
FOUNDATION FOR LOUISIANA STUDENTS

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

3113 Valley Creek Drive

Baton Rouge, LA

First Floor Conference Room

June 24, 2025

IN COMPLIANCE WITH LOUISIANA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

I. OPENING ITEMS

- A. Board President Holliday called the meeting to order at 5:25 pm.
- B. Board President Holliday requested a roll call vote. The following Directors through a voice vote were recorded as present: Mr. John Price, Ms. Grace Anderson, Mr. Thomas Nealsson, Dr. Hala Esmail, Dr. James Llorens, and Ms. Linda Holliday.

Guests present: Ms. Lekisha Chambers, Ms. Darah Husser, Ms. Eugenia Cardozo, Mr. Barry Harris, Ms. Traci Payne, Mr. Michael Tran, Ms. Melissa Fox, Ms. Beth Liner, Mr. Michael Adams, Mr. Gary Dunn, Mr. Matt Viguerie, Ms. Matte Haack, and Ms. Kendall Palmer.

Conference Room & Online Guests: See attached list.

- C. On motion by Director Anderson, seconded by Director Llorens, to approve the Regular Board meeting agenda for June 24, 2025. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

II. ROUTINE BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Minutes from the May 20, 2025 Regular Board meeting. On motion by Director Nealsson and seconded by Director Anderson, to approve the Regular Board meeting minutes for May 20, 2025. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.
- B. Approval of Minutes from the June 14, 2025 Board Retreat meeting. On motion by Director Nealsson and seconded by Director Llorens, to approve the Board Retreat meeting minutes for June 14, 2025. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in

favor. Director Anderson abstained. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

III. ORAL REPORTS

- A. Ms. Lekisha Chambers presented the Superintendent Report on behalf of Dr. Quentina Timoll. Ms. Chambers reported that UVA's Beta chapter earned the prestigious District of Distinction status, placing it among only 78 districts nationwide offering Beta at all eligible grade levels. The DECA chapter received the Silver Star of Excellence Award from the National Technical Honor Society, making it the only Louisiana chapter recognized for excellence in career development, leadership, and service. The Culture Club held an end-of-year celebration honoring staff who earned additional degrees. The superintendent's advisory panel reflected on the year's achievements and outlined plans for next year. Over 50 teachers and leaders attended the Teacher Leader Summit in New Orleans, themed "A New Story for Louisiana Education." Ms. Chambers noted that the Systems, Services, and Support leadership team held their annual retreat to evaluate progress, set strategic priorities, and prepare for the 2025–26 school year under the theme *All In: Every Student, Every Play, Every Day*. Ms. Chambers highlighted that the Glee Club held its end-of-year recital in the Lynx Den, where parents and staff enjoyed student performances and celebrated graduating seniors. All grade levels came together for a "Smash Bash" Super Smash Bros. esports tournament to close out the year. Kindergarten graduation took place at Abundant Life Church in Denham Springs, supported by elementary teachers and staff who helped make the event memorable. The Class of 2025, one of UVA's largest with 355 graduates, earned \$4.08 million in scholarships, 347 industry-based credentials, and 3,293 college credit hours through dual enrollment, with 21 seniors completing associate degrees or technical diplomas. 3,112 students completed the intent to return form sent out by UVA, with 2,585 students stating that they will be returning for the 25-26 school year. No vote was taken.
- B. Board President Holliday led the Discussion of the Financial Report for May 2025 with Ms. Melissa Fox. Ms. Fox reported on University View Academy's Budget vs. Actuals for the period ending on May 31, 2025. For this period, revenues came in at a total of \$3.8 million, expenditures came in at a total of \$4.3 million. Year to date net surplus came in at a total of \$4.6 million and AFR adjusted surplus is \$25.1 million. Ms. Fox reviewed the balance sheet for the period ending on May 31, 2025 to include total assets and liabilities. Assets came in at a total of \$45.1 million and liabilities came in at a total of \$813,505. No vote was taken.
- C. Board President Holliday presented the Finance Committee Report. The Finance Committee recommended the availability funds for the Brown and Brown insurance proposal, Base Camp Renewables Solar project, and to begin

architectural design of the Conference Center for UVA. No vote was taken.

- A. Governance Committee Chair Thomas Nealsson reported that the Governance Committee met at 3:00 p.m. and discussed the new Board member search, replacement of directors, and upcoming officer election and officer roles. No vote was taken.

- D. Mr. Barry Harris provided a status update on current facility projects.

1. Lynx Den: Mr. Harris reported that the Lynx Den, located at 4715 Bennington Avenue, the parking lot and punch list are 100% complete, with a budget of \$1,679,000 and \$1,754,693.30 paid to date.
2. Curriculum Building: Mr. Harris reported that the Curriculum Center on Valley Creek Drive, flooring reconditioning has begun and is expected to be finished by Wednesday, with no change orders required; the estimated cost is \$115,000, and the contract amount is \$112,812.
3. Assessment and Learning Center: Mr. Harris reported that the Assessment and Learning Center on Bennington Avenue, renovation specifications are complete, bids have been received, and the final bid will be presented tonight; the project is estimated at \$90,000, with \$9,500 paid so far.
4. Summer projects include completed flooring at Henderson, handrail repairs at the Administration Building, restriping parking lines as needed, pressure washing entrances and concrete surfaces, touch-up painting, assisting with moves into new buildings, reconfiguring vacated areas in Henderson 1, beginning the fencing project for Bennington II pending board approval, continuing the solar canopy project, starting inventory, and cleaning carpets in all buildings.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and approval of Employee Handbook. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the Employee Handbook with Ms. Beth Liner. Ms. Liner stated that revisions were made to the handbook to bring it into compliance with new laws and legislation, provide clarity and consistency, and address procedural actions taken during the last year. The biggest change is the criminal history review policy and UVA added a policy governing fingerprint based criminal history record information. This addition was at the request of the Louisiana State Police Department in conjunction with their audit. Ms. Liner reviewed the changes made to the handbook as a result of Louisiana Law changes at the request of Board President Holliday. Ms. Liner stated that the appendices will be presented at the July Board meeting.

On motion by Director Nealsson and seconded by Director Llorens to approve the Employee Handbook. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

- B. Discussion and approval of Student Handbook. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the Student Handbook with Ms. Beth Liner. Ms. Liner stated that no major changes have been made to the Student Handbook. Board President Holliday inquired about the policy regarding cell phones at testing sites. Ms. Lekisha Chambers stated that this revision was made to reflect UVA procedure for students who bring cell phones to the testing site and the rules for securing the device.

On motion by Director Price and seconded by Director Nealsson to approve the Student Handbook. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

- C. Discussion and approval of Emergency Operations Plan. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the Emergency Operations Plan with Ms. Lekisha Chambers. Ms. Chambers stated that the Emergency Operations Plan has been revised to remove items that do not apply to University View Academy. University View Academy's Emergency Operations Plan is not available to the public as it is a confidential document.

On motion by Director Price and seconded by Director Anderson to approve the Emergency Operations Plan. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

- D. Discussion and approval of Brown and Brown Insurance Proposal. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the Brown and Brown Insurance Proposal with Ms. Matte Haack from Brown and Brown Insurance. Ms. Haack reviewed the renewal premium summary for University View Academy and noted that there are a few changes from the previous year; however, deductibles will remain unchanged for named storms and other wind-related claims. The following properties were added: 3112 Valley Creek Drive (Units A, B, C, D) and 4838 Bennington Avenue. This increased the total property insured value to ~\$12.2 million. Workers compensation payroll increased to ~\$24 million. Ms. Haack noted that the proposal includes a \$2 million cyber bond option which reflects an increase from the previous \$1 million limit. Ms. Haack stated that the property inspections will most likely be in August. The Solar installation will increase premium and Board President Holliday stated that we need to check that UVA is not paying double for storm damage. Mr. Michael Adams recommends that the Board approve the proposal presented.

On motion by Director Anderson and seconded by Director Llorens to approve the Brown and Brown Insurance Proposal. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

- E. Discussion and approval of Base Camp Renewables Solar Proposal. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the Base Camp Renewables Solar Proposal with Ms. Kendall Palmer from Base Camp Renewables. Board President Holliday stated that the material was shipped sooner than anticipated and now the Board has the option to install the remaining 2 solar canopies for the parking lot ahead of the initially agreed upon schedule. The original plan was to eventually have 3 canopies, but only one was initially paid for. Base Camp Renewables presented 3 options to the Board for consideration. Option 1: Install all carport structures now and electrical later at a total cost of \$204,000. Option 2: Complete all carport structures and make them fully operational at a total cost of \$336,452. Option 3: Full buildout with EV charging integration at a total cost of \$412,000. The Board agreed on Option 2 and this option includes the full installation and commissioning of all 3 carports, resulting in a fully operational system. Choosing this option allows UVA to secure current pricing for both materials and labor, while also maximizing federal and local incentives scheduled to expire at the end of 2025. The Board discussed adding battery backups for all 3 canopies at an additional cost of approximately \$50,000. The Board agreed that this is something they would like included in the proposal.

On motion by Director Anderson and seconded by Director Nealsson to accept option 2 of the Base Camp Renewables Solar Proposal with \$50,000 for battery backup pending contract approval. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. Director Price denied. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

- F. Discussion and approval of funds to begin the conceptual design of the Conference Center for UVA. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the architectural design of the conference center for UVA with Mr. Gary Dunn and Mr. Matt Viguerie from Gary Dunn Architects. Board President Holliday clarified that it is a conceptual design not architectural design. The goal is to move forward to determine feasibility and specific needs for the building, which could host testing, graduations, convocations, and save significant rental costs. Board President Holliday stated that it is expensive to rent buildings for testing sites, and having a conference center would save money. The Board agreed to budget \$50,000 to conceptualize the conference center design. This initial funding is to determine the requirements and scope for the building, not for architectural design itself at this stage. The proposed location for the conference center is the empty lot next to the Academic Center.

On motion by Director Price and seconded by Director Anderson to approve funding up to \$50,000 to begin the conceptual design of the Conference Center for UVA. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

- G. Discussion and approval of the Assessment and Learning Center Renovation/ Addition project bids. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the Assessment and Learning Center Renovation/ Addition project bids with Mr. Gary Dunn and Mr. Matt Viguerie from Gary Dunn Architects. Two bids were received for this project. The first bid is from Genesis 360, LLC for \$152,108 and the second bid is from The Luster Group, LLC for \$402,000. The Board is concerned about the significant price gap in the two bids received and that Genesis 360, LLC is already under contract with UVA for the project on the Curriculum Center. The Board agreed to accept the bid from Genesis 360, LLC and requested Gary Dunn Architects to hold the contract until completion of the current project. Mr. Gary Dunn agreed to hold the contract.

On motion by Director Price and seconded by Director Anderson to accept Genesis 360, LLC bid of \$152,108 for the Assessment and Learning Center Renovation/ Addition project contingent on current project completion. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

- H. Discussion/ Recommendation/ Approval for Board members to undergo background checks. Board President Holliday led the discussion of background checks for board members. Director Anderson supports the recommendation that current Board members and new onboarding members have background checks. Board President Holliday requested that a policy be established for Board members to undergo background checks.

On motion by Board President Holliday and seconded by Director Anderson to establish policy for all board members to undergo background checks. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Anderson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor. Directors Price and Nealsson denied. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

- A. Letter to Board
- B. July Board meeting: July 22, 2025
- C. National Charter School Conference: June 29 - July 3, 2025

VI. CLOSING ITEMS

- A. On motion by Director Anderson, seconded by Director Nealsson, and carried to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Llorens, and Holliday voting in favor.

CONFERENCE ROOM & ONLINE GUESTS:

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	LOCATION
Katie	Cali	Conference Room
52 individuals logged in to attend the meeting online.		