



Dr. Shearon Roberts, Interim Committee *Chair*, *present*
Matthew Moreland, Committee Member, *present*
Enrique Garcia, Committee Member, *present*
Courtney Elzey, Committee Member, *via zoom*
Kimberly Kupresan, Committee Member, *present*
Bernard Guste, Committee Member, *present*
Catherine MacPhaille, Committee Member, *present*

Ex-Officio

Dr. Chase McLaurin, CEO, present
Keeanya Chenier, CFO

Finance Committee Meeting

Board of Directors of Lycée Français de la Nouvelle Orleans

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 from 5:30PM – 7 PM

Priestley Campus (In-Person Meeting)

1601 Leonidas Street, New Orleans, LA 70118

Community Conference Room

I. Roll Call

Dr. Shearon Roberts

5:34 p.m. meeting begins

A. Motion to Approve Minutes of January 5, 2023 Finance Committee meeting

Catherine moves, Bernard second Unanimous

Enrique added to quorum

II. Organizational Fiscal Presentation Part II

Dr. Chase McLaurin, CEO

Organization began its January notifications for workforce restructuring for the first phase with an estimated \$645k as the total for potential reductions in expenditure through salaries. That notification has already taken place.

Overview of cashflows with November month as a snapshot

November: \$983,385

State guidance: prioritize student achievement, financial efficiency and workforce development.

Cuts in this area: Be more efficient in athletics & aftercare - 110k

Adopt new transport policy: -300k

Reduce insurance cost by - \$90-

Reduce Security by -\$95k

Debt collection: Meal services: \$-86,318 k (2017-2022) outstanding and
Afterschool: -\$156,712 (2015-2022)

Catherine: In terms of collection what % do we typically collect

Danielle Dufauchard: Collection lunch balances: For lunch balances based on pre-COVID its about \$63k going back 2017; 2 years we as a school, didn't have to pay lunch. This year its \$22k and that number fluctuates. About 22k pre-COVID, now \$63k.

Tried to do the collection process and are doing that now. Parents get an email reminder. Working on this year's collection. Two years where parents haven't paid anything. This year is \$23k alone. For enrichment, 2015 and 2021, an average of about 380 to 580 students in the program. Your average of what was owed is 15k in those prior years. This year there is a balance of 11k for enrichment. The 156k encompasses from 2015 all the way on to now.

Bernard: Are parents with balances allowed to continue on, to continue the following term if they had a major balance.

Danielle: In previous years they were sort of allowed but in speaking with Ted that loophole has closed. Now they cannot reapply for enrichment they have to pay their balances.

Lunch balances

McLaurin: water, electricity, legal fees, immigration fees, basic ongoing costs.

Matt arrives for quorum at 5:47.

Catherine: How will this work.

Dr. McLaurin: Working with the athletic director to teach and do director work combined, stipend position as opposed to a full-time position. Merge some aftercare activities.

Move from hourly pay and move it into a stipend system.

Athletics are heavily subsidized, moving away from that and it would be budget neutral to move forward with the programming.

Bus transportation policy presented, adding a hardship application piece to that.

If it goes over we will eat into this. So we can't afford to create liabilities that we never want to be in a position to not have enough funds and eliminate staff. Fix all these things now so we don't get into that predicament.

Bernard: On transportation since I've been on this committee and have never had parents stalk me and talk to me much about anything else.

Dr. McLaurin: On buildings plan

Security costs moving from security on every campus to moving to security on the secondary campus but not on the elementary campuses, whether to do a contract or full time employee. Serving multiple campuses.

B. Motion to Approve Recommended Recurring Services Restructuring Plan

Mat moves, Catherine seconds

Bernard: I live six blocks from here and I'm not involved in discussions on the bus. Parent had their child in summer school and lives in Algiers, heavily populated area for kids and families. Same amount of buses in the summer as in the school year. She said her bus had 3 children on it and that bus had the most kids of any of the buses for summer school. Sounds like a lot of money we are throwing away.

Danielle: For summer school we didn't have 8 buses.

Dr. McLaurin: It's a bus contract so the beginning of the year, we open up due to our current policy. People who sign up are entitled to it because we submitted that plan to BESE because its in accordance with the law. The children do not then ride the bus, one day a week, once a month, or change their mind, they may change their mind but we already signed up for the contract. So the buses run and then they don't have enough people in them. The complication is we have then already signed the contract based on how many people signed up for it. We put a notice communicated this year as a last result, we had more people sign up this year than last year.

Bernard: A spot to cut for the summer. Losing parents because we cut services.

Dr. McLaurin: None of our competitors off busing for 6-12. The caveat, we are not denying transportation, we are providing bus passes for 6 through 12 in accordance with the law. Danielle spoke with other Type II charters and they are not offering buses because of the costs. At the last board meeting, of those riding the bus, the vast majority are not low-income students. So there are people that are riding the bus from other parishes. When looking at people riding the bus is 19 students, low income who ride 6 through 12. Will be offered the RTA passes, we will have a hardship application to find a solution that will work with them. With the buses there are routes, it's okay to do this one pick-up here but it diverts the route and have kids riding the bus for 2 and a half hours. Until now we know what our kindergarten numbers are, it depends on routes. Looking into a plan to purchase our own buses through federal grants and then we can look to expand and move into the future. We can't make a policy based on something that hasn't happened. Then we can do it in-house as a much cheaper cost. As enrollment crisis is happening and students are moving further apart, prices are getting higher and bussing costs are increasing in all of the charters.

Catherine: How many kids ride the bus in total that are 6 through 12

Dr. McLaurin: About 100 for 6 through 12 would be affected, but that isn't not what signed up but differs day to day. Today only 4 kids got off and another week 10 kids got off.

Enrique: Contract ends when

Danielle: June and restarts July. Last year we only had one company apply for buses.

Matthew: Only offer in Orleans only. What are our minimum requirements. Looks like statue is one mile outside. But Algiers is a high population that is outside of 1 mile. How many do we have from Jefferson. We don't pick up from Jefferson. How many are in Jefferson Parish total at the school. How many K through 5 that are Jefferson Parish.

Danielle: By Parish, 76%, Jeff 21.5%, St. Bernard .5%, St. Tammany .1%, St. John .1%

Mat: if we do anything we consider the hardship.

Anne: K-12 from Jeff Parish is 229.

Kimberly: Questions of the bus will keep happening. Will keep coming up. So difficult to communicate at the parent-level. Savings we will have as a school. What is still a priority. The bus line. Flagging really good question that we take seriously as a school. Emphasize the 19 students that will still get assistance.

Dr. McLaurin: If we go with the bus contract or if we do try to buy our own buses. In future years it could lead to more savings.

Catherine: adding maintenance, storage, drivers? Those also add to costs for ownership.

Catherine: How is that calculated: When we broke it out at the plan. Is the 300k for 100 students. It will provide services for 200 students and eliminate, \$2,000 per student is the cost right now. The cost of fuel and the increased cost.

Bernard: Did we see an increase in parents utilize because of gas

Danielle: Because of COVID families didn't ride. For summer school we had 4 buses, if parents decide to opt in once we pay for it. For this year for LDOE we offer summer school for certain grades where transportation is required. It is required by LDOE for certain grades but they are not providing transportation.

Bernard: Talking about scaling, have we spoken to other schools

Danielle: talked with Audubon and ISL about start time and other items, but they were up for discussion but one school would have to change start times.

Audubon only provides for Gentilly, but Uptown doesn't have busing. Same story for Lusher and Audubon grandfathered in.

Kimberly: What about security are their concerns from parents.

Danielle: Not many concerns from parents in place. We have a school resource officer.

Bernard: We had tremendous amount of concern with Johnson but NOPD has beefed up security and surveillance around the school and dedicated some officers. We haven't had any issue today. Our voices were heard. It does concern me reducing that figure. So I don't know. We haven't had issues and the NOPD is monitoring and we can verify that is ongoing.

Danielle: It's a partnership and our School Resource Office. Our current contractor used to work for NOPD so if we have any questions we have inroad into NOPD.

Catherine: Put into strategic line the process.

Kimberly: Impressive the school has been

Paula: I just want to know what kind of communication we will send to the entire school. And how it's going to change.

Ashley Nicole: 3 buses, what is allowable on the bus. About 200 students will be on the bus, how many persons can fit on the bus.

Danielle, depends on the size of the bus. Max is 65 which is the longer buses. John Henry can give a higher now. Katie: Longer buses can fit 65 to 70. Some ride in the mornings and some ride different days. If someone rides in the capacity.

Danielle: We would like for parents to fully ride not opt in morning and evening. My kid is only riding in the morning.

Bernard: can we force them to commit to it.

Mat Allen: Curious between correlation between diminished aftercare activity and bus. Do we expect more students to stay in aftercare, will that be an increased cost or revenue generator. Cost per child could go down for aftercare after this.

Danielle: enrollment was down.

Darren: In your numbers are you considering some people may leave the school so there will be that lost of income.

Dr. McLaurin: We lost people last year from not furthering our program. Having high quality program. Our competition is not providing this service, there may be a few. All I can do is speculate. All of our competitors don't have transportation. The transportation for ISL stops at 5th grade. Where they are going to our competitors.

Suzette: We keep mentioning that these schools are competitors, excluding a big number of schools that aren't offering. Parents are excluded because those schools have no buses. Those schools also do not have high schools so folks have looked at us. What about the rest for those that are not economically disadvantaged or eligible to ride under 504.

Other public comment: solution for aftercare for 6 and 7 graders, parents who don't want 6 and 7 graders on RTA, allowed to have their kids not do sports after school. Have to remain on campus, if they can study at the campus or do something until parents can pick them up, like a study hall.

Paula: Capacity, high numbers of kids on a single bus, if there are 70 kids and that's a lot of stopping if we have a high levels.

Catherine and Enrique: when notify parents?

Francis: As far as knowing the student population geographically what they look like, attempt to partner with the PTO or another organization to develop carpool systems, parent-sponsored busing

systems, that's what the other schools do, the PTO offers it. If you want it. The school is free of that responsibility, find a carpool, get your kids to school, pay for the bus. Put the incentive on the parent. My kid will ride in the afternoon.

Mat: what we allowed to do.

Suzette: What is the liability of the school if a child rides the RTA because we are giving them buses. The contract of carriage will be on the city.

Ashley: Some of the buses, he said that he was having trouble with some of the students with 35 students, there is a monitor that rides the bus, is that something that can be allocated in this budget.

Dr. McLaurin: Monitors are linked to students with special needs or a designated need. We can build that cost and get reimbursed for the state. The stand.

Darren: Concerned about the loss of security to Johnson. I don't think that is a great idea for Johnson to not have a security officer. Crime numbers is higher at Johnson campus than Priestly campus.

Danielle: One security officer, NOPD officer for all the campuses.

Danielle: NOPD has been very helpful, anytime we call, if we need something we have an in road, They have been very helpful all the way to the captain of the second district, they are a great resource to us. They are always responsible to us.

Yes: Enrique, Catherine, Mat and Kimberly

No: Bernard

Bernard: recommended to maximize the contract. Every single day what's happening in the morning and take a look at those numbers and see what's happening and survey the parents. Get as much information for parents, how much this particular expenditure impacts the school.

III. Outstanding Finance Matters

Dr. Shearon Roberts

IV. General Public Comment Period

Dr. Shearon Roberts

Parents raised concerns about impact on cuts to transportation.

V. Final Remarks from Committee Members

Dr. Shearon Roberts

VI. Meeting Adjourned