

Minutes from Meeting of Board of Directors of Lycee Francais de la Nouvelle Orleans
Monday, August 16, 2021 @ 6:00pm
In-Person at 1800 Monroe Street, New Orleans, LA 70118

I. Open Meeting – C. Bordelon

C. Bordelon called meeting to order and took attendance.

II. Roll Call – C. Bordelon

The only board members present were Caroline Bordelon and Ann Meese. There was no quorum.

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from 7.12 Meeting of the Board of the Directors is tabled due to lack of quorum.

IV. Reports & Recommendations of Chairman

A. Motion to approve Public Records Request Response Protocol.

Motion to approve Public Records Request Response Protocol is tabled due to lack of quorum.

B. Update on HR response.

Will be given at next Board Meeting.

C. CEO search update.

Will be given at next Board Meeting.

D. 2nd Monday of Month Board Meeting scheduling conflict.

Will be given at next Board Meeting.

V. LFNO Transportation Update – J. Henry

John Henry reported that he had been working with the bus company, Absolute Royal, all summer to confirm routes and drivers. On Monday, August 9, he was informed that two critical pieces for LFNO to provide bus service were incomplete. First, the company did not have the required insurance. Second, the company was not able to provide us all 8 buses we requested/needed. John Henry did not inform CEO Danielle Dufauchard until Wednesday, August 11. They were able to get insurance company to insure 4 buses on Thursday and Friday, August 12 and 13.

4 of the 8 buses we needed from Absolute Royal were leased out and unavailable to LFNO. Henry attributed this to a city-wide shortage, at least in part.

J. Henry is working to consolidate routes. Since Friday, August 13, J. Henry was able to obtain 3 additional buses from Opelousas, LA. These buses still need to pass DOTD inspection before can be sued. Henry is hopeful that they will pass inspection by Friday, August 20 and that by Monday, August 23 the school can operate full routes. J. Henry is still looking for 8th bus.

Absolute Royal has all 8 binders of insurance.

A. Meese asked who is in charge of obtaining the insurance and J. Henry responded that Absolute Royal is.

J. Henry reported that when he asked Absolute Royal in July for proof of insurance, they responded that they could not afford down payment to obtain insurance. According to J. Henry, Absolute Royal did not communicate the need for more time to get buses.

J. Henry apologized multiple times.

VI. Old Business

A. Strategic Plan Update

Will be given at next Board Meeting.

VII. Reports & Recommendations of Committees

A. Interim CEO Report – D. Dufauchard

LFNO had their first day of school August 16 for Pre-K, 1st Grade, and 3rd-7th grade, the Johnson Campus. McNair will start August 18. The material amendment to the charter to allow for use of McNair will go before BESE before then.

D. Dufauchard provided a city-wide update on transportation. She met with various school leaders across NOLA. All reported having challenges related to bus and bus driver shortages. They have met with the Mayor to report, especially seeking assistance with inspections.

New ESS Director is Mario Myles. They will be at next Academic Committee Meeting. There is an ESS Coordinator at each campus, Patton, Johnson and McNair.

With regards to high school curriculum, LFNO will hold an Academic Café in early September, before the next Academic Committee Meeting to discuss and will also discuss at next Academic Committee meeting.

An enrollment update will be forthcoming as numbers are not yet solidified.

D. Dufauchard reported that LFNO has continued its partnership with SELF who performs SWAT analysis for ESS. They are receiving assistance with a strategic plan as well as coaching services to build ESS.

B. Standing Committees

1. Academic Committee Report – A. Meese

Academic Committee met July 18 at Johnson campus. They will be proposing a change to name of committee to “Academic Excellence Committee” to Governance Committee, based on template from charter school resource.

Dates of future committee meetings have been decided and will be posted. Next meeting is September 9th at 5:30pm, and then on September 30th.

A. Meese met with D. Dufauchard and will meet again to introduce ESS director to committee.

Committee members asked for benchmark testing presentation, asked for overview of professional development for school year, with specific references to differentiation in instruction, and clear statement of math curriculum changes.

A. Meese is in receipt of parental request and aware of concern regarding curriculum changes.

2. Facilities Committee Report

Will be given at next Board Meeting.

3. Finance Committee Report

Will be given at next Board Meeting.

4. Governance Committee Report

Will be given at next Board Meeting.

C. Other Committees

1. Amis du Lycee Report – A. Norman

A. Norman reported that Amis has multiple grant applications out and will hopefully report on status at September Board Meeting. She will need volunteers to assist with high school ribbon cutting ceremony and that will be announced in newsletter.

2. Athletics Committee Report

None.

3. Culture & Community Committee Report – S. Roberts

Will be given at next Board Meeting.

VII. New Business & Action Items

A. Format of future meetings – C. Bordelon

Will be given at next Board Meeting.

IX. General Public Comment Period

Andrew Ramsey

Item: Academic Committee Report

Parent of rising 8th grader and rising 10th grader. Sent email to Board earlier in day on August 16. 70 more parents have signed on to email contents. He is commenting on transition from Honors track. Believes unreasonable to learn of issues in board minutes. Brought to attention in June. LFNO will not be competitive with other schools.

Lilly Schmidt

Item: General

Disappointed that so few board members not present. There's been a lot happening, huge administrative shift, school started. Wants update on 32-page memorandum, and not just about HR. Wants enrollment report. Questions if we are a competitive school. She plans to file OCR complaint if no response to her complaint about lack of ESS services in French, which she raised in December.

Max

Item: General

Surprised we are having just an informational meeting instead of board meeting given issues. Need to increase accessibility to board, no reason why we can't have virtual option to attend. We still lack audience that reflects student body, need to have options for parents to attend, like offer childcare or food. This will benefit parents and staff. Need to move away from effort to reduce parent involvement. Wants us to include in public records request protocol that all documents must be preserved according to law.

Ali Loftin

Item: General – Transportation

Believes that John Henry exemplified humility and character in admitting he made a mistake. We need more of this character in our administration. Email sent Wednesday night regarding transportation and delay of start of school year lacked transparency. Needed to issue press release on next steps. Parents finally got rapid fire emails which were transparent and informative. Will be on communication committee to help with PR.

Geri Robinson

Item: Any & All – Transportation

Transportation issue is a broader city-wide issue. Had specific questions: What did LFNO's request require for insurance? Does insurance obtained by company meet city requirements? Do buses meet current DOTD requirements? Issues could have been addressed on front end.

Darren Beltz

Item: Any one.

Need to move board meetings out of Johnson cafeteria room. It has bad acoustics. Have to have public comment at all meetings. Need to try harder to hear from parent body, right now, there is only one way which is email board and parents don't get responses. We would receive less public records requests if we were more transparent. He has 8 year old who cannot get vaccine. Need virtual option for kids who cannot be vaccinated. Knows no one else is offering a virtual option but we can do better.

Brandon Lennert

Item: COVID/We Need Virtual Class

We need virtual option for students with pre-existing conditions. We would be on lockdown with data we have now if it was last year. There is no virtual option at Patton. What can we do to keep his child in school and active? He is getting cold shoulder from Patton, this is bad.

Amy George

Item: Communication & Transparency

Important for her 9th grader to be in person. Surprised CEO report did not address COVID protocols. Need documentation online accessible to all parents. Transparency and communication will go a really long way. We are not psychic, we will help if we know how to help. We are allies not adversaries. Let's advocate together.

Delaney Vollmer

Item: Gen Public Comment

Frustrated at things she's learned through public records requests, information known also by Max and Darren. Concerning things in 32 page memorandum that subsequent public records requests have revealed. LFNO got notice July 1 regarding public records request protocol and had two things to do in response and didn't, Board only sent letter in response. Now it's on agenda but its too late.

Dr. Terry Hauver

Item: Academic Committee

Communication from administration has been deplorable. He will send email but gets no response until weeks later. Didn't find out about academic changes until it was too late to choose different school. Can't even find people to talk to. Disappointed in direction of academics in general regarding bacc, AP, and now discontinuing honors and no college credits. He has kids not allowed to take honors courses and made to repeat classes.

