

**French and Montessori Education, Inc.  
Board of Directors Meeting, December 23, 2005  
Minutes**

Minutes for French and Montessori Education, Inc., (FAME) board meeting held Friday, Dec. 23, in Room 201 of Audubon Charter School, 428 Broadway Avenue.

Board members in attendance were Chairman Carlos Zervigon, Vice-chairman Alisa Dupre, Jim Korndorffer, Teddi Locke, Jill Otis and Karl Connor.

Board member excused: Pierre Lebovics

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM

Connor, who was attending his first FAME meeting, introduced himself as a New Orleans native and son of two public school teachers. He is government affairs director for British Petroleum/Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas, a lawyer and former schoolteacher. He has been active in a mentoring group for boys at Crocker Elementary School, and was on the board of KIPP Phillips Academy, a state-chartered school which had just opened near St. Bernard housing development this fall.

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Nov. 15, 2006, meeting were unanimously adopted on a motion from Dupre; seconded by Otis.

2. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: The state of Audubon Charter School's building is "pristine," compared to most other schools in Orleans Parish, said Principal Janice Dupuy. She has been meeting with contractors hired by Alvarez and Marsal for post-Katrina cleanup, and paid for with Orleans Parish School Board insurance proceeds.

The cafeteria has been cleaned and tested for air quality and bacterial content, and will be certified by the state Health Department before school opens on Jan. 3. Another contractor has swept, mopped and vacuumed the entire school. Its employees even cleaned the windows. Air ducts are being cleaned and flushed.

Ceiling tiles have been replaced. Someone from IT has been out to work on the school's computer server.

There was discussion of teacher contracts, particularly concerning due process should the FAME board dismiss a teacher. FAME has outsourced human resources and payroll away from Orleans Parish, and the new contractor is in the process of providing the language for teacher contracts. Salaries will be based on that which teachers were making at the beginning of this school year, said Dupre. This year's contract is through May 2006.

Otis, the long-time principal of Audubon Montessori School and one of the primary authors of the ACS charter, noted that it was written as a "teacher-friendly" charter.

Dupre said Alvarez and Marsal had negotiated a special price for Audubon and four other charter schools for the lunch program. "The challenge is that we are not going to have reimbursable lunch for the first week," she said. The state process takes several weeks to approve reimbursable lunch.

Dupre said Sodexho had been selected as the lunch provider for the Algiers charter schools, and that Alvarez and Marsal had negotiated the same price and service for four other charter schools, including Audubon. Audubon will not be able to have reimbursable lunch for the first week of school because the state process for reimbursement will not be completed, she said.

3. DISCUSSION OF PRE-K: Prior to going charter, Audubon's gifted pre-K was funded by the district, Dupuy said. Now that the school is chartered, the district is refusing all funds for gifted programs. She has been in conversations on the state and local level regarding funding for gifted students and the pre-K. Dupuy noted that pre-K students with an IEP already have a contract with the district.

Audubon has also been granted two LA-4 classes, and Dupuy said that State Board member Leslie Jacobson approved of the idea of making them LA-4 French and Montessori classes. At-risk students are funded at \$500 per month, per child.

Audubon is trying to get the Orleans Parish district to recalculate its funding for gifted students and give the school its share, Zervigon said.

4. DISCUSSION OF BUDGET: After discovering some inaccuracies in budget figures, the board approved unanimously a revised budget. Moved by Locke, seconded by Dupre. Zervigon said the minutes should note the unusual situation of the budget including expected funds, from Title 1, Hurricane Recovery and other sources, a circumstance he doesn't expect to recur.

Korndorffer moved that when the budget be revisited and re-voted when the revenue stream is fully identified. Seconded by Dupre and approved unanimously.

5. UPDATE ON FUNDRAISING: FAME has recorded \$98,620 in gifts and pledges, and other requests are pending. Zervigon said work will begin soon on more grant applications.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Dupre, and seconded by Otis. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM.