

**French and Montessori Education Inc
(FAME)
Board of Directors Meeting
January 24, 2009
Minutes**

Board Members Present

Shawn Barney (departed from meeting at ~10:55 am)
Linda Blakley
Christine Brennan (Secretary)
Olivier Brochenin
Ben Comer
Corey Hebert
Teddi Locke (Vice Chair)
Gladys Barrett-Merrick
Allen Miller (departed from meeting at ~11:40 am)
Wynn Seemann
Laura Watts (Treasurer)
Carlos Zervigon (Chair)

Board member excused: Cornelius Tilton

Board member absent: Robert Sloan

Administration Present

Lynette Brice
Loetitia Ducos
Alisa Dupre
Janice Dupuy (CEO)
John Gaudry (CFO)

Meeting was called to order by Chair at 10:12 AM

1. Choose Board Officers for 2009 term.

Carlos Zervigon was nominated by Wynn to continue as Chair, seconded by Teddi Locke. There were no other nominations. Carlos was elected Chair through unanimous consensus of the board.

Teddi Locke was nominated to continue as Vice Chair by Carlos, seconded by Christine Brennan. Teddi was elected Vice Chair through unanimous consensus of the board.

Christine Brennan was nominated to be Secretary by Carlos, seconded by Laura Watts. Christine was elected Secretary through unanimous consensus of the board.

Laura Watts was nominated to continue as Treasurer by Carlos, seconded by Teddi.

Laura was elected to continue as Treasurer through unanimous consensus of the board.

2. Introduction of Board Members and Staff.

Carlos introduced members who were not present including:

Robert (Bob) Sloan: Chief Counsel, experience in both private and public organizations: has experience with *Lycee* system in France

Cornelius Tilton: former CEO of New Orleans Mission, Pastor, sits on Ethics Board for the City of New Orleans

Members in attendance introduced themselves:

Shawn Barney: Developer (proprieties) Experience in Finance for municipal projects

Ben Comer: Executive Director for Next Generation, a non-profit that provides motivational training in schools, ACS Parent

Corey Hebert: RSD Chief Medical Officer, Pediatrician at Tulane University Medical School, Medical Editor for WDSU

Allen Miller: Partner Phelps Dunbar Law LLC

Gladys Barrett-Merrick: Program Director of Social Work Program at Southern University NO (SUNO). Involved with various Professional Organizations specifically those associated with suicide preventions

Carlos Zervigon: Former Ben Franklin High School teacher, Co-founder/CEO of the New Orleans Creative Glass Institute, ACS Parent.

Olivier Brochenin: France Consul General, ACS Parent

Laura Watts: Senior Vice President, Capital One, ACS Parent

Wynn Seemann: Retired Montessori Teacher/ Montessori teacher trainer

Teddi Locke: Montessori Educator (University Montessori School). Louisiana Montessori Association President

Linda Blackley: Faculty at Xavier University, Director for Student Academic Performance and Support in the College of Pharmacy. Teaches health technology and informatics.

Staff members introduced themselves

Janice Dupuy: CEO and Principle, 31 years experience in education, 25 years experience teaching

Alisa Dupre: Admissions Coordinator and Business Manager: former ACS parent and PTO board President.

Lynette Brice: Finance Manager, Experience with NOSB

John Gaudry CFO Experience in retail and tax accounting

Loetitia Ducos: French Program Directresses

Excused staff members introduced

Dawn Collins: Assistant Principal. 25 years experience in education. Overseeing I-LEAP tutoring at this time

Ellen Selvidge: Director of Montessori Program

3. Presentation regarding the Louisiana Charter School Association by LCSA leaders Caroline Roemer and Andrea Chen (see attachment A 1.24.09 for handouts distributed by LAPCS)

Caroline Roemer introduced herself as the Executive Director of Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools (LAPCS) originally from Boussir, LA.

Mission of LAPCS: to provide a united voice for Charter schools in Louisiana

Andrea Chen introduced as Program Developer/ Membership and Members Advisory Council (MAC)

Caroline requested that FAME consider becoming a member of LAPCS and made a presentation on the structure and goals of the LAPCE and the importance of participation by all charter schools in Louisiana.

IV. Committee assignments: Budget, Facilities, Charter Revision and Accountability

Carlos commented that in the past the board was overwhelmed with “start up” issues. Now that this phase has passed, the board needs to “formulize” its structure. Suggest the Board designate committees, designate chairs. Carlos reminded everyone that it is important that committee meetings follow State Open Meeting Laws, so meeting dates and agenda need to be broadcast.

There was a general discussion regarding the need to assure diverse membership on committees. This lead to a general discussion regarding voting privileges on committees. General consensus of board concluded that each committee will decide its own voting policy.

As Board Chair, Carlos is Ex Offico Member on all committees.

Budget Committee

General discussion regarding name, suggestions to add or replace with “finance”. Many members voiced concern with this idea since finance may insinuate “fundraising” and that this committee would not include that task. Thus “Budget” was agreed upon by general consensus. Carlos asked Laura Watts to act as chair. This was unanimous approval by the board via consensus. Carlos stated that Shawn Barney and Corey Herbert should also be on that committee.

Charter Revision Committee

Charter revision due in 2010. Question posed by Christine if this committee would also be involved in By Laws Revision/ review. Answer concluded that By Laws was a separate issue and should be address by another committee, perhaps at another time. Carlos asked Cornelius Tilton to act as Chair. This was unanimous approval by the board via consensus. Carlos also asked that Allen Miller and Edwin Shorty to sit on this committee.

Facility Committee

Carlos explained that this committee would be mainly concerned with the impact of the NOSB master plan that includes ACS to be out of Carrolton campus by May 2010. Carlos volunteered to act as chair. This was unanimous approval by the board via consensus. Ben Comer volunteered to sit on this committee.

Accountability Committee

This was a committee suggested by Administration. General discussion took place regarding the responsibility and duty of the committee. Janice explained that this committee would be involved with monitoring items and data that are necessary in measuring schools accountability. It was proposed that perhaps the committee should be “evaluation and monitoring” but this was not accepted. Carlos suggested that Teddi act

as chair. This was unanimous approval by the board via consensus. Winn was also appointed to this committee as was a member of the French Consulate. Christine and Linda volunteered to be part of this committee

V. Approval of the December minutes

Minutes from the December 2008 Board meeting will be reviewed and voted on before the March 2009 meeting.

VI. Approval of 2009 Calendar for FAME Board meeting dates

The proposed meeting dates (see attachment B1.24.09) were presented and accepted via consensus.

VII. Budget Committee Update

Laura Watts reported that the budget from school year 2009-2010 is being developed by the administration by collecting necessary data. Based on this data the administration will make recommendations for a proposed budget. Since the MFP will not be calculated until end of 6/09, the administration can only make recommendations for a proposed budget. Once the MFP is known, a final budget can be developed. It is anticipated that the administration will provide a proposed budget for the 2009-2010 School year to the Budget committee in the next months and after its approval in committee, it will be brought to the full board for review and vote.

Due to delays in reimbursements from the state for Federal programs, the budget committee requests that proceeds from this year's Spring Fest be dedicated directly to the Audubon's general operating budget (or should it say "cash reserve accounts?"). Laura made the motion, Teddi seconded. This was approval by the board via consensus, without dissention. However Christine abstained from the vote.

VIII. Administration Update

The administration submitted a written report attached.

Olivier asked if the French Consulate was able to access funds to fund a third Pre K French class, would the administration be willing to establish one for 2009-2010. Janice stated that they would but administration would need to know if this was possible very soon. Olivier asked what level funding was needed to support a 3rd Pre-K French class. The administration reported that they could forward that information to him by 1/25/09.

Adjourn:

Christine moved for adjournment, Teddi seconded. Action was approved by the board via consensus, without dissention.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm

Draft FAME board meeting calendar.

February: no meeting.

March: Board Retreat March 27 and 28

April 25

May 23

June: no meeting

July ¹³ – Need to meet for final approval of budget after getting info on 09/10 funding levels from the state.

August: no meeting

September 26

October 24

November (14)

December (12)