

French and Montessori Education, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of January 26, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of French and Montessori Education, Inc., was held Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., at the Broadway Campus of Audubon Charter School, Chairman Carlos Zervigon presiding, and Secretary James Reiss in attendance. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as corrected.

Other board members in attendance: Wynn Seeman, Teddie Locke, Sharon Nossiter, Ken Ducote and Olivier Brochenin. The meeting began at 10:02 a.m.

Board members excused: Edwin Shorty, Jr., Gary Allen Wood and Allen Miller.

Representatives of the accounting firm LaPorte, Sehrt, Romig, Hand, CPA, presented their audit of the financial statements of Audubon Charter School as of June 30, 2007, and reported it as an unqualified, "clean" audit. Wynn Seeman moved that the board accept the audit. The motion was adopted unanimously.

A new board member, Sharon Nossiter, was welcomed. She replaces former French program representative Laura Watts, who will continue in a non-voting capacity as chairman of the Budget Committee.

Board officers for the term of January through December 2008 were elected. Each was elected unanimously. They are Chairman Carlos Zervigon, nominated by Teddie Locke; Secretary Sharon Nossiter, nominated by James Reiss; Vice Chairman Teddie Locke, nominated by Carlos Zervigon; Treasurer James Reiss, nominated by Wynn Seeman.

Teddie Locke moved for approval of the December 15, 2007, minutes. They were approved unanimously with the addition of the information that ACS teacher Rona King had volunteered to serve on the charter revision committee.

James Reiss moved for acceptance of the 2008 calendar of board meetings dates. FAME will forthwith meet on the fourth Saturday of each month rather than the third Saturday. This will enable the administration to attend more easily the NOPS meetings that are held in the third week of the month, and give FAME updated reports from NOPS. FAME will not meet in August as the administration will be busy with the start of the new year. The 2008 calendar was adopted unanimously.

The board heard reports from ACS CEO Janice Dupuy, Budget Committee Chairman Laura Watts and Facilities Committee Chairman Ken Ducote.

Ms. Dupuy noted that the application deadline for the next school year has passed, and that ACS received approximately 600 applications which are under review. iLEAP tutoring has begun for 3rd graders, with excellent participation. LEAP tutoring for 4th and 8th graders is also underway, with good attendance.

The Montessori library is newly open and available to parents, staff and board members at the Broadway campus. Montessori parent meetings in December and January were well-attended. The subject was the Montessori Approach to Discipline. Peter and Rosann Larrow from Montessori Opportunities will conduct a seminar Feb. 28-March 1. Two teachers and two assistants will attend the AMS annual spring conference in Washington, D.C., next month.

Ms. Dupuy also said that Audubon is on the Capital Projects list for a new roof at both campuses, and that the administration has spoken with Herman Taitt about the need for an overhang and non-skid surfacing for the portables.

Ms. Watts reported that the deficit in ACS revenues is due to timing issues related to reimbursable funds. The administration is hopeful that the effect of this will be lessened as payments move to quarterly or monthly reimbursement. This is an on-going and developing issue.

An issue of import to Audubon is that CODOFIL money is not being differentiated and distributed to Orleans Parish schools on a per-CODOFIL (French) teacher basis, but on a per student basis for all schools in the parish.

She underlined the importance of hiring a grant writer/development staff member as soon as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m. The FAME board next meets on February 23, 2008.

Sharon Stallworth Nossiter, Secretary