  
Mrs. Judy McIntyre  
Mrs. Martha Smiley  
Mrs. Lou Taylor  
Rep. Taylor Townsend  
Dr. Larry Tremblay  
Dr. Arthur Williams

#### Absent:

Commissioner Foster Campbell  
Representative Carl Crane  
Supt. James Hoyle  
Mr. Ryan Jannise  
Dr. Robin Jarvis  
Mrs. Tina Kendrick  
Speaker Joe Salter  
Senator Mike Smith  
Mr. Lovan Thomas  
Mr. Rodney Watson

AGENDA ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF MARCH 21, 2005 BOARD MINUTES - Mrs. Smiley made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2005 Board meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Lee; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2: INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS - Mrs. Gahagan welcomed two new Board members: 1) Mr. Gene Katsanis - President of the Association for Gifted and Talented Students of Louisiana; 2) Mrs. Mary Doucet - St. Landry Parish Coordinator of Special Education and Instructional Programs.

AGENDA ITEM 3: INTRODUCTION OF 2005-06 STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS - SGO Officers will join the Board for lunch; introductions will be made at that time.

AGENDA ITEM 4: INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF- Report by Dr. Widhalm. 1) Dr. Richard Loftin retired from the Louisiana School as Director of External Affairs, and returned as the Site Coordinator for the Louisiana Virtual School. 2) Dr. Sharon Williams has agreed to accept the position of Interim Director of External Affairs, as well as continuing her work with Alumni Affairs.

AGENDA ITEM 5: INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF NEW FACULTY - Staff introductions were made by Dr. Findley and Ms. Shumate. Dr. Tremblay made a motion to approve new faculty and staff. Motion seconded by Dr. Williams; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF NEW COURSES - Mr. Katsanis made a motion to approve the new academic course offerings: 1) IS 244C - Great Artists Seminar - Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975); 2) PE 145C - Rowing. Motion seconded by Dr. Gentry; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7: REPORT AND RATIFICATION OF APPEALS COMMITTEE ACTION RE DISCIPLINARY ACTION - Mr. Lee made a motion to ratify the action taken by the Appeals Committee [re disciplinary action]. Motion seconded by Representative Townsend; carried unanimously.

MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA - Mrs. McIntyre made a motion to amend the agenda to consider Item 10, a report regarding the current budget and impact of the cuts on the school. Motion seconded by Mr. Lee; carried unanimously.

Representative Townsend made a motion that the Board now hear Items 10 and 12 simultaneously. Mrs. Smiley seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS 10 and 12 - Reports by Representative Townsend and Dr. Widhalm. Mr. Lee made a motion to receive the report of Item 10 and Item 12. Motion seconded by Dr. Williams; carried unanimously.

MOTION TO RETURN TO REGULAR AGENDA - Dr. Gentry made a motion to return to the original agenda. Motion seconded by Mrs. Smiley; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8: PROPOSED POLICY REGARDING CAFFEINE PILLS AND CERTAIN OVER-THE-COUNTER SUPPLEMENTS - Report by Ms. Shumate. Ms. Brady made a motion to change the words *dietary supplements* to: *ephedra or ephedra-replacement products*. The revised sentence would now read: *Students must have additional parental permission to self-administer caffeine pills or ephedra or ephedra-replacement products or to keep such substances in their possession*. Mrs. Taylor seconded Ms. Brady's motion; carried unanimously. Ms. Shumate noted that she would replace the words "dietary supplements" with "ephedra or ephedra-replacement products" in each place they appeared in the policy, including the permission form. This policy change will become effective in January, 2006.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ESTABLISHING A NEW CONTRACT WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Report by Mrs. Gahagan. Mr. Lee made a motion that the committee move forward, as named by the Chairman, and that the Letter of Intent be issued. Motion seconded by Mrs. Taylor; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11: DISCUSSION OF THE USE OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FUNDS - Report by Dr. Widhalm and Dr. Ebarb. Mr. Lee made a motion to accept the recommendations of the staff regarding the Educational Excellence Funds, and give the administration some flexibility in the use of the funds, particularly after the outcome of the special session and some further budget reductions. [Clarification: Board approval will allow the staff to file an amended application and apply these funds to one of these five approved areas, depending on the needs

of the school as the year progresses: mini-vans, textbooks, computer equipment, dormitory furniture, and summer school. A full report will be given to the Board regarding how these funds were spent.] Motion seconded by Dr. Williams; carried unanimously.

MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA - Mrs. Smiley made a motion to amend the agenda to consider a Resolution under Item 17. Motion seconded by Dr. Williams; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 17: OTHER BUSINESS - RESOLUTION. Report by Dr. Widhalm. This resolution would “authorize the administration of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts to enroll students domiciled outside the State of Louisiana provided that such students were forced to evacuate Louisiana as a result of Hurricanes Katrina or Rita, and that the parents or guardians of such students indicate their intent to return to Louisiana.” Mr. Katsanis made a motion to accept this resolution. Motion seconded by Mrs. Doucet; carried unanimously.

MOTION TO RETURN TO REGULAR AGENDA - Dr. Gentry made a motion to return to the original agenda. Motion seconded by Dr. Williams; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 13: ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORTS - Reports only; no Board action taken.

AGENDA ITEM 15: FOUNDATION REPORT - Report by Dr. Widhalm. No Board action taken.

AGENDA ITEM 16: DATE FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING - Mrs. Gahagan presented this item. Dates considered for the next Board meeting will be: March 6, 13, or 20. This date will be finalized in January.

ADJOURNMENT - It was noted that the Faculty Report, Item 14, will be presented at a later date. Mr. Lee made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Katsanis; carried unanimously. Time: 12:12 pm.