

Safety Tip Hotline 504-262-5505
SafeSchoolTipLine@lfno.org

Matthew Moreland, *Chair*
Dr. Shearon Roberts, *Vice Chair*
Adrienne Warren *Secretary*
David Amoss
Lauren Knight
Anitra Walker
Dr. Ann Meese
Stephen Sewell
Khrista McCarden
Cassandra Sanchez
Leandro Freitas
Keith Bartlett, *Emeritus (ex-officio)*
Danielle Dufauchard, *Interim CEO (ex-officio)*

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Lycée Français de la Nouvelle Orléans
Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 6:00PM
Meeting was held In-Person at: 1800 Monroe Street New Orleans, LA 70118

Please note the Public Comment Process which will be in place during this meeting is attached as an addendum to this Agenda.

- I. Open Meeting - M. Moreland called to order 6:11pm
- II. Roll Call - A. Warren
 - A. present-Matthew, Adrienne, David, Lauren, Anitra, Ann, Cassandra, Leandro, Shearon-Quorum met
 - B. absent-Stephen, Khrista
- III. Academic presentation-S. Capmartin
 - A. Presented on academic pathways
 - B. Accreditation-last applied for in 2019 up to 9th grade. Beginning in 10th grade, we have two pathways (BACC and French-Louisiana Diploma?) and only the 10th grade BACC path is accredited.
 - C. Accreditation is a year-long process requiring application, audit, report and independent commission's review (3rd party). The French inspector reviews curriculum, instruction time, qualification of faculty/staff, students' mastery of language and culture, requirements of facilities and equipment, steady number of incoming students (viability of program), student participation in French national exams.
 - D. Once accredited, schools are to submit annual reports, complete annual inspections from French officials, regular audits (every 5 years), to maintain accreditation.
 - E. It is possible to seek accreditation for a dedicated section of the program—this is the case for current 10th grade BACC track. At the end of 9th grade, school leaders make a recommendation for students to pursue either path. If a family is in disagreement, there is an appeal process.
 - F. Questions-How are current 11th grader's performing? Sophie-unable to answer because she is not directly administering the program. The work is challenging. Why was accreditation paused? Sophie-the process requires that we implement and then document the process before application. We are strengthening/improving the program so that we have a successful application. We also cannot yet make the commitment for the grade levels that do not exist. Also, cost associated with this-hiring would require staff with specialties (a minimum of 5 must be offered upon accreditation).
 - G. Updated FAQs will be reshared with the public
- IV. BESE Board Training 6-7pm- K. Guittierrez of LAPCS
 - A. Presented regulatory documents, bodies,
 - B. Board should: focus on student achievement, recruit retain leaders, raise resources wisely, invest in

- governance, commit to compliance, use resources wisely
- C. Usual pitfalls: micromanagement, poor communication, lack of operational structure, financial mismanagement
- D. Best practices: strong internal controls/policies, job descriptions, clear roles and responsibilities, transparency and proper reporting, have dashboards that concretize work and committee structures
- V. Approval of Minutes - A. Warren
 - A. Motion to approve minutes from 11.16 Meeting of the Board of Directors
 - 1. Adrienee moves, David seconds
 - 2. Board comment none
 - 3. public comment none
 - 4. motion carries unanimously
- VI. Reports & Recommendations of Chairman - M. Moreland
 - A. Accept the resignation of Brett Long from the LFNO Board of Directors—received Friday 12/13. Mr. Long, for personal and professional reasons cannot complete his term. Directs Governance committee to seek new applicants to fill two vacant board positions
 - B. CEO Search Committee updates-S. Roberts
 - 1. Katz consulting, posting description, communication with applicants, structuring interview process, adhering to strict timeline. Budget \$15-20K. Firm has over 15 years of experience consulting in this region
 - 2. Motion to amend agenda to make a motion for board to retain Katz consulting company (Katz consulting) to be used for CEO Search
 - a) David moves, Lauren seconds
 - b) Board comment
 - c) Public comment
 - d) Motion does not carry—two abstentions
 - 3. Motion to retain Katz consulting to conduct the CEO search process
 - a) Shearon moves, David seconds
 - b) Board comment—Shearon reviewed eight proposals for range of cost and dedication of time to process. Few firms have availability and bandwidth to give what is needed. Three month period to carry out process and this firm has most dedicated time to complete selection process in a timely manner. Katz has worked in equity and racial justice for non profits, schools, stakeholder engagement. Will support in day to day, technical tasks to complete the process. Ann—since we’re a bilingual organization, is that a part of this process? Shearon—the contractor will support the logistical tasks. This is additional resources and support of the board. They will not determine who and what type of candidates we select, they will assist us in structuring the process. Keith—can you site schools in which this firm has worked with? Shearon—New schools for New Orleans but can’t name many others. Anitra—did we consider other firm? Shearon—most firms did not have the bandwidth or they would charge at minimum \$65K. Matt—estimated costs? \$15-20K. Leandro—so if we don’t choose this firm does this mean that can’t get done? Shearon—we could but the cost would increase exponentially
 - c) Public comment—Member raised concerns about: the need for the process to be impartial and transparent, timeliness of presenting motions
 - d) Vote: 5 yay, Anitra- nay, Leandro—abstain, Motion does not carry as vote to amend the agenda did receive unanimous approval
- VII. Old Business
 - A. Update on LFNO Strategic Plan - L. Knight
 - 1. K.Allen is drafting the strategic plan. From there, there will be feedback cycles before adopting final draft
- VIII. Reports & Recommendations of Committees
 - A. Interim CEO Report - D. Dufauchard
 - 1. At the beginning of the year, Absolute Royal Transportation (ART) could not meet the

demands of their contract therefore LFNO had to contract with JJ Julian transport to supplement in order to have enough buses for students. In January, ART will not be able to provide all eight buses, so JJ Julian will continue providing three buses from Jan-MAY 2022 to complete the school year. Saving will be \$113K to be allocated to field trips and costs of summer school

2. Motion to approve bus transportation contract

- a) David moves, Shearon seconds
- b) board comment-David asks Danielle to comment on services provided by JJ Julian to date. Danielle says operations have been smooth with no major issues. They demonstrate a good deal of concern and care for LFNO students. Lauren asks if the contract passed through the finance committee? Shearon responds "Yes, it was approved by the finance committee". David asks Danielle if we can get ahead of this for next year? Danielle responds that the school will start the RFP process earlier in the year (late January) to increase applicants but there still may be issues due to the nature of transportation shortages across the metro area.
- c) public comment-none
- d) motion carries unanimously

3. Presented remainder of CEO report as posted online

B. Standing Committees

1. Academic Committee Report - A. Meese

- a) The academic committee met on 12/9 to discuss: 1) Goals for SELF Evaluation of ESS program by Milo Miles to re-presented in May, 2) Accreditation process presented by Sophie Capmartin. The presentation is online for all to review. The committee is recommending that school leadership prepare a list of all positions needed in order to implement BACC track along with associated costs. 3) Academic goals for the remainder of the school year-outlining goals for math, LEAP tests, and ELA. Presented end of course goals for English I and II, Algebra I and Geometry. Expect to have new goals set for the beginning of next school year.
- b) Matthew turns over meeting to Vice Chair-7:59pm

2. Facilities Committee Report - D. Amoss

- a) Technically 80-90% complete with the project-structural further along. Certificate of occupancy issued for building! Contractor should be off site by the end of February. Initially 6% hard cost contingency budgeted for this project. At that time, it was decided that it could wait to inject additional equity. As of today, we are about 19K of approved change orders over hard cost contingency. We expect to be at about \$200k of change orders; therefore, asking for additional equity to complete the project.
- b) Motion to approve additional \$400k of LFNO equity for Priestly
 - (1) David moves, Lauren seconds
 - (2) board comment-motion discussed and unanimously voted in favor of approving additional equity.
 - (3) public comment- members of the public raised concerns about: last minute nature of decisions raised to the board, the amount of discussion given to building vs. academics, and the separation of private and public funds.
 - (4) Motion carries-Anitra abstains

3. Finance Committee Report - S. Roberts

- a) Finance committee chair stepped down last week. Shearon will hold the interim chair role for the Finance committee through February until Stephen Sewell can take over the role. Next meeting will be held in January to deal with the backlog of agenda items.

4. Governance Committee Report - S. Roberts

- a) Committee did not meet in December. Will hold a meeting in late January to review

and update bylaws and begin replacing open board positions for next academic year.

C. Other Committees

1. Amis du Lycée Report - A. Normann

- a) Two new highly esteemed board members. Solicitations sent to all parents. "Name a window" fundraiser underway. Winter appeal is out-Thanksgiving, grandparents, giving tuesday. Received 37 gifts totaling near \$4,000. \$200,000 distribution from Charter School Growth Fund is anticipated.

2. Athletics Committee Report -

3. Culture & Community Committee Report - S. Roberts

- a) Third quarterly meeting to be held on 2/17/22 led by students

IX. New Business & Action Items

X. General Public Comment Period

A. Members of the public raised concerns about:

1. decision to switch French Bacc.
2. Parents may be leaving because they have sacrificed many things to hold on to a promise of a French Bacc;
3. No longer offering BACC is limiting capital campaign contributions;
4. board operations—please read, learn law around public meeting laws (public notice, amending agendas, etc);
5. high attrition rates at school;
6. would like to get the school to be proactive about children's vaccination status so children can return to normalcy within schools;
7. Poor communication with parents—slow down a little and give proper notice
8. Lack of transparency regarding reports from the French government
9. Losing both high performing and non-high performing student who aren't being properly served—exhausting to be a parent of older students at LFNO
10. Major concern about change in strategy for high school—distance learning rather than in person—not sure if they will remain at LFNO. Many parents leaving—feel betrayed and blind-sighted by this. If something drastic isn't done—you're in for a rude awakening.

XI. Remarks from Board Members-non

XII. Motion to Adjourn - S. Roberts

- A. Shearon announces adjournment of the meeting.