
FOUNDATION FOR LOUISIANA STUDENTS

Board Retreat Meeting Minutes

Lod Cook Alumni Center

3838 W. Lakeshore Dr.

Baton Rouge, LA 70808

June 14, 2025

IN COMPLIANCE WITH LOUISIANA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

I. OPENING ITEMS

A. Board President Holliday called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

B. Board President Holliday requested a roll call vote. The following Directors through a voice vote were recorded as present: Mr. John Price, Dr. Hala Esmail, Mr. Thomas Nealsson, Dr. James Llorens, and Ms. Linda Holliday.

Guests present: Dr. Quentina Timoll, Mrs. Melissa Grand, Ms. Darah Husser, Mr. Michael Tran, Mr. Michael Adams, Mr. Gregory Nielsen, and Ms. Leslie Hill.

Conference Room & Online Guests: See attached list.

C. On motion by Director Price, seconded by Director Nealsson, and carried to approval of the Board Retreat Meeting Agenda for June 14, 2025. The Board Retreat Meeting Agenda was approved as presented. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

II. WELCOME

A. 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. – Continental Breakfast

B. 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. – Board Champions: Habits & Practices of Healthy Boards. Board President Linda Holliday introduced Gregory Nielsen, JD: President and CEO Nielsen Training & Consulting, LLC. Mr. Gregory Nielsen's presentation, *AI 101 for Nonprofit Boards*, emphasized that while artificial intelligence can enhance nonprofit operations, it does not replace human judgment, relationships, or ethical decision-making. He highlighted the crucial role of board leadership in ensuring that AI is adopted thoughtfully and responsibly, aligning with the organization's mission and values.

C. 10:30 - 1045 a.m. – Break

*****Mr. John Price left the meeting.**

D. 10:45 - 12:00 p.m. – Board Champions: Habits & Practices of Healthy Boards. Board President Linda Holliday introduced Gregory Nielsen, JD:

President and CEO Nielsen Training & Consulting, LLC. Mr. Gregory Nielsen's presentation, *Board Champions: Habits & Practices of Healthy Boards*, emphasized the key responsibilities and legal foundations of nonprofit boards. He highlighted the board's role in setting strategy, providing oversight, securing resources, and supporting the CEO. Effective boards operate as cohesive teams focused on purpose, performance, and accountability. Bylaws, legal statutes, and funder requirements guide their actions, while strong governance ensures integrity, financial stewardship, and mission advancement.

E. 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. – Buffet Lunch

*****Mr. Nealsson left the meeting.**

*****Mr. Michael Adams left the meeting.**

F. 1:00 - 1:15 p.m. – Executive Summary of Draft Employee & Student Handbooks. Dr. Quentina Timoll reviewed the executive summary of both the employee and student handbooks with Ms. Melissa Grand. Melissa Grand emphasized that the Emergency Operations Plan should not be posted publicly. The plan has been reviewed and revised by Barry Harris, Eugenia Cardozo, and Janna Husser. The draft employee handbook, student handbook, and emergency operations plan will be brought before the Board for approval at the June board meeting. A parent satisfaction survey sheet was also discussed. Board President Holliday reviewed the renewed Charter Contract dated as of July 1, 2025, Bulletin 126, Board Bylaws, Board members Terms, Form 990, and Secretary of State documentation.

G. 1:15 - 2:15 p.m. – Ethics PD. Ms. Melissa Grand led the discussion on the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics for Public Servants. Anyone engaged in the performance of a governmental function, anyone under the supervision of authority of an elected official or another employee of a government organization - whether compensated or not must take part in ethics training.

H. 2:15 - 2:30 p.m. – Break

I. 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. – Legislative Updates with LAPCS. Board president Linda Holliday introduced Ms. Leslie Hill with LAPCS. Leslie Hill presented a summary of the 2025 legislative efforts supporting charter schools. Key bills include protections for property rights during charter transitions (HB 51), expanded access to facility loans (SB 71), and initiatives to enhance student safety, crisis intervention, vocational education, and accountability reporting. Charter advocates are also participating in broader education policy discussions through proposed study groups and safety task forces. While facing opposition such as SR 92, which criticizes charter schools as experimental, LAPCS continues to defend their value. Budget highlights include teacher/staff stipends, expanded tutoring, and funding for student programs, with no changes to the MFP.

III. CLOSING

A. The Board Retreat adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

CONFERENCE ROOM & ONLINE GUESTS:

First Name	Last Name	Location
Katie	Cali	Anderson Conference Room