

French and Montessori Education, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting, October 20th, 2007
Minutes

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

The meeting was held in the library on the second floor of Audubon's Broadway campus, 428 Broadway Ave., New Orleans.

Board members present: Edwin Shorty Jr. (Vice Chairman), James Reiss (Secretary), Allen Miller, Laura Watts (Treasurer), and Carlos Zervigon (Chairman).

Board members excused: Ken Ducote, Rev. Cornelius Tilton, Gary Allen Wood, Teddi Locke and Wynn Seeman.

Teddi arrived at 10:45.

Attachments:

Agenda

Minutes for the September 15th, 2007 meeting of the Board

Administration report

The meeting was called to order at 10:15am without a quorum.

Because agenda items one and two required a quorum, the board moved directly to items three and four.

3. Administration report:

Please see attachment. Janice described the recent events surrounding the NOPS Charter School evaluation. There was a huge outcry from all charter schools administrators. The controversy sprang primarily from the haste, errors, inconsistencies, and blanket generalized statements that the evaluation contained. The board president and the principal of each charter school attended a committee meeting held by NOPS to review their school's evaluation. Janice described that they were able to rebut items that were incorrect and provide update documentation for corrections before the evaluations were presented to the full board. Many errors still remain unchanged, but after a well organized presentation by representatives of the Charter School Collaborative, the decision was made by the NOSB to revisit the process. Janice described how the charter school framework for evaluation requires a mutually agreed upon evaluation tool and that this has yet to come to fruition.

Janice next discussed the 3rd allocation of federal restart funds. Alisa also clarified for everyone exactly what these federal restart funds can be used for. ACS Restart Funds came to the school after opening in 2006. ACS received \$500 per student. ACS was not

included in the second allocation, as the school was informed that those who participated in the first allocation would be “made whole” on the third allocation. The state changed its formula for the last allocation, causing NOPS to receive less than 1/3 of what was originally slated. In addition, it was not allocated on a per student basis. Thus, NOPS decided that they did not have to share this allocation with the charters and could keep the entire amount of \$9 million. Again, charter school administrators and charter school board members made an orchestrated protest that the funds be shared proportionally between all students. In the OPSB meeting on Thursday, October 18th, Superintendent Kilbert’s recommendation remained unchanged.

Janice next discussed the AMS 2007 Fall conference. Five teachers attended the conference this year in Irvine, California. BCM paid for the transportation. The spring conference will be held here in New Orleans and ACS will be one of the sites where attendees will visit and observe.

Janice briefly described to the board the student application process for 08/09 school year and informed everyone that the athletic program at the Carrollton campus is moving along well with 7th and 8th grade basketball tryouts beginning soon. Also, the after school LEAP program is doing well thanks to a funding grant from the Brown Foundation.

Mme. Kellerman described the accreditation process for the French school, which could lead to another teacher being provided by the French government.

4. Budget Committee Report:

Laura informed the board that we have received our final report from the district and anticipate receiving MFP funding for 592 students and LA4 funding for 16 pre-K students. Our total enrolment is 674. There will be a budget revision in November based on actual student counts, which will reflect a reduction in revenue. We will include federal restart money in the budget if it is approved by NOPS at the next board meeting. Laura explained how the previously discussed federal restart money affects our budget. Laura also informed the board that TRSL corrections are being made as teachers bring their individual issues to the Administration.

Due to the reduction in funding from MFP funds, Laura stated that we will have to raise our fundraising goals. That effort will be headed by Paul Thiels and James Reiss.

At 10:30, the board moved to recess as Carlos contacted Teddi in order to assemble a quorum.

At 10:45am Teddi Locke arrived allowing for a quorum.

At 10:46 Carlos called the meeting to order.

2. Proposed Change of FAME by-laws to make French Consul General an automatic member of the board.

Motion: Edwin moved to accept the proposed changes to FAME’s by-laws making the French Consul General an automatic member of the board (see attached). James seconded. The board members present voted unanimously to accept the motion.

1. Approval of the September Minutes

Motion: Laura moved to accept the minutes with attachments. Allen seconded. There was one public comment on current teacher salary cap range and another public comment on pupil support.

The board voted to unanimously accept the September minutes.

At 10:56 Carlos moved to adjourn. James seconded. The board voted unanimously to accept the motion to adjourn.

For FAME, Inc. board meeting, 10/20/07.

Proposed change to FAME, Inc. by-laws to make the French Consul General an automatic member of the FAME Board of Directors. New language is in italics.

ARTICLE IV **DIRECTORS**

(2) Number and Qualification of Directors. The authorized number of Directors, to be set by the Board of Directors, shall be no less than three (3), and no greater than fifteen (15). The Board of Directors shall at all times include one French Program Parent Representative Director and one Montessori Program Parent Representative Director. *In addition, the French Consul General of New Orleans, or his representative designated by written proxy, will sit as an automatic member of the Board of Directors.* The Corporation may also have one or more advisory Directors who shall have no voting power or authority but shall serve in an advisory capacity only.

(3) Election and Term of Office. The terms of the initial Board of Directors, who are also the incorporators of the Corporation, shall expire on December 31, 2006 with the election and qualification of their successors. With the exception of Parent Representative Directors *and the French Consul General*, Successor Directors shall be elected for a one-year term by majority vote of those presently serving as Directors at an annual, regular, or special meeting of the Board called for that purpose. The French Program Parent Representative Director and Montessori Program Parent Representative Director shall be elected by a majority of French Program attendees and Montessori Program attendees respectively at a PTO General Meeting called for that purpose. Directors may serve consecutive terms.