
FOUNDATION FOR LOUISIANA STUDENTS

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

3113 Valley Creek Drive

Baton Rouge, LA

First Floor Conference Room

February 24, 2026

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LOUISIANA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

I. OPENING ITEMS

- A. Board President Holliday called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
- B. Board President Holliday requested a roll call vote. The following Directors, by voice vote, were recorded as present: Mr. John Price, Mr. William Biossat, Ms. Grace Anderson, Mr. Thomas Nealsson, Dr. Hala Esmail, Mr. John Cavell, Ms. Linda Holliday, and Ex officio member, Dr. Quentina Timoll.

Guests present: Ms. Darah Husser, Mr. Michael Tran, Ms. Traci Payne, Ms. Lekisha Chambers, Mr. Barry Harris, Ms. Melissa Grand, Mr. Michael Adams, Ms. Melissa Fox, Ms. Eugenia Cardozo, Ms. Janna Husser, and Mr. John Price.

Conference Room & Online Guests: See attached list.

- C. On motion by Director Biossat, seconded by Director Cavell, to approve the Regular Board meeting agenda for February 24, 2026. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Biossat, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

II. ROUTINE BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Minutes from the December 16, 2025, Regular Board meeting. On motion by Director Nealsson and seconded by Director Biossat, to approve the Regular Board meeting minutes for December

16, 2025. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Biossat, Nealsson, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor. Directors Anderson and Esmail abstained. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

III. ORAL REPORTS

- A. Dr. Quentina Timoll presented the Superintendent's Report, highlighting recent student achievements, enrollment updates, and upcoming events. She reported that multiple students received awards and accolades, with all Students of the Year recognized as regional honorees. Dr. Timoll also shared enrollment updates, reporting record-high numbers. At the time of reporting, enrollment was 3,770 students, with a February 1 count of 3,822. Enrollment increased by 180 students from the October 1 count of 3,642, attributed to strategic onboarding efforts and cross-team coordination. No vote was taken.
- B. Board President Holliday led the Discussion of the Financial Report for January 2026. Ms. Melissa Fox presented the cumulative year-to-date financial report through the end of January, inclusive of December. She reported that year-to-date revenue totals \$28.8 million against the annual budget of \$49.7 million, leaving approximately \$21 million, or 42%, remaining, which is on target for this point in the fiscal year. Year-to-date expenditures total \$25.3 million compared to the forecasted \$48.9 million, leaving approximately \$23.6 million, or 48%, remaining in the budget. This results in a current net operating surplus of \$3.5 million, which exceeds the projected year-end surplus of \$812,700. After accounting for \$640,000 in capital outlay, the current-year fund balance is approximately \$3.1 million. When combined with the prior year's cumulative fund balance of \$23.7 million, the total fund balance stands at roughly \$26.9 million. No vote was taken.
- C. Board President Holliday presented the Finance Committee Report. Board President Holliday informed the Board that the Finance Committee met and reviewed the budget revision projection and fencing project quotes. The Finance Committee recommended that the

Board accept the budget revision projection and acknowledge the availability of funds for the fencing project. No vote was taken.

- A. Governance Committee Chair Thomas Nealsson reported that the Governance Committee has nothing to report. No vote was taken.
- B. Facilities Committee Chair William Biossat reported that the Facilities Committee has nothing to report. No vote was taken.
- D. Mr. Barry Harris provided a status update on current facility projects.
 - 1. Lynx Den: Mr. Harris reported that Phases 2 and 3 of the Solar Canopy Project are 100% complete. The storage building is powered by solar energy. The remaining items include final inspections from the City and Entergy to complete the Lynx Den connection. Of the total contract price, \$364,620 has been paid to date, with one remaining payment of \$41,155. A retainer of \$37,142 is being held pending completion of final inspections and confirmation of full system functionality.
 - 2. Assessment Center: Mr. Harris reported that the canopy installation is complete. The total contract price for this project was \$152,108.
 - 3. Curriculum Center: Mr. Harris reported that the roof replacement project is complete. The total contract price for this project was \$15,375.
 - 4. Academic Center: Mr. Harris reported that the elevator modernization project is scheduled for May 2026. The total contract price for this project is \$40,568.90.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of Innovation and Strategy Update. Ms. Janna Husser provided an Innovation and Strategy Update, reporting that the school is in year three of its five-year strategic plan, moving from architecture and design to the launch and refinement of initiatives, with six additional initiatives currently in development. Ms. Husser previewed the dashboards used to

track measurable outcomes and ensure cross-functional collaboration across departments. Instructional Technology enhancements include Canvas pilot initiatives aimed at improving accessibility and early-grade formatting, while expanded tutoring and study hall programs have supported more than 1,100 virtual sessions in addition to in-person offerings. Enrichment programs, including STEM/Makerspace, music, esports, and Women in STEM, continue to demonstrate growth and increased student engagement. Ms. Husser also highlighted the expansion of Micro Academies to four academies operating across seven sites and serving approximately 227 students. Strategic enrollment mapping and demographic analyses are guiding future expansion efforts. No vote was taken.

*****Mr. William Blossat exited the meeting at 6:00 p.m.**

- B. Discussion and approval of Fencing Quotes. Board President Holliday led the discussion with Mr. Michael Adams. Dr. Quentina Timoll reported that revised quotes were obtained from MAPP Maintenance and Supreme Fencing, LLC, as previously directed by the Board, with costs now itemized by property and phase. The total quote from Supreme Fencing, LLC is \$226,950, and the total from MAPP Maintenance is \$303,572, which includes column work. The Finance Committee recommended that the Board approve \$128,000 for fencing at the property located at 4715 Bennington Avenue, \$42,000 for fencing at the property located at 4719 Bennington Avenue, and \$135,000 for fencing at the property located at 4664 Jamestown Avenue.

On motion by Director Cavell and seconded by Director Anderson, to approve the fencing quotes for the three properties as recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

- C. Discussion and approval of Budget Revision Projection. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the budget revision projection with Ms. Melissa Fox. Ms. Melissa Fox presented the semi-annual budget revision, noting that the school is projecting results better than originally budgeted.

The Board initially approved total revenue of \$48.7 million and now the projection is \$49.7 million, representing an increase of \$1 million. Salaries and benefits reflect approximately \$172,000 in savings, while other-than-personnel expenditures increased by approximately \$377,000. Capital outlay increased to \$1.1 million. As a result, the projected operating surplus increased from \$12,000 to \$813,000, and the anticipated use of fund balance decreased from \$988,000 to approximately \$290,000, with it being unlikely that fund balance funds will ultimately be needed.

On motion by Director Price and seconded by Director Anderson to approve the budget revision projection as presented. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

- D. Discussion and approval of 2026–2027 UVA School Calendar. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the 2026–2027 UVA school calendar with Ms. Lekisha Chambers. Ms. Chambers reported that the 2026–2027 calendar will be the same format as this year’s version, except for extending the Mardi Gras break to the entire week and adding two additional days at the end of the school year.

On motion by Director Nealsson and seconded by Director Cavell to approve the 2026–2027 UVA School Calendar as presented. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

- E. Discussion and approval of Seclusion and Restraint Policy. Board President Holliday led the discussion of the Seclusion and Restraint Policy with Ms. Lekisha Chambers. Ms. Chambers reviewed the updated Seclusion and Restraint policy required by recent state legislation, which mandates that no student be left alone in a seclusion room and permits restraint or seclusion only in cases of imminent risk of harm. Although UVA operates primarily in a virtual setting, the policy applies during in-person activities such as state testing and events. The policy, developed in alignment with state guidelines and reviewed by legal counsel, requires trained staff

presence at testing sites and includes de-escalation training to minimize the need for restraint. Board members raised questions about the policy's applicability to Micro Academies, noting that they are contracted partners rather than UVA facilities. Legal counsel advised that while contractual protections and indemnification provisions are in place, further review is needed to determine how broadly UVA policies may extend to Micro Academies. The Board expressed interest in exploring baseline safety expectations and possibly extending training opportunities to Micro Academy staff. It was confirmed that the policy must be adopted to remain in compliance with current state law, with the option to revisit and amend it as needed.

On motion by Director Cavell and seconded by Director Anderson to adopt the Seclusion and Restraint Policy as presented. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

- F. Discussion and approval of Video Monitoring Policy for Special Education Classrooms. Board President Holliday led the discussion with Ms. Lekisha Chambers. Ms. Chambers explained that while UVA has previously been exempt from this requirement due to its virtual model, the Department of Education directed the school to adopt a policy aligned with its instructional format. The policy formalizes the school's existing practice of recording all synchronous instructional sessions (learning circles) conducted via Zoom, retaining recordings for the duration of the school year, and making them accessible to students, parents, and learning coaches. The policy further provides that any personally identifiable student information is removed when recordings are accessed. Legal counsel reviewed the policy and confirmed it complies with current statutory requirements and does not interfere with the school's virtual operations.

On motion by Director Anderson and seconded by Director Nealsson to approve the Video Monitoring Policy for Special Education Classrooms. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson,

Esmail, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

- G. Discussion and approval of Parent Access Instructional Material Policy. Board President Holliday led the discussion of this policy with Ms. Lekisha Chambers. Ms. Chambers reviewed the Parent Access to Instructional Materials Policy, developed in response to new state legislation requiring schools to formalize parental access to instructional materials. Ms. Chambers explained that, consistent with UVA's virtual model, all instructional materials are housed in Canvas and are accessible to students, parents, and learning coaches at all times. Additionally, parents may view physical instructional materials on campus during normal school business hours. Following Board discussion, the policy was amended to specify that parents should make an appointment for in-person viewing and to revise the stated access times to "normal school business hours." Legal counsel confirmed the policy complies with statutory requirements.

On motion by Director Nealsson and seconded by Director Anderson to approve the Parent Access Instructional Material Policy, amended to specify that parents should make an appointment and revise the stated access times to "normal school business hours". The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

- H. Discussion and approval of the Administration of Medication Policy. Board President Holliday led the discussion of this policy with Ms. Lekisha Chambers. Ms. Chambers explained that because students are not on campus daily and UVA does not employ a full-time nurse, the policy reflects that, in most cases, during state testing or school events, parents will remain on site and administer any necessary medication, including over-the-counter medicines. In circumstances involving significant medical needs, such as those outlined in a student's IEP, UVA contracts licensed nurses to be present at testing sites to administer medication, provided the parent completes the required authorization forms and supplies medication in a properly labeled container designated for school

use. UVA staff and teachers will not administer medication under any circumstances. Legal counsel confirmed the policy complies with statutory requirements. The Board also discussed Micro Academies, noting that students are onsite for limited hours. However, leadership indicated that relevant policy guidance and professional development will continue to be incorporated into Micro Academy partnerships as appropriate.

On motion by Director Anderson and seconded by Director Cavell to approve the Administration of Medication Policy as written. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. March Board Meeting: March 17, 2026
- B. National Charter School Conference: June 24, 2026 – June 26, 2026

VI. CLOSING ITEMS

- A. On motion by Director Price, seconded by Director Nealsson, and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor.

CONFERENCE ROOM & ONLINE GUESTS:

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