



Dr. Ann Meese, Chair  
Lauren *Knight*, Co-chair  
Anitra Walker  
Karin Barbee  
Heather Knight  
Kelley Morel  
Theresa Outlaw  
*Ex-Officio: Marina Schoen, CEO*

**Lycée Français de la Nouvelle-Orléans  
Minutes Academic Committee Meeting  
June 4, 2021 10:00 – 11:15  
In person 1800 monroe st.**

Members present: Ann Meese, Karin Barbee, Heather Knight, Kelley Morel, Theresa Outlaw

The March 30, 2021 minutes were approved.

Chana Benenton, High School Principal, reported that the End of Class state mandated test results had been received with favorable results. Those results were given by CEO Marina Schoen in her Report to the Board at the May meeting. Following this meeting Chana emailed to the Chair the following results (the individual results were included in each student's end of year report card): In English 153 students took the test, 87% scored advanced or mastery, 100% passed; in English 2 65% Scored advanced or mastery and 100% passed; (In math Louisiana students need either algebra or geometry to graduate) – in Algebra I 37 students had a 97% success rate (-1 student), 62% had mastery and non were advanced; in Geometry 29 students has a 100% success rate, 44% had an advanced or mastery score; in Biology 16 students took the test – 5 scored mastery or advanced, 3 approached mastery and 1 unsatisfactory.

The primary principal, Danielle Dufauchard, and intermediate/middle school principal, Gina Bianchi, could not attend the meeting due to staff development meetings in progress. Chana Benenton reported that all teachers were involved in describing the strengths and weakness of each student and those successes and needs were passed on to the teachers in the next receiving grade. She also described the summer school emphasis was on the French language. This was in part due to the fact that because of schooling at home on line, the children were not immersed in the French language. Sophie Capmartin, Academics Director, said that Patton students' (K -2) instruction would be based on foundational skills and that the intermediate and older students would focus on reading and comprehension. Committee Member Kelley Morel asked how many students would be in summer school. Chana Benenton said she did not have on hand the precise number but would email them to the chair. (As of June 4, 45 students were K – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 48 were 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>.)

Annie Neahrng, Humanities coordinator and Samantha Kreuzscher, STEM coordinator, gave their Power Point presentation on "A proposal to Make Changes in Student Tracking". (That presentation is available on the Lycée website under Board committees, the Academic Committee documents for the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The committee chair urges all interested parents and staff to read it very carefully. These minutes will summarize the main parts of the above mentioned presentation.

Our school has both a bilingual curriculum and accreditation by the Louisiana Department of Education and the French Government which makes us quite unique. The Board has strived over the years to reach out to our community so that we have a diverse student body and a school wide commitment to be racially just. The seventh and eighth grade math and English teachers have expressed concern over the effects of grouping on the students left behind and have given anecdotal evidence. It is believed that our collective job is to prepare our students to be global citizens in the world so peer support and shared learning experiences are essential.

The separation of students results in a loss of self-esteem and a decrease in motivation to succeed. The high school offers two curriculums – French and English - which often overlap each other. All students must take both Louisiana and the French National Assessments.

Research was presented on the maturity level of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Abstract thinking in math (i.e. value of x) and in the thematic content in English Language Arts is still in a formative stage. This is coupled with the challenge of mastering both French and English vocabulary to demonstrate mastery as well as allowing time for discovery learning. The French Ministry's philosophy is about providing "equitable opportunities" for all students.

The old separate math curriculum isolated French and English standards. It prioritized LEAP objectives and rushed teachers to cover two years in one. The adjusted math curriculum integrates the standards and increases math proficiency. It prioritizes concepts and teaches math thinking skills.

Charts were presented on "Transition Year of Lycee's Advanced Math Curriculum", "Full Implementation of Lycee's Advanced Math Curriculum", "Our Middle School Math Curriculum", and "Our High School Math Curriculum". It appears that 7<sup>th</sup> graders in honors math in 20-21 will go into Algebra 1 in eighth grade and that this year's 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Algebra 1 will go into geometry in 9<sup>th</sup>.

Committee member Theresa Outlaw thanked the team for their hard work. She asked for a response to "What is the goal for equity in relation to taking the French Baccalaureate Degree?" She also asked about AP classes. She said that during the current school year all tenth graders took AP French. She wondered if all AP classes were open enrollment. Finally she wanted to know how all teachers would be monitored for their use if differentiated instruction.

Sam Kreuzer responded that such training was ongoing. She also added that for the last two years staff has been working to clarify the scope and sequence.

Sophie Capmartin reported on the successful DELF test in French for all 5<sup>th</sup> graders given in March. This year's eighth graders and ninth graders were carefully prepared to take the 8<sup>th</sup> grade DELF test.

Therese Outlaw moved that the meeting be adjourned and Kelley Morel seconded that motion. It was passed.