

**Shreveport Charter Schools, Inc.**  
Linwood Public Charter School  
401 W. 70<sup>th</sup> Street · Shreveport, Louisiana 71106

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**Board of Trustees Meeting**

**AUGUST MEETING MINUTES**

This meeting was held in-person in the school auditorium on **August 15, 2022**, at **4:00 PM**.

**Board Members Present:** Gard Wayt, Travis Morehart, Lauren Marchive, Dr. Bernard Kimble, Cynthia Franklin, Buck Magee, Dr. Kerry Laster (zoom), Sheryl Nix (zoom)

**Leadership Team/Staff/Consultants Present:** Dr. Staughton Jennings, Tara Sealy, Kevin Cox, Andrew Nguyen, Wanda Austin-Lewis, Jennifer Hamilton-Myles, Marilyn Johnson-Preston, Shirley Pierson, Letisha Williams, Camille Cruse, Starla Collin-Ross, Cheradee Williams, Richard Hilliard, Johnny Taylor, Dr. Jonathan Williams (zoom)

**Call to Order:** Mr. Wayt called the meeting to order at 4:13 pm.

**Quorum Check:** A quorum was present.

**Approval of Agenda:**

- Mr. Morehart moved to approve the agenda as distributed.
- Mr. Magee seconded the motion to approve the agenda as distributed.
- All voted in favor.

**Conflict of Interest Advisements:** There were none.

**Visitor Comments:** There were none.

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

- Mr. Marchive moved to approve the July 25, 2022 minutes as distributed.
- Dr. Kimble seconded the motion to approve the minutes as distributed.
- All voted in favor.

**Financial Report:**

Kevin Cox presented the FY23 Proposed Budget, which the board had reviewed at the last meeting. He shared that the FY23 Proposed Budget is up for adoption. See the [link](#) for details.

**Board Q & A**

Q: Mr. Marchive asked can we amend the budget later based on the student counts.

A: Kevin explained that the student counts are made October 1 and February 1. Our funding is based on the average of these two counts, and we can amend the budget by Board decision at any time.

Q: Mr. Morehart asked Dr. Jennings and Kevin what salary increases are included in the proposed budget.

A: Dr. Jennings responded that only the state-required raises are included in the proposed budget.

Q: Mr. Morehart also asked is the school's merit-based compensation system active and included in the proposed budget. or is it still in the developmental phase.

A: Dr. Jennings stated that there is such a system in place. It was discussed in the Academic Committee meeting, and he will bring it to the next board meeting for review. Mr. Cox added that it is built into the proposed budget.

**Adoption of FY23 Proposed Budget**

- Mr. Morehart moved to adopt the FY23 Budget as presented.

- Dr. Kimble seconded to adopt the FY23 Budget.
- All voted in favor.

Mr. Wayt signed the official document to acknowledge the adoption of the budget.

**Executive Director's Report:**

- Dr. Jennings gave the Executive Director's report. (Consent agenda reports had been sent electronically for the board's review prior to today's meeting.) The floor was opened for questions.

**Consent Agenda Reports**

***Items included: Academics, Operations, Marketing/Recruitment, Student Activities and Human Resources***

**Board Q & A:**

Mr. Wayt commented that the Academic report was outstanding.

Q: Mr. Morehart asked about current vacancies for employment.

A: Ms. Myles mentioned that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade ELA Teacher position has been filled. We are currently in the final stages of hiring an Assistant Principal of Instruction. There are vacant positions for a 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher and a 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Teacher.

Q: Ms. Nix asked what grades the Assistant Principal serves.

A: Ms. Myles replied "K-5".

Q: Ms. Nix asked about the reason for the Assistant Principal for K-5.

A: Dr. Jennings explained that this person will help manage one of the campuses since the principal will not be able to always service two schools.

Q: Mr. Wayt asked what's the status for the vacant positions.

A: Ms. Myles explained we have applicants and are in good standing.

Q: Mr. Magee asked about the impact of not having a 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teacher.

A: Dr. Jennings explained that we have a Social Studies coach that is teaching until the position is filled.

Q: Mr. Magee asked about the student count for attendance thus far.

A: Dr. Jennings replied that we have 1,078 students enrolled, 123 students absent, and 100-150 students on the waiting list as of Friday, August 12. He stated that the registrar will scrub the list for students that will no longer attend Linwood.

**LEAP Scores**

Dr. Jonathan Williams presented a report on raw data of the LEAP from 2018-2022. He shared that based on the State's SPF Calculator, the school has made a 5.6-point increase. He stated that the students have grown significantly in Mastery and Basic Performance Levels. The State gives Growth to Mastery points for improvement based on Spring 2021 and Spring 2022 scores. Dr. Williams believes we are in a good place to show growth.

Q: Mr. Marchive asked why US History and Social Studies has a high percentage of students with unsatisfactory scores.

A: Dr. Williams and Ms. Sealy explained that there is no State Tier 1 curriculum for Social Studies. As a result, Ms. Sealy thinks this has a huge impact on student performance and testing. She also stated that the State is in the process of revamping the Social Studies curriculum. In the meantime, the school has brought on a Social Studies coach.

Q: Mr. Wayt asked if there is a highly recommended program that can be used for teaching Social Studies.

A: Dr. Jennings cautioned stepping out of the State requirements for Tier 1 Curricular. Mr. Wayt responded that there is no state required curriculum for Social Studies. Ms. Sealy noted that there is a structure and sample lessons, but it needs to be defined.

Q: Mr. Wayt asked do the sample lessons include teaching on financial literacy.

A: Ms. Sealy and Dr. Williams agreed they are not aware of that on these grade levels.

Q: Mr. Magee asked is there national standards of the State driving these changes.

A: Dr. Jennings replied he has not heard of anything.

#### Approval of Consent Agenda

- Mr. Morehart moved to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.
- Mr. Marchive seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as distributed.
- All voted in favor.

#### Aquaponic Update

Dr. Jennings reported no new update. We are still waiting on the IT department to relocate at the end of August/early September so that space can be used for Aquaponics.

#### Cyber Innovation Center Update

Dr. Jennings reported no new update. Ms. Sealy shared that we will start this afterschool program Thursday, September 15. Ms. Nash will be the instructor for the Cyber Club on Thursdays.

**Board Chairman's Report:** Mr. Wayt provided the Board Chairman's Report.

#### Weight Training

Mr. Wayt shared that Dr. Jennings has a location for the weight room, and LSUS will provide personnel to collaborate with us. Mr. Wayt shared that he went to a weight training competition last week at LSUS. He said it was impressive, and he is excited for the program to start at Linwood.

#### Second Campus

Mr. Marchive asked if the contract has been signed for the asbestos Abatement.

Mr. Wayt has not received the contract from the contractor. Mr. Marchive will follow up with the contractor.

#### Charter School Conferences

Mr. Wayt stated that he would like board members to strongly consider attending the Louisiana Charter School Conference on December 15, 2022. Mrs. Lewis is prepared to send reservations to receive Early Bird rates.

#### Board Retreat

Mr. Wayt would like to set a Saturday in September or October to have a board retreat. He asked board members to send him their availability and preferences.

#### Community Advisory Council

Mr. Wayt shared that this meeting will be scheduled in late September or early October at Linwood. Mr. Magee will assist Mr. Wayt with getting attendance for this meeting.

Ms. Pierson invited the board to view the second floor Library/Media Center after the Board meeting. Ms. Nix asked if there is an elevator for the school. After discussion, Mr. Wayt advised that the Finance Committee will be asked to consider, at its next meeting, a budget amendment to fund the elevator and a handicap ramp.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 PM.

**Please mark your calendars.**

Consensus - The next meeting will be on **Monday, September 19, 2022, at 4 PM**