

Minutes of Nov. 15, 2005, meeting of French And Montessori Education, Inc. (FAME)

The board met at 428 Broadway Avenue. Members in attendance: Jill Otis, Pierre Lebovics, Alisa Dupre, Carlos Zervigon, Charly Borenstein-Regueira. Absent: Ashton Ryan.

#### I. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by vice-chairman Carlos Zervigon. Alisa Dupre moved adoption of the minutes from the Nov. 5, 2005, meeting; Charly Borenstein-Regueira seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

#### II. ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The next order of business was election of new board members to replace Joyous van Buskirk, Barbara Ricks and Chachie Dupuy, who resigned following the Nov. 5 meeting. The French PTO nomination was parent Jim Korndorffer. Teddi Locke was nominated as a Montessori expert and educator. Alisa Dupre said she had contacted New Orleans attorney Carl Connor about filling the third vacancy. Dupre moved approval of the nominees; seconded by Carlos Zervigon. The motion passed 6-1, with Jill Otis opposing it due to lack of information on Connor. The terms for all board members end December 2006.

#### III. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Borenstein-Regueira nominated Zervigon as chairman, seconded by Dupre; unanimously approved. Zervigon nominated Dupre as vice-chairman, seconded by Borenstein-Regueira seconded; unanimously approved. Zervigon nominated Ashton Ryan as treasurer, seconded by Locke; unanimously approved. Borenstein-Regueira nominated Korndorffer as secretary, seconded by Dupre; unanimously approved.

Marie-Claude Kellermann, director of Audubon Charter School's French program, introduced Pierre Lebovics to the rest of the board and those present. Lebovics, a FAME board member, is the new Consul General de France posted in New Orleans. Lebovics announced a gift from the French government to the French school of \$50,000 for equipment and supplies.

#### IV. HIRING OF INTERIM PRINCIPAL

The board voted unanimously to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue, so moved by Dupre and seconded by Korndorffer. The board entered its closed session at 10:43 a.m., and returned at 11:31 a.m. Dupre made a motion to hire former Audubon Montessori School principal Janice Dupuy as Audubon Charter School principal through the first week of June 2006. The motion was seconded by Locke. The board voted unanimously to hire Dupuy.

#### V. PROPOSED CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO THE CHARTER

(See packet from Nov. 15, 2005, agenda)

##### d. Evaluation of Teachers in the Montessori Program.

To be inserted in appropriate location. So moved by Jill Otis, seconded by Dupre. Protects French and Montessori curriculums. Approved unanimously.

##### c. Amended Definition for the Director of the French Program.

Read by Otis and moved, seconded by Dupre. Approved unanimously.

##### b. Returning Teachers, excluding French program teachers, to Audubon Charter School During January-May 2006.

Moved by Otis, seconded by Dupre. Approved unanimously.

##### a. Revised Language on Parental Involvement Policy.

Moved by Dupre, seconded by Borenstein-Regueira. This language was in the working version of the charter application, as written by PTO president Sarah Ottinger, but when the application was approved by OPSB, the language was absent although Ottinger and others did not realize it. Zervigon said it provided a guide for the board toward the envisioned role of parents in the school.

##### e. Mandatory Changes as Set Forth by Orleans Parish School Board Resolution on Charter Schools

Concerns requirements by OPSB re: all charter schools that 20 percent of the student body be eligible for the free-and-reduced lunch program, and a suggestion that part of the student population be from the school's district. Zervigon said FAME needed the OPSB language, which was not available at the Nov. 15 meeting, in order to vote on the change. The board intends to get this language and vote on the requirements.

Dupre moved the formation of an ad hoc finance committee. Otis seconded the motion. Zervigon named Ashton Ryan as chair. Unanimously approved.

Dupre moved the formation of an ad hoc fundraising committee, to be chaired by Zervigon. Otis seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dupre moved the formation of an ad hoc building committee, its purpose to be locating another building for eventual expansion of Audubon Charter School. Dupre will chair the committee. Borenstein-Regueira seconded. Unanimously approved.

Dupre moved the formation of an ad hoc Montessori curriculum committee, to be co-chaired by Locke and Otis. Zervigon noted that this committee will function in the position of the Montessori program director until such time as the school can hire one. Approved unanimously.

Dupre moved the formation of a pre-kindergarten committee to explore funding for a non-gifted pre-K. Dupre will chair. The committee will also deal with other pre-K issues, and work with Dupuy. Approved unanimously.

#### VI. Discussion of School Finances

Borenstein-Regueira moved that Zervigon and Dupre be designated to advise the Greater New Orleans Foundation of distribution of grants funded by contributions to Audubon Charter School's account with GNOF. Such distributions would occur only with the FAME board's consent. Otis seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Dupre announced that the Friends of Audubon PTO has agreed to loan FAME \$50,000 for initial operating expenses. The loan must be repaid by December 2006. FAME is also required to establish a line of credit by Dec. 31, 2005. Ottinger said the PTO needed a contract with FAME. The PTO voted on-line 48-0 to make the loan, which was accepted on a unanimous vote by FAME.

#### VII. Discussion of Registration

#### VIII. Discussion of Pre-Kindergarten

The meeting ended on a motion from Korndorffer, seconded by Dupre. No date was set for the next meeting.