
FOUNDATION FOR LOUISIANA STUDENTS

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

3113 Valley Creek Drive

Baton Rouge, LA

First Floor Conference Room

August 26, 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, Ms. Grace Anderson, Mr. Thomas Nealsson, Dr. Hala Esmail, Ms. Linda Holliday, and Ex-officio member – Dr. Quentina Timoll.

It was noted for the record that Dr. Hala Esmail and Ms. Grace Anderson attended the Regular Board Meeting virtually, in accordance with La. R.S. 42:17.2.

Guests present: Mr. Michael Tran, Ms. Traci Payne, Ms. Lekisha Chambers, Ms. Krystle Dabney, Ms. Melissa Fox, Mr. Barry Harris, Ms. Melissa Grand, Mr. Michael Adams, and Ms. Darah Husser.

Conference Room & Online Guests: See attached list.

- C. On motion by Director Price, seconded by Director Nealsson, to approve the Regular Board meeting agenda for August 26, 2025. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, 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 July 22, 2025 Regular Board meeting. On motion by Director Price and seconded by Director Nealsson, to approve the Regular Board meeting minutes for July 22, 2025. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Nealsson, and Holliday voting in favor. Directors Anderson and Nealsson abstained. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

III. ORAL REPORTS

- A. Dr. Quentina Timoll presented the Superintendent Report. As we enter the

third week of SY 2025-26, Superintendent Dr. Quentina Timoll emphasized UVA's commitment to supporting students, families, and staff while addressing challenges and concerns. She encouraged families to connect with teachers, principals, or family liaisons for guidance, highlighting the strong role of learning coaches in improving attendance verification rates, which has risen to 67.88% from 36.5% last year. Key accomplishments include celebrating 11 summer graduates, hosting a successful staff convocation under the "All In" theme, and strong participation in learning circles. UVA students and alumni were recognized for notable achievements in academics, athletics, and career pathways, including summer research, industry certifications, and leadership in the Civil Air Patrol. Upcoming events include the Gonzales Open House (September 5th), Middle and High School Sock Hops (September 12th and 13th), and a National WWII Museum field trip (September 26th). Current enrollment stands at 3,635, with 380 pending applications. No vote was taken.

- B. Board President Holliday led the Discussion of the Financial Report for July 2025. Ms. Melissa Fox stated that for July, UVA received \$3.8 million in revenue, approximately 8% of the annualized budget, primarily from per-pupil funding and \$69,000 in investment income. Expenditures totaled \$2.3 million, about 5% of the budget, reflecting low personnel costs due to prior-year accruals for teacher payroll, resulting in a net surplus of \$1.48 million for the month. Federal funds have not yet been received pending fiscal year 2026 Super App approval. The balance sheet shows \$25.4 million in cash, \$526,000 in prepaids, and total assets of \$45 million, with liabilities of \$857,689, yielding net assets of \$44.4 million. No vote was taken.
- C. Board President Holliday reported that the Finance Committee has nothing to report. No vote was taken.
- D. Governance Committee Chair Thomas Nealsson reported that the Governance Committee met and discussed the two candidates that were interviewed, Mr. John Cavell and Mr. William Biossat. There are two additional candidates, Ms. Toni DeJohn and Ms. Jennifer Tucker that will be interviewed prior to the next Governance Committee meeting. Board President Holliday stated that the Governance Committee will set up a meeting with Ms. DeJohn and Ms. Tucker. Mr. Michael Adams, Dr. Quentina Timoll, and Board President Holliday will set up a second meeting with Mr. Cavell and Ms. DeJohn. Once the Board has selected who will fill the empty seats, there will be an onboarding meeting scheduled.
- E. Mr. Barry Harris provided a status update on current facility projects.
 - 1. Lynx Den: Mr. Barry Harris reported that the Solar Canopy Project (Phase 2 and 3) have begun.

2. Curriculum Center: Mr. Harris reported that the Curriculum Center is in full operation. Board President Holliday requested someone who works in the Curriculum Center attend the next Board meeting to provide feedback.
3. Assessment and Learning Center: Mr. Harris reported that the construction and renovations on the Assessment and Learning Center began August 25th.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Executive Session pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(7) – Discussion of Student Enrollment Issue

On motion by Director Esmail and seconded by Director Nealsson to retire into Executive Session at 5:29 p.m to discuss the student enrollment issue. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, 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 reconvene at 6:10 p.m with no action being taken during Executive Session. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

The Board, upon reconvening, took the following actions:

On motion by Director Anderson and seconded by Director Price to accept the recommendation of the school for student 1. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, 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 Anderson to accept the recommendation of the school for student 2. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, 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 reject the recommendation of the school and, in lieu of that, accept student 3 with the caveat that the administration set administrative conditions with regard to attendance at events and supervision. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

On motion by Director Anderson and seconded by Director Price to accept the recommendation of the school for student 4. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

- B. Discussion and Approval of Criminal Background Check Policy. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the Criminal Background Check Policy and informed the Board that the BESE Board just passed a mandatory criminal background check on all board members. It was noted by Board President Holliday that this policy for the Foundation for Louisiana Students Board of Directors, upon adoption, gives board members 60 days to complete a background check. Failure to complete the required background check within the specified time frame shall result in suspension of voting privileges until compliance is achieved. This policy also dictates that there will be an ongoing review, requiring all board members to complete a background check at least once every five years. Board President Holliday noted that there is a grammatical error that needs correction in the policy where it states the number of years.

On motion by Director Price and seconded by Director Nealsson to approve the Criminal Background Check Policy as a policy of the Board of Directors with the caveat that we change it to five years rather than four. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

- C. Discussion and Approval for Policy regarding External Correspondence from the Foundation. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the policy regarding external correspondence from the Foundation and stated this policy is to limit the liability that may be put on the Board itself or the organization itself. The policy dictates that when the Board sends out correspondence to the public, it needs to pass through a level of review. The Board reviewed the current expectations agreement that Board members signed and decided that this agreement should be signed yearly.

On motion by Director Price and seconded by Director Anderson to approve the Policy regarding External Correspondence from Foundation. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Anderson, Esmail, and Holliday voting in favor. Mr. Price abstained. Mr. Nealsson denied. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

- D. Discussion and Approval of Test Security Policy. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the Test Security Policy with Ms. Lekisha Chambers. Ms. Chambers stated that this policy outlines how University View Academy handles security like how we lock materials in a vault, how they are checked out to our site coordinators who travel from site to site, as well as how they are counted once

they are returned. This policy ensures that testing occurs in a secure environment. Ms. Grand confirmed that she has reviewed the policy and it aligns with the requirements in BESE's policy.

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

- E. Discussion and Approval of Employee Handbook Appendices. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the Employee Handbook Appendices with Ms. Melissa Grand. This item was deferred at the last meeting to allow members of the Board more time to review the policies. Ms. Grand reviewed the Tuition Sponsorship and Reimbursement policy, the Tuition Sponsorship Repayment Agreement, and the Employee Travel and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy.

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

- F. Discussion and Approval of 2025-2026 Finance and Accounting Procedure Manual. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the Finance and Accounting Procedure Manual with Ms. Melissa Grand. This item was deferred at the last meeting to allow more time to review. Ms. Grand stated that on page 12, regarding authorized check signers, the Board President, Board Treasurer, and Superintendent are listed as authorized check signatories.

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

- G. Resignations of Board Members. Board President Holliday announced that two board members have resigned from the Board of Directors, Dr. James Llorens and Mr. Michael W. Howes. Board President Holliday stated that she has already informed the Board of her future resignation, but has decided to postpone resigning until the two spots are filled. In regard to interviewing candidates, there are three spots that need to be filled. No vote was taken.
- H. Election of Slate officers. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the election of slate officers and recommended that the Board defer the election to the next meeting.

On motion by Board President Holliday and seconded by Director Anderson to defer the election of slate officers until the next meeting. The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, and Holliday voting in favor. A request by the committee for public comment was made. No public comment.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. September Board Meeting Date: September 23, 2025

VI. CLOSING ITEMS

A. On motion by Director Nealsson, seconded by Director Anderson , and carried to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m The motion passed through a voice vote with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, and Holliday voting in favor.

CONFERENCE ROOM & ONLINE GUESTS:

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	LOCATION
		Conference Room
45 individuals logged in to attend the meeting online.		