

Specially-called FAME Board meeting to discuss and approve Audubon Charter School's response to the School Facilities Master Plan for Orleans Parish.

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008, 4 p.m.
Broadway Campus

Board members in attendance: Chairman Carlos Zervigon, Secretary Sharon Nossiter, Wynn Seeman, Teddi Locke, Olivier Brochenin, Ken Ducote, Laura Watts.
Administration in attendance: Ellen Selvidge, Dawn Collins, Janice Dupuy.

Meeting called to order at 4:17 p.m. by Carlos.

Board member Ken Ducote announced that since our June 2008 meeting, his contract with the RSD expired, and he has been asked to contract with the East Bank Collaborative of Charter Schools for technical experience on facilities issues. As ACS is a member of the collaborative, it is necessary for him to resign in order to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest. Ken said he'd really enjoyed his two years on the FAME Board, and that we are free to call up on him at any time. He tendered his resignation, and took his seat in the audience.

Carlos noted that Ken is here today now as a pro bono consultant to ACS.

1. Discuss and approve Audubon's response to the School Facilities Master Plan for Orleans Parish.

Carlos noted that he has been working with Janice and Dawn, has also spoken to OPSB member Una Anderson and others, and the PTO Board on this subject, and will be addressing the PTO general membership tomorrow night to get everyone on the same page and comfortable with the direction of our public input.

There have been three areas of interest:

We are asking to stay in the Carrollton Campus on a temporary basis after 2010 instead of being phased out (landbanked) with nowhere to go. We're asking that it be in the plan in writing that we be allowed to stay on temporary basis.

Board member Cornelius Tilton arrived at 4:27 p.m.

Ken Ducote noted that we need to emphasize that our reason for wanting to stay there is to have a home while discussing a permanent future home.

Carlos: "an agreed-upon permanent location."

Teddi: If they're going to renovate Allen as they propose and that would become one of our permanent sites, then we could stay at Carrollton until Allen is ready.

Carlos: We want to be designated as the program that is moving into Allen after Math and Science is out, and we want to stay at Carrollton until Allen is ready.

Wynn: Ask that we be allowed to permanently occupy the Allen building as soon as Math and Science moves out. We want to be the designated program to permanently occupy Allen, and that we be allowed to occupy the Carrollton building in the meantime.

Carlos – thought also we could agree upon what we want to request and the specific wording could be typed up based on our discussion here. Approve the essential idea, then type it up and Janice and I will carry it from there.

The plan proposes renovation of the main building (Broadway) at capacity of 300. Plan says nothing about replacing portables or custodial building.

Ken: The preK is so important to this program, and the little kids have to be on the ground floor. Both buildings are three-story. The philosophy in all of these discussions is that all temporary buildings would be replaced with permanent. Seems like there's an oversight because addition is not mentioned to replace those classrooms.

Carlos: It sounds like the best way to work on second request is:

As is consistent with the stated standards of plan, ask that portables and custodial be replaced with multi-level permanent facilities that support our school program....within the scope of the project.

Cornelius: A motion, subject to stylistic revision, not content. Ask that we be allowed to permanently occupy the Allen building as soon as Math and Science moves out. We want to be the designated program to permanently occupy Allen, and we want to be allowed to occupy the Carrollton building in the meantime. Second from Laura. No public comment. Unanimous vote in favor of motion.

Teddi moved, and Wynn seconded that in keeping with the proposed standards of the Facilities Master Plan, Broadway's portables and custodial buildings be replaced with multi-level permanent facilities that support our school program. Subject to stylistic revision, not content.

No public comment, unanimous approval.

Carlos: I emphasized to the PTO Board the critical importance that only one message come out of Audubon – Janice will speak for the administration at Tuesday's public hearing, and Carlos for the FAME board entirely throughout process.

Laura moved to adjourn at 4:58 p.m., Cornelius second. Unanimously approved.