

Minutes of the May 31, 2008, meeting of FAME, called for 10 a.m. at the Broadway Campus, 428 Broadway.

Board members in attendance: Teddi Locke, Wynn Seeman, Edwin Shorty, Sharon Nossiter, Olivier Brochenin, James Reiss and Ken Ducote.

Board members excused: Carlos Zervigon, Allen Miller, Cornelius Tilton.

Administration represented by: Janice Dupuy, Marie-Claude Kellermann, Ellen Selvidge, Lynette Pierce, Dawn Collins, Alisa Dupuy. Budget committee chair Laura Watts also in attendance.

In the absence of Chairman Carlos Zervigon, vice-chair Teddi Locke called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

- I. Approval of April minutes. Moved by James Reiss, seconded by Edwin Shorty. Unanimously approved without discussion.
- II. Nominations Committee Report/Recommendations. The committee recommended electing Budget Committee Chair Laura Watts to FAME as a voting member representing the community. So moved by Wynn Seeman, seconded by James Reiss, unanimous approval. Laura took her seat with the board.
- III. Update on Charter School Legislation. Education lobbyist Cheron Brylski, who works with the School Leadership Center and Carolyn Roemer of the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, attended the meeting to discuss the current legislative session.

She characterized the most important bills of the session, all originating in the House Education Committee, as housekeeping bills. One of these, HB 463, addresses schools that were chartered before Katrina. Another bill, supported by Orleans Parish School Board and the Orleans Parish charter schools, sets the fee charged by Orleans Parish for administrative work for the charters at 2 percent. However, the Baton Rouge school system wants the fee set at 10-15 percent, which would be a burden to the charter schools. This bill is stuck in the Senate Education Committee, which has little representation from Orleans Parish representation and is not very sympathetic to the idea of charter schools, Brylski said.

Another bill, important to charter school teachers, addresses the fact that after three years of teaching in a charter school, teachers must return to a non-charter school if they want their retirement health benefits. Although LABI, the State Department of Education and BESE all support a bill which would extend the three-year leave to five years, the Teachers' Union is opposing it, and it, too, is being held up in the Senate education committee.

Lobbyists for charter schools are spending a lot of time on educating legislators about what public charter schools are and who they serve. Most of the state does not have

any charter schools, and there is much confusion about what they are, Brylski said. She distributed a fact sheet from the Louisiana Association for Public Charter Schools that has also been distributed among legislators.

IV. Administration Report.

Dawn Collins gave the Carrollton Campus update. 100 percent of our 8th graders and 90 percent of the 4th grade passed the LEAP test this spring. A comparison of Spring 2007 and Spring 2008 test results will be available this summer.

The French 6th and 7th grade classes will join the Montessori 7th and 8th grade classes on the second floor of the main building this fall. The Montessori 6th grade will move to the portables.

Eighth grade graduation was held May 22 at Tulane University, with former Audubon parent Gil McGregor, who is currently an analyst for the New Orleans Hornets, as guest speaker. Thanks to board chair Carlos Zervigon and board member Sharon Nossiter for sharing this special moment with our graduates.

Janice Dupuy gave the Broadway Campus report. She thanked Bill Wendel, newly-elected PTO president, and the Riverdale Boy Scout Troop for preparing the newly-installed playground. They painted the equipment and mulched the area. She also thanked the entire PTO board of 2007-2008, and remarked she is looking forward to working with the new board.

A Family Appreciation Reception was held May 27 to thank the 100-plus families who completed 25 hours or more of service to the school this year. Thank you to all the families who volunteered this year. Parents and volunteers play an important role in the success of our school.

Many thanks for their service to the school were also extended to several staff members who are leaving Audubon: Tim Follett, Vicki Ferguson, Lindsey Crow, Melissa Levine, Jean-Paul Carayon, Caroline Averty and Suzie Levy.

Due to changes in the state-mandated testing schedule, Audubon's 2008-2009 school calendar will be amended and resubmitted to the Board at the June 2008 meeting.

Mme. Kellermann gave the French school report: Our 5th grade class has returned from its trip to France and had a wonderful educational experience. Thanks to Caroline Averty, Jane Joyner and Anne Crowe for planning and chaperoning the trip.

Loeticia Ducos has accepted the full-time position of interim French School Director for 2008-2009. Mme. Kellermann, who served as directrice this year, thanked Loeticia for accepting the position, and said she was looking forward to returning to teaching in the kindergarten program.

Ellen Selvidge gave the Montessori report. Peter and Rosann Larrow of Montessori Opportunities completed their third site visit in early May. Montessori training begins June 2 in Houston and June 16 at Audubon.

Ken Ducote moved that the board go on record as commending the school's students, staff, parents and teachers for their work on the high-stakes testing. He was seconded by James Reiss, unanimous approval by board.

V. Budget Committee Report, given by Budget Committee Chair Laura Watts.

This year's budget has a shortfall that may be exacerbated by the cost allocation from OPSB with regard to IT services, but the dollar amount has not been resolved, Laura said. This year, we have cash reserves; next year, we're working on the budget to balance it, but we're struggling because of the lack of funding for preK. We're looking at substantial fund-raising needs, which we're trying to reduce.

After 2008-2009, we will have to have significant structural changes. The Budget Committee is in discussions over this and will be working on recommendations for how to balance the budget and cut out the need for fund-raising in the operating budget entirely. This should come before the full board in early fall.

Laura presented a recommendation from the Budget Committee which affects our recruiting in France. The worry has always been that the exchange rate could work against French-paid (CRSP) teachers. Although it is currently not a problem, she introduced a motion providing a mechanism for addressing the issue should it arise.

“In case of discrepancy between the CRSP salary and that of corresponding CODOFIL (1st, 2nd, or 3rd year), caused by Dollar strength against the Euro, the difference will be paid by the school to the CRSP teacher up to an amount of \$10,000 per year.

At the close of each semester, and not more than three weeks after the last day of that semester, the Budget Committee Chair will calculate the dollar equivalent of the gross salary (not including benefits but before taxes and other deductions) of the teacher for the weeks employed. The reference exchange rate will be Wall Street Journal, Reuters, or another reputable source, and will be an average of the Euro/Dollar exchange rate for the period in question.

Should the dollar equivalent Euro salary for the semester be lower than that of the appropriate CODOFIL salary, the difference will be divided by the number of local work days in that semester and then multiplied by the actual days worked. If the number of days worked is less than the total number of work days, up to ten (10) day sof paid leave per year will be added to the number of days worked for the basis of calculating the pro-rate payment.

Payment of any such currency rate adjustment will be promptly processed by Audubon Charter School staff upon Board and Administration approval of the calculation, which shall not be unduly delayed.”

Laura's motion was seconded by Ken Ducote, and approved unanimously. Board

member and French Consul Olivier Brochenin thanked the board, saying that it had been a preoccupation for recruiting purposes.

The next Budget Committee meeting will be Wednesday, June 25, 1:30 p.m., Carrollton Campus.

VI. French High School Update.

Olivier said the Consulate is ready to be of assistance when the movement is ready to seek it. Sharon Nossiter said she would contact the other charter schools with French programs to inquire about another meeting to discuss options and strategies.

Teddi Locke said she would like to thank the departing teachers and staff for their time. Edwin Shorty proposed a motion thanking Tim Follett, Vicki Ferguson, Lindsey Crow, Melissa Levine, Jean-Paul Carayon, Caroline Averty and Suzie Levy for their service to the school, as well as Marie-Claude Kellermann for all of her work as directrice. This was seconded by James Reiss, and unanimously approved.

Olivier noted his appreciation for the Board moving to a full-time director for the French program as well as the importance of a convergence of the two programs at ACS, materially, financially and pedagogically.

Wynn Seeman moved adjournment, seconded by Edwin, approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Nossiter.