

Draft minutes of the Nov. 22, 2008, meeting of FAME Board.

The meeting, called for 10 a.m., began at 10:10 a.m. Board members present were Cornelius Tilton, Wynn Seeman, Linda Blakley, Sharon Nossiter, Teddi Locke, chairman Carlos Zervigon, Edwin Shorty, and Olivier Brochenin.

The administration was represented by Janice Dupuy, Dawn Collins, Alisa Dupre, Lynette Brice, John Gaudry and Ellen Selvidge.

1. Minutes of the October meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Edwin, seconded by Sharon.

2. Administration reports:

Director of finance John Gaudry reported that the OPSB has voted to rescind its resolution to withhold the local share of the MFP for this school year from charter schools and the RSD until it is collected. The issue will be revisited under the new OPSB in 2009. The situation should be monitored, as it could heavily impact the ACS budget.

Business manager Alisa Dupre reported that grant money from Harrah's Casino is being used to pay for a new roof on the Broadway campus, and bathroom renovations, projects that were approved by OPSB and the New Orleans City Council. The administration anticipates that renovations will begin toward the end of February. It is a four-month project. The administration has asked Hermann Taitt, executive director of facilities for New Orleans Public Schools, to wait until after Easter to begin the project, start with the third-floor bathrooms and work down in hopes that the first floor work will be done after school is out for the year, which would eliminate the problem of young children having to climb stairs to go to the bathroom.

The roof project is awaiting architectural drawings. Audubon is being considered for inclusion in a program funded by Entergy to install solar panels on the flat part of the roof. A decision is to be announced in December.

The PTO has approved funding for heat pumps to be installed in several portables at the Carrollton Campus. The project can proceed after OPSB has seen the contractors' insurance and licenses.

Montessori Director Ellen Selvidge said Montessori trainers were in town to observe several teachers who are in training. Beth Rosch is due to receive her Lower Elementary Montessori Certification after this final visit. Ellen is completing her Montessori Administrative Certification.

French Director Loetitia Ducos has just returned from the French Directors Professional Development in Ottawa, Canada.

Principal Janice Dupuy acknowledged the hard work of the teachers and administrative team in the beginning of the semester. She asked PTO President Secret Mbaye to report on the ACS Fall Fete.

Secret said the fete had grossed \$18,000, with a \$15,000 net, plus a donation of \$2,000, putting the PTO at its original goal of \$20,000.

3. Board Members' Reports:

a. Secretary Sharon Nossiter reported that more than 100 responses were received from Audubon parents who were surveyed about their interest in an International Business and International Baccalaureate high school program. A large number of parents supported an Audubon High School, which speaks well of our existing programs, but many of them recognized in their comments that it would be difficult to accomplish financially because of the small number of students in our upper grades.

The breakdown of responses was as follows:

Interested in International Business: Montessori, 33; French, 13; unknown or dual programs, 8.

Interested in International Baccalaureate: Montessori, 15; French, 34; unknown or dual programs, 11.

Interested in an Audubon High School: 36.

Interested in traditional high school: 11.

Interested in French Baccalaureate only: 6.

Fellow board member Olivier Brochenin hosted a gathering at his home earlier this week at which the newly-nominated Advisory Board to the International High School was addressed by RSD Superintendent Paul Vallas. Audubon parent Susan Goudail, who has a background in education and is familiar with the curriculums for International Baccalaureate and French Baccalaureate, will represent Audubon on the Advisory Board. Their first order of business is to work with RSD to hire a leader for the school.

Mr. Vallas intends to open the international high school in the fall of 2009, with the hope of a ninth grade of 125 students. It will probably be located in the top two floors of the Contemporary Arts Center. His facilities specialist said the city of New Orleans had committed to a \$4.5 million CDBG to fund the building-out of these floors in such a way as to serve the proposed school.

Mr. Vallas emphasized the need for a quality program to attract students from the charter schools.

b. Board Vice-chair Teddi Locke reported on the Louisiana Charter School Association Conference, which she attended. Audubon is considering joining the association, which hopes to streamline meetings and functions having to do with charter schools.

c. Nominating Committee Chair Wynn Seeman reported that she and Carlos had met with several prospective board members, some of whom will be touring the school in December.

d. Carlos said he had spoken twice with Karen Burke, executive director of facilities for the RSD, who emphasized her support for Audubon's programs and intention to take care of the school in the Master Plan process.

4. Revising the Charter (discussion only):

Cornelius Tilton suggested taking sections of the charter each quarter, and with a one-year goal, make changes as needed, then move to the next section. Otherwise, with such a large document, he said, things get overlooked. He agreed to head up such an effort. Edwin said that he and Allen Miller were also interested in participating, and Linda asked for a copy of the charter also. Carlos suggested that perhaps by the December meeting, they could give the board their first impressions of how to proceed.

5. Board retreat and training:

Carlos said he hoped to accomplish a retreat in the coming year, with an outside facilitator from New Schools for New Orleans, perhaps in conjunction with another charter board in order to help with costs.

Edwin moved to adjourn; Cornelius seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Nossiter.