

French and Montessori Education, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting, November 18, 2006
Minutes

The meeting was called by Board Chairperson, Carlos Zervigon, and was publicized by posted notice at the school, notice on the school website, notice in the Rare Bird, and notice on the Rare Bird list serve.

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

Board members excused: Karl Conner, Pierre Lebovics,

Board members absent: Jill Otis.

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

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of its March 2006 meeting, which were circulated at the time but never approved. It was noted that the minutes did not indicate the date of the meeting, March 18, 2006, and the time it commenced, 10:00 a.m.

Motion: Edwin moved to approve the minutes of the March 2006 FAME Board of Directors Meeting with the additions of its date and time. Teddi seconded the motion.

Motion passed, unanimously: The voting members of the Board unanimously passed the motion.

II. Administration Reports

Broadway Campus: Ms. Janice reported that the rewiring of the Broadway Campus has been completed. The gate security system will be operational in the beginning of January, but possibly by the end of December. There is an issue with being able to reach around the front gate and gain admission, but that will be addressed as well. The administration is also addressing handicap access to the school, making sure that no codes are violated.

The Houston Montessori Center has agreed to provide a significant amount of Montessori training and support to our Montessori teachers free of charge. The Center helps schools meet requirements for certification through the American Montessori Society.

Carrollton Campus: Ms. Dawn reported that the carpeting of Mr. Ralph's pre-K has been completed so that he can move into his permanent classroom and vacate the mobility room. French students will now have access to that room. In addition, the pre-K furniture has been delivered.

The lab room for middle school students will be usable in December.

The wiring of the entire building for E-rate and Sonitrol has commenced.

The lease of the building still hasn't been agreed upon or signed. It has involved ongoing discussions with OPSB and stalemates over some issues that are still being worked through. Until a lease is signed, we will not be making any major improvements to the building.

Montessori Director Report: Ellen Selvidge reported that she began working at ACS in mid-September. She has been getting to know students, hosting parent education meetings, helping teachers with materials they need for their classrooms, and beginning to work toward the school being accredited through the American Montessori Society. The plan is to work progressively through each age-group for full accreditation of the school. This will begin with Pre-K through 2nd grades, then 3rd through 6th grades, and then the upper grades.

French School Director Report: Mme. Kellerman reported that all is going well in the French School. She reported difficulty, however, when she is writing letters specifically on behalf of the French School due to the fact that our current letterhead "Audubon Charter School" doesn't indicate that the French School exists. After general discussion of the Board, it was decided that there is an understanding that separate names (French/Montessori) may be used as sub-headings to the school name when it is necessary to indicate the existence of either program.

III. Professional Development Discussion

Carlos indicated that this discussion was placed on the agenda at Edwin's request.

Edwin explained that as Montessori parent representative to the Board, he felt it was his duty to express to the board that many parents were upset by the change from half-day to full-day professional development.

After board discussion, administration comment, and public comment, the board decided to take no action.

Teddi asked that it go on the record that she was a working mother raising two children and therefore understands the inconvenience some parents will face.

But she believes the administration has made a good decision regarding full-day professional development and that she is excited about the decision.

IV. Budget Committee Report

Laura noted an increase in the overall budget due to the receipt of displaced student funds from last school year. Ms. Lynette explained that with the increased funding the additional items under consideration to be added to expenditures include: an in-house substitute teacher, a full-time librarian, an increase in the furniture and materials line items, additional funding for the shipment of French books, adding additional circuit breakers, and elevator repair.

Laura said the budget overall is very healthy. She added that we have received \$5000 from the Hibernia ReJazz New Orleans Fund, which will be added to the budget.

Carlos said the New Schools New Orleans has agreed to look into legal action on behalf of charter schools to pursue additional funding they did not receive for the 2005/2006 school year.

Laura moved that the meeting be adjourned. It was adjourned at 11:30.