

Shreveport Charter Schools, Inc.
Linwood Public Charter School
401 W. 70th Street ~ Shreveport, Louisiana 71106

Board of Trustees Meeting

September 2024 MEETING MINUTES

This meeting was held at 331 E. 71st Street and Zoom Meeting (ID: 267 635 4207) on September 16, at 4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: *In-Person:* Gard Wayt, Travis Morehart, Dr. Kerry Laster, Lauren Marchive, Buck Magee, Cynthia Franklin, Whitney Polley, Mildred Tolliver, Lori Graham, Sheryl Nix

Leadership Team/Faculty: *In-Person:* Dr. Staughton Jennings, Shirley Pierson, Letisha Williams, Richard Hilliard, Wanda Austin-Lewis, Jennifer Hamilton-Myles, Tara Sealy, Aaryenne Strickland, Shoyla Bryant

Contractors Present: Kevin Cox (*4th Sector Solutions*)

Call to Order: Mr. Wayt called the meeting to order at 4:17 p.m.

Quorum Check: A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda:

- Mr. Magee moved to approve the agenda as presented.
- Mr. Nix 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 August 2024 minutes as distributed.
- Dr. Laster seconded the motion.
- All voted in favor and the August 2024 minutes were approved.

Financial Report:

Mr. Wayt asked Mr. Kevin Cox from 4th Sector Solutions and Mrs. Wanda Austin-Lewis to present the Financial Report.

Proposed 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Operating Budget

The budget was presented at the August board meeting and action must be taken at the next (this) meeting. Mr. Cox re-presented the 24/25 Fiscal Year Operating Budget. He mentioned that there had been a few cosmetic revisions and updated some of the capital expenses based on information received from Mrs. Pierson. Mr. Cox gave a brief review of the budget, notating the biggest difference from the previous year's as being the reduction in Federal and Title funding due to the end of the ESSER Funds. The budget did balance with a net surplus of \$165,000.

Question, Answer, Comment:

- Q: Mr. Wayt: Will you elaborate more about Transportation and the changes in that department?
- A: Mr. Cox: Yes, the lease price did increase per bus. We also added an additional bus.
- C: Mr. Magee: Are there zero ESSER dollars in the Federal Entitlement Funding this year?
- A: Mr. Cox: We may have a little bit of rollover. ESSER actually ends on September 30th.
- A: Mrs. Lewis: We have until September 30th to obligate those funds. We are working on that now. We plan to use all of it.
- Q: Mr. Magee: Is that for FY 24?
- A: Mrs. Lewis: Yes, that is correct.
- Q: Mr. Wayt: Are we current on all receipts from the Federal Funding?
- A: Mr. Cox: Yes, we made some fairly large claims towards the end of the year and to date, we've received most of those claims.

Approval of 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Operating Budget:

- Mr. Morehart moved to approve the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Operating Budget as presented.
- Mr. Marchive seconded the motion.
- All voted in favor of the motion and the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Operating Budget was approved.

State Stipends

Question, Answer, Comment:

- Q: Mr. Magee: Is there anything the Board needs to do with the State Stipends or is that just for information?
- A: Mr. Cox: The state allocated us funds to pay out as stipends. The Board will have to approve the distribution plan before we can distribute those stipends. They have to be distributed by December 15th. We will have a plan ready for the board to take action at next meeting.

Executive Director's Report:

Consent Agenda Reports Received

Consent agenda reports were sent electronically for the board's review prior to today's meeting. The floor was open for questions. (*Reports included: Academics, Operations, Marketing/Recruitment, Human Resources*)

Dr. Jennings asked the BOT if there were any questions regarding the Consent Agendas.

Question, Answer, Comment:

- Q: Mr. Marchive: On Consent Agenda, under Operations Report... Is Roy Peterson a new hire?
- A: Mrs. Pierson: Yes, and he is present today.
- Q: Mr. Marchive: Is he the replacement for Mr. McMurray?
- A: Mrs. Pierson: Yes, but he was already on staff.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items:

- Mr. Morehart moved to approve the Consent Agenda reports as presented.
- Mrs. Tolliver seconded the motion.
- All voted in favor and the Consent Agenda Reports were adopted.

LA SB207 Law – Cell Phone Policy

Dr. Jennings stated that there were changes made to the policy and sent to the attorney for review. It will be available for adoption at the next board meeting. If a special meeting is needed, it can be arranged.

Question, Answer, Comment:

- C: Mrs. Pierson: The policy presented to the attorney is in your packet. The concern during the August BOT meeting was “if parents were notified with each occurrence.” We modified the policy to include notifying parents with each occurrence. The other question was around confiscation of the cell phone. We were concerned about the liability of keeping the students’ phones. These concerns led to us reaching out to our attorney.
We have to decide if we will allow our students to bring their phones to the school at all or not.
- C: Dr. Jennings: I think our kids should be allowed to bring their cell phones to school because a lot of our kids walk home or have after school activities. They need them to communicate with their parents. My concern is what we do throughout the school day as it relates to students and their cell phones.
- C: Mr. Wayt: I had a question about how long we can keep the student’s property and what our policy would be with respect to that. Did you have the same question Lauren (*Mr. Marchive*)?
- A: Mr. Marchive: We received the policy earlier and then it changed. I inquired about the changes but was able to see the changes in the document we received under the 2nd offense. Then I asked the question, “why is confiscation still showing up in the 1st offense?”
- Q: Mr. Wayt: So, are we still working on that? Is there a target date for completing that policy?
- C: Mrs. Pierson: As soon as I speak with her tomorrow, I will get it back to you to make a decision on the policy.
- Q: Dr. Laster: What kind of problems are you have right now with the students and their cell phones?
- Q: Mr. Wayt: Are the students already complying with what’s expected?
- A: Dr. Jennings: Yes, they are. We don’t typically know there is something going on with a cell phone until something is posted online. And we have someone on our staff that’s really good about finding things out on social media and sharing it with us.

Board Chairman’s Report: (*provided by Mr. Wayt*)

Renovations of the 2nd Campus

Mr. Wayt called on Mr. Marchive for an update on the renovations of the 2nd campus.

Question, Answer, Comment:

- C: Mr. Marchive: We still have a few minor punch list items. The biggest issue we have is with the lift. The design is supposed to be giving us some cost information to do some improvements based on the needs because its open at the top right now.
- Q: Mr. Wayt: Any idea on when we will have the cost information?
- A: Mr. Marchive: I would expect that we would have that information in the next week or two. Afterwards, we can make a decision on how to proceed from there.
- Q: Mr. Wayt: Mrs. Pierson, have you heard anything new or any additional information about the cost of the lift or elevator?
- A: Mrs. Pierson: No, I haven’t.

By-Laws Review

The by-laws review will be completed on September 26th at 2pm in Attorney Lori Graham's office. Any board member is welcome to attend. The final version of the by-laws will be available for review at the next board meeting.

CEO Evaluation Process

There is a meeting scheduled tomorrow (September 17th) at 10am to work on it and decide on some questions brought forward by our consultants.

LSUS Weightlifting Partnership

The partnership is moving very well. We are receiving rave reviews on the students and their excitement for the program. Mrs. Strickland is taking the lead on this, and Kendrick Farris is working weekly with this as well.

RSD Visit

We had an RSD visit from the Superintendent of RSD as well as Executive Director, Lindsey Reed, who is our new point of contact for RSD. The visit went well. They made some very positive comments about the school and how things are operating.

Unfinished Business: There was none.

New Business: There was none.

Dr. Jennings planned a Meet & Greet for our faculty to meet with the Board of Trustee members after the meeting.

Adjourn: Mr. Magee moved; Mr. Morehart seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m. All voted in favor.