
FOUNDATION FOR LOUISIANA STUDENTS

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

3113 Valley Creek Drive

Baton Rouge, LA

First Floor Conference Room

July 22, 2025

IN COMPLIANCE WITH LOUISIANA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

I. OPENING ITEMS

- A. Board President Holliday called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- B. Board President Holliday requested a roll call vote. The following Directors through a voice vote were recorded as present: Mr. John Price, Mr. Thomas Nealsson, Mr. Michael Howes, Ms. Linda Holliday, and Ex-officio member – Dr. Quentina Timoll.

Guests present: Ms. Darah Husser, Ms. Eugenia Cardozo, Mr. Barry Harris, Ms. Traci Payne, Mr. Michael Tran, Ms. Melissa Fox, Ms. Melissa Grand, Ms. Ashley McCullen, Ms. Krystle Dabney, Ms. Lekisha Chambers

Conference Room & Online Guests: See attached list.

- C. On motion by Director Nealsson, seconded by Director Price, to approve the Regular Board meeting agenda for July 22, 2025. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Nealsson, Howes, 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 June 24, 2025 Regular Board meeting. On motion by Director Nealsson and seconded by Director Price, to approve the Regular Board meeting minutes for June 24, 2025. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Nealsson, Howes, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

III. ORAL REPORTS

- A. Dr. Quentina Timoll presented the Superintendent Report. Dr. Timoll welcomed staff back for the new school year with a message of encouragement and unity, highlighting this year's theme: *All In – Every Student. Every Play. Every Day*. Dr. Timoll celebrated past accomplishments and expressed excitement for the year ahead, aiming for growth, innovation, and joy throughout the school community.

New teachers began their New Teacher Summit on July 21, 2025, and all 10-month staff will return on July 24. The Convocation Celebration will be held on July 31 at the PACE Center in Gonzales. The district proudly recognizes the retirement of several dedicated staff members: Stephanie Desselle, Lucy Hill, Jodi Knight, Debbie Richardson, Cynthia Stumpf, and Jean Woodside. Throughout June, UVA hosted summer socials across the state, keeping families and staff connected with fun activities. Elementary Principal Kaleisha London was selected for LDOE's 2025–26 Aspiring Principal Fellows cohort. Students participated in various summer enrichment opportunities: Payton Brown and Paul Kreamer joined North Oaks Health System's Junior Volunteer program; Katelyn Sisk and Chloe Ory attended the Louisiana Girls Leadership Academy; and Charleigh Messer was selected to the Louisiana 4-H State Citizenship Board after attending 4-H University at LSU. Dr. Timoll reported that the projected enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is 3,509 students with 662 new students enrolled and 274 applications in the pipeline.

- B. Board President Holliday led the Discussion of the Financial Report for June 2025 with Ms. Melissa Fox. Ms. Fox reported on University View Academy's Budget vs. Actuals for the period ending on June 30, 2025 noting that this period was a soft-close. For this period, revenues came in at a total of \$50.2 million and expenditures came in at a total of \$46.9 million. Year to date net surplus came in at a total of \$3.3 million and AFR adjusted surplus is \$23.7 million. Ms. Fox reviewed the balance sheet for the period ending on June 30, 2025 to include total assets and liabilities. Assets came in at a total of \$46.1 million and liabilities came in at a total of \$3.1 million. The board noted that, due to federal funding cuts, certain Title program funds may be reduced, putting approximately \$300,000 in funding at risk. No vote was taken.
- C. Board President Holliday presented the Finance Committee Report. Board President Holliday stated the Finance Committee Meeting was canceled and there is nothing to report. No vote was taken.
- A. Governance Committee Chair Thomas Nealsson reported that the Governance Committee met at 4:00 p.m. and discussed the potential candidates to recommend for Board interview consideration. Mr. Nealsson stated that the Governance Committee would like to recommend Mr. John Cavell. The Committee notified the Board that candidate recommendations from board members will be accepted until August 12th. No vote was taken.
- D. Mr. Barry Harris provided a status update on current facility projects.
 - 1. Lynx Den: Mr. Harris reported that the Solar Canopy project at the Lynx Den, located at 4715 Bennington Avenue, has completed phase one of the project.

2. Curriculum Building: Mr. Harris reported that the Curriculum Center, located at 3112 Valley Creek Drive in Baton Rouge, has completed renovations and received its occupancy permit. The project was completed without any change orders, and the final cost was \$112,812, slightly under the estimated contract amount of \$115,000.
3. Assessment and Learning Center: Mr. Harris reported that the Assessment and Learning Center, located at 4838 Bennington Avenue in Baton Rouge, has completed renovation specifications, and all bids have been received and are pending award. The estimated project cost is \$152,000, with \$9,500 paid to date.
4. Several summer facility projects are underway or have been completed. Flooring at Henderson and carpet cleaning in all buildings are finished, as well as restriping parking lines and assisting with moves into new buildings. Touch-up painting and pressure washing of concrete and entrances are currently in progress. The handrail at the Administration Building has been repaired, and reconfiguration of vacated areas on Henderson 1 is ongoing. The Solar Canopy Project is complete (Phase I), and the fencing project at Bennington II is awaiting a survey to finalize the design. Additionally, the inventory process has begun.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Approval of 2025-2026 Finance and Accounting Procedure Manual. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the 2025-2026 Finance and Accounting Procedure Manual with Ms. Melissa Grand. Ms. Grand shared that she, along with the UVA team, conducted a thorough review of the manual to ensure compliance with applicable laws, alignment between policies and current practices, and clarity in language where needed. She presented a high-level overview, drawing attention to key sections: lines of authority (page 6), authorized check signers (page 12), purchase card usage policies (page 13), and service vendor selection procedures (page 18). During the discussion, President Holliday recommended revising the language on page 12 to specify that the Superintendent must co-sign with any officer for authorized checks. The Board also agreed to replace the Secretary's signature on file with that of the Treasurer at the bank. In light of these updates, President Holliday proposed deferring approval of the manual to the August Board meeting to allow for a more in-depth review.

On motion by Board President Holliday and seconded by Director Price to defer the 2025-2026 Finance and Accounting Procedure Manual to the next Board meeting. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Howes, Nealsson, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

- B. Discussion and Approval of 2025-2026 Employee Handbook Appendices. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the 2025–2026 Employee Handbook Appendices in collaboration with Dr. Quentina Timoll and Ms. Melissa Grand. At the Board’s request, each appendix will be reviewed and voted on individually. Ms. Melissa Grand provided an overview of the key documents under consideration, including the compensation structure guidance, travel policy, tuition sponsorship and reimbursement policy, Appendix D of the Procedures Manual, and the performance management system for the 2025–2026 school year.

On motion by Board President Holliday and seconded by Director Nealsson to approve the compensation structure guidance document. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Howes, Nealsson, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

On motion by Board President Holliday and seconded by Director Nealsson to defer the travel policy to the next Board meeting. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Howes, Nealsson, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

On motion by Board President Holliday and seconded by Director Price to defer the tuition sponsorship and reimbursement policy to the next Board meeting. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Howes, Nealsson, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

On motion by Director Price and seconded by Director Nealsson to approve Appendix D of the Procedures Manual. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Howes, Nealsson, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

On motion by Director Price and seconded by Director Nealsson to approve the performance management system for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Howes, Nealsson, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

- C. Retire into Executive Session pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(7) – Discussion of student enrollment issue at 6:29 pm.

On motion by Director Nealsson and seconded by Director Price to retire into executive session. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Howes, Nealsson, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

*****Dr. Hala Esmail joined the Executive Session virtually at 6:29 p.m.**

- D. Resume on the record from Executive Session pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(7) – Discussion of student enrollment issue.

On motion by Director Nealsson and seconded by Director Price to return on the record. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Howes, Nealsson, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

- E. Executive Session pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(7) – Discussion of student enrollment issue. The Board agreed to accept the recommendation presented in executive session.

On motion by Director Nealsson and seconded by Director Price to accept the recommendation regarding student enrollment issue. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Howes, Nealsson, Esmail, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

A. Summer Graduation: July 25, 2025

B. August Board Meeting: August 26, 2025

VI. CLOSING ITEMS

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

CONFERENCE ROOM & ONLINE GUESTS:

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