

**State of Louisiana**

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

**July 1, 2009**

The Board of Directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts met on Wednesday, July 1, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Jimmy D. Long Board Room, Louisiana School, Natchitoches, LA. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Sharon Gahagan, Board Chair.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:**

Mrs. Sharon Gahagan  
Dr. Vickie Gentry  
Ms. Judy Huckabay  
Mr. Ryan Jannise  
Mr. Gene Katsanis  
Mrs. Tina Kendrick  
Senator Gerald Long  
Mr. Glen Monsour  
Representative Rick Nowlin

Mayor Tommy O'Con  
Mr. Joe Salter  
Ms. Martha Smiley  
Dr. Larry Tremblay  
Mr. Arthur Welch  
Mr. John C. Wells  
Dr. Margaret Wheat-Carter  
Dr. Arthur Williams

**Guests:**

Mr. Ken Sills –  
School Attorney  
Mrs. Christie Weeks –  
Foundation President

**Absent:**

Mr. Walter Lee  
Mr. Lovan Thomas

**AGENDA ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF MARCH 16, 2009 BOARD MINUTES** - Dr. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Mrs. Kendrick; carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM SENATOR LONG AND REPRESENTATIVE NOWLIN** – Reports presented; no Board action taken.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: DISCUSSION OF THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSE TO THE 2009-2010 BUDGET** – Report presented by Dr. Widhalm; no Board action taken.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF A REDUCTION IN FORCE POLICY** - Mr. Monsour made a motion to ratify this policy as presented, and to review it on another date. Motion seconded by Mr. Salter. ►Mr. Jannise moved to amend the motion, to add that the Board will re-examine this policy and reapprove it at the first Board meeting of every fiscal year. Mr. Katsanis seconded the amendment. Motion carried. ►The Board voted on the motion as amended: Motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF NEW FACULTY** - Dr. Williams made a motion to approve the new faculty: Mr. Jacob Spielbauer – Health and Physical Education; Mr. Jose Borreguero – Spanish, beginning in the 2009-2010 school year. Motion seconded by Mr. Salter; carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF RE-APPOINTMENTS TO THE FOUNDATION BOARD** - Mrs. Gahagan noted that this agenda item would be presented at the September Board meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: APPROVAL OF PLAN TO USE EDUCATION EXCELLENCE FUNDS CURRENTLY IN TREASURY** – Mr. Salter made a motion to approve the plan to use Education Excellence funds, as presented. Dr. Gentry seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8: APPROVAL OF GPGC EVACUATION PLAN - Mr. Katsanis made a motion to approve the evacuation plan as requested. Dr. Williams seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9: REPORT ON THE SOPHOMORE CLASS STUDY, INCLUDING DISCUSSION ABOUT MOVING INTO THE FINAL YEAR – Mr. Jannise made a motion to authorize the administration to move forward with the establishment of a sophomore class to the Louisiana School, with the stipulation that the administration come back to the Board in September with a “catalog” of all the changes that will need to be made to accomplish this--such as a change in the legislation, legal issues, and any type of additional items that will need to be approved. Motion seconded by Mrs. Kendrick; carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 10: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S EVALUATION - Mr. Jannise [Chairman of the Executive Director’s evaluation committee] made a motion that the Board move into executive session, as provided by LA R.S. 42:6.1.A(1), to review the executive director’s evaluation. Mr. Ken Sills, school counsel, was asked to remain. Time: 11:14 am. ►Mr. Salter made a motion to move back into open session at 11:40 am. Motion seconded by Mr. Monsour; carried unanimously. ►Mr. Jannise moved that the executive director’s evaluation [of Dr. Patrick Widhalm] be rated “Satisfactory” from the evaluation committee. Motion seconded by Ms. Smiley; carried unanimously. The Board commended Dr. Widhalm for his excellent work and dedication to the school.

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORTS - Mrs. Gahagan noted that administrative staff reports were mailed to the Board; there are no updates to present.

AGENDA ITEM 12: FACULTY REPORT – Report presented by Dr. Arthur Williams; no Board action taken.

AGENDA ITEM 13: FOUNDATION REPORT – Report presented by Mrs. Christie Weeks; no Board action taken.

AGENDA ITEM 14: REPORT ON CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT - Dr. Widhalm noted that this item would be presented as an oral report during the tour of the construction project.

AGENDA ITEM 15: DATE FOR NEXT MEETING - Mrs. Gahagan presented this item. The following Board meeting schedule has been developed for the 2009-2010 fiscal year:

- Monday, September 14, 2009 (Monday after Labor Day)
- Monday, December 7, 2009 (Monday after Christmas Festival)
- Monday, March 8, 2010
- Monday, June 28, 2010 (Monday following Legislative session)

AGENDA ITEM 16: OTHER BUSINESS - State Superintendent Paul Pastorek will be the keynote speaker for the 2009 Matriculation Ceremony on September 4, to welcome new students into the Louisiana School family.

ADJOURNMENT - As there was no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Smiley made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mayor O’Con; carried unanimously. Time: 11:55 am.