

French and Montessori Education, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting, August 19, 2006
Minutes

Board members present: Janice Dupuy (Principal), Teddi Locke, Sarah Ottinger (Secretary), Edwin Shorty (Vice Chairperson), Carlos Zervigon (Chairperson).

Board members excused: Karl Conner, Pierre Lebovics, Jill Otis, Laura Watts (Treasurer).

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

I. Greetings

Carlos welcomed all present to what promised to be a very short meeting, without any motions or votes.

II. Acknowledgements

Carlos thanked and acknowledged Montessori teachers who attended Montessori training over the summer as well as Janice Dupuy and Dawn Collins, who attended administrative Montessori training over the summer.

He thanked the administrative staff for doing a fantastic job of bidding out contracts, getting the lease signed for the Carrollton campus, and in general for working with state and local school administrators under confusing and difficult circumstances. Carlos commented that ACS remains ahead of other charter schools in all that it has addressed.

Carlos thanked and acknowledged teachers for moving into new classrooms and the many volunteers who have helped them. The move to different classrooms and a new campus occurred in a very compressed time-period. In Montessori classes, students will continue the work of setting up their classrooms, taking responsibility for their own environment.

Teddi thanked and acknowledged all the Montessori teaching assistants who attended training she provided for them prior to school starting. She found them all enthusiastic and hard-working.

Carlos thanked Mme. Kellerman for the tremendous job of replacing almost all the French school faculty. She recruited them, helped them come to New Orleans, and helped them get established within a very short period of time. When school reopens, ACS will have 9 faculty members in the French School, which is back to our pre-Katrina size.

Janice thanked the PTO and custodial staff for all the time and energy spent in getting the school facilities clean and ready to open.

III. Reading of Minutes from Last Board Meeting

This item was put off to the next Board meeting since a quorum was not present to vote on the minutes.

IV. Principal's Report

A. Broadway Campus

Janice reported that the front gate work was delayed due to rain, but that it will be beautiful once finished. Cafeteria and custodial staff have been hired and are all great. School will reopen with a total of 41 teachers, 25 teaching assistants, and 7 administrative staff. There are still some openings for teaching assistants, a librarian, and a Montessori Director, and those positions should be filled in the next two weeks. Janice reported that 7 teachers received Montessori training over the summer and that she and Dawn received Montessori administrative training over the summer.

B. Carrollton Campus

Dawn reported that things are coming along at the Carrollton campus. There will be 3 pre-K classrooms on the first floor along with the administrative offices. Unfortunately, it was discovered rather late that labs of the first floor couldn't be dismantled, so the French pre-K classes will be located on the Broadway campus. The second floor of the building will house grades 6-8, the teachers lounge, and the computer lab. Parents will be able to register for before- and after-care when school begins. The price of lunches has not yet been determined, nor has the criteria been established yet for free/reduced lunches.

C. Financial Update

Lynette said that the budget will be presented at the September Board Meeting. There are still some unknowns in the budget—displaced and restart funds, for example, which are still due for the 2005/06 school year.

Lynette is exploring using a different payroll company which is less expensive and meets our needs better. She will present her recommendations on this issue to the Board.

Lynette reported that copiers are being networked so that documents can be sent directly to the copiers for copying.

Lynette reported that our largest contract, and the only one pursuant to a public request for proposals, is working well. Sedexo provides food service, cafeteria staff, and custodial staff. Since the problems earlier in the year with lunches, Sedexo has been very responsive to Audubon's needs.

V. Concluding Comments

Carlos thanked Janice for her commitment, energy, and consistent enthusiasm in her job. He again commented on the amazing work under pressure of all the administrative staff.

Carlos reminded everyone that volunteers were needed all weekend at the Carrollton campus and that the PTO had a great spread of food for all volunteers.

Teddi moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45.