

**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 at 331 E. 71<sup>st</sup> Street and Zoom (Meeting ID: 267 635 4207) on **August 21, 2023, at 4:00 PM.**

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

**Leadership Team/Staff/Contractors Present:** Dr. Staughton Jennings, Shirley Pierson, Jennifer Hamilton-Myles, Tara Sealy, Wanda Austin-Lewis, Letisha Williams, Camille Cruse, Richard Hilliard, Marvin McMurray, Starla Ross, Cheradee Williams; Kevin Cox of 4<sup>th</sup> Sector, Dr. Jonathan Williams (Zoom)

**Call to Order:** Mr. Wayt called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

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

**Approval of Agenda:**

- Mr. Magee moved to approve the agenda as presented.
- Dr. Laster seconded the motion.
- All voted in favor and the agenda was approved.

**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 2023 minutes as distributed.
- Mr. Magee seconded to approve the July 2023 minutes.
- All voted in favor and the July 2023 minutes were approved.

**Dr. Williams' Presentation**

Dr. Williams reported Linwood Charter's 2023-24 Preliminary Student Outcomes based on the 2023 State Assessment results. He presented comparisons of Linwood Charter's 2022 to 2023 Assessment Index and the comparisons of the 2023 State Test scores with 14 compatible schools in Caddo parish. There were only 3 schools that outperformed Linwood in ELA and Math. There was no school that outperformed Linwood in Science. There was one school that outperformed Linwood in Social Studies. Overall, Linwood Charter demonstrated top gains across the board in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Dr. Laster asked Dr. Williams to look at comparisons with Magnolia Charter School. Dr. Jennings mentioned that the comparison may not be relative since Magnolia operates on a different scale that includes high school test scores.

Ms. Sealy shared a message from The Center of Literacy & Learning congratulating Linwood Charter on "outperforming statewide growth in LEAP scores in ELA."

**Financial Report:**

Kevin Cox of 4<sup>th</sup> Sector presented the Proposed 2023-24 SY Operating Budget. See the [link](#) for details.

This was the first time the board saw the proposed budget, and there was no action taken on this budget. The budget will be adopted at the September BOT meeting.

Mr. Morehart gave a report on the Finance Committee meeting held earlier today at 2:45 pm, dealing primarily with the details of our planned change to begin banking with Home Federal Bank.

#### **Executive Director's Report:**

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

#### **Consent Agenda Reports**

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

#### **Academics**

#### **Board Q & A**

#### **Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

- Mr. Morehart moved to approve the Consent Agenda reports as presented.
- Ms. Toliver seconded the motion.
- All voted in favor and the motion was adopted.

#### **Weightlifting Update**

Ms. Cruse reported on the Weightlifting program. The fall program will start next Tuesday and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 pm to 6 pm. Transportation from LSUS to home will be provided. There is a total of 20 participants: 8 girls and 12 boys.

#### **Aquaponics**

Ms. Sealy reported that Aquaponics will continue. The teacher has provided a list of items needed. There will be at least 14-15 students per class for grades 6, 7 & 8. There are 3 classes.

#### **CIC**

Ms. Sealy reported that we will scale back on robotics to focus on coding for our lower grade levels. This summer, two teachers went through training at LSU's Cain Center in preparation for coding with grades 3-5. These teachers will use some fundamentals from CIC to combine with code.org. Grades 6-8 will focus on the Amazon grant. The teacher who taught robotics last year will teach STEM EDA through cyber.org for grades 6-8. There will be 4 layers of activities: coding fundamental, cyber literacy (robotics), cyber society, and STEM Engineering Design Process.

#### **Human Resources**

Mr. Wayt requested that HR provides an updated organization chart that includes names and titles.

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

#### **LDOE Update**

Mr. Wayt reported that there is a new person in charge, Dr. Pam Schooler, at the LDOE who oversees our school.

#### **Renovations to the Second Campus**

Mr. Marchive reported a problem with bats found in the wall of the girl's bathroom but said this should not hold up construction because the bats are migrants. He also stated that the contractors are on schedule and making good progress. The contractors provide monthly reports to track the schedule.

Mr. Wayt shared that part of the conversation in the finance committee meeting was about prospects of additional classrooms at 331 E. 71<sup>st</sup> street to continue expansion.

#### **BOT Meeting Schedule 23-24 SY**

Mr. Wayt noted that we need to finalize the board meeting schedule today. The board then agreed to the schedule presented, with amendments that include the following dates: Nov. 13, Dec. 18, Jan. 16, and Feb. 12.

### **BOT Retreat**

Mr. Wayt asked the board members to check their Saturday schedules and notify him of any dates that they will not be available from 9am -2pm in September or the first two Saturdays in October. He would like to finalize the board retreat date soon. The board members will email their conflicting dates to Mr. Wayt.

### **Board Trustee Member**

Mr. Wayt opened the floor to entertain a motion to approve Dr. Whitney Polley as a new board member.

- Mr. Magee moved to approve Dr. Polley's membership as a board member.
- Mr. Morehart seconded the motion.
- All voted in favor and Dr. Polley was approved as a new board member.

Mr. Wayt stated that there is an additional board member seat available.

**Unfinished Business:** Dr. Jennings asked the board who would be attending the LA Charter School Conference on December 14 so that the school can pay the early bird fee and secure travel. The following board members acknowledge that they will attend the conference: Mr. Wayt, Dr. Laster, Mr. Magee, Ms. Toliver, Ms. Nix, Ms. Franklin, Dr. Kimble, and Attorney Graham.

Mr. Wayt asked about the status of the parking lot. Dr. Jennings replied that parking lot revision is on hold due to the second location's building construction.

**New Business:** Mr. Magee mentioned that the BESE board election in our district was open for qualifying in the November election. There was one candidate who qualified before the deadline and that is the current BESE representative's wife.

**Executive Session:** There was none.

**Adjourn: Mr. Morehart moved, and Dr. Kimble seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 PM. All voted in favor.**

**Please mark your calendars.**

The next meeting will be on September 11, at 4:00 PM.