FOUNDATION FOR LOUISIANA STUDENTS

Regular Board Meeting Minutes
3113 Valley Creek Drive
Baton Rouge, LA
First Floor Conference Room
June 23, 2026

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE 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, 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, and Ms. Linda Holliday.

Guests present: Ms. Darah Husser, Mr. Michael Tran, Ms. Traci Payne, Ms. Lekisha Chambers, Mr. Barry Harris, Mr. Michael Adams, Ms. Melissa Fox, Ms. Janna Husser, Mr. Joe Rush, Ms. Eugenia Cardozo, Ms. Matte Haack, Ms. Krystle Dabney, and Mr. Theodore Sanders.

Conference Room & Online Guests: See attached list.

C. On motion by Director Cavell, seconded by Director Nealsson, to approve the Regular Board meeting agenda for June 23, 2026, with the addition of an announcement item. 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 May 26, 2026, Regular Board meeting. On motion by Director Anderson and seconded by Director Price, to approve the Regular Board meeting minutes for May 26, 2026. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Biossat, Anderson, Nealsson, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor. Director Esmail abstained. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

III. ORAL REPORTS

A. Ms. Lekisha Chambers presented the Superintendent's Report on behalf of Dr. Quentina Timoll. Ms. Chambers highlighted the many accomplishments of the 2025–2026 school year, including strong academic growth, student achievement, and community engagement. She reported the successful launch of the school's first digital memory book and the new University View Academy mobile app. Students earned recognition through the Accelerated Reader program, virtual honor roll ceremonies, and the eighth-grade moving-up ceremony. Ms. Chambers celebrated the graduation of 392 seniors, the largest graduating class in school history, who collectively earned more than $2 million in documented scholarships. She also recognized notable staff and student achievements at the state and national levels, including participation in leadership programs, the Louisiana State Seal of Biliteracy, and multiple awards at the Senior Beta National Convention. Ms. Chambers further reported strong enrollment growth, with 975 new students provisionally accepted for the 2026–2027 school year compared to 542 at the same time last year, reflecting significant continued interest in University View Academy. No vote was taken.

B. Board President Holliday led the Discussion of the Financial Report for May 2026. Ms. Melissa Fox presented the May financial report, noting that year-to-date revenue totaled $45.7 million, with approximately $5.3 million in revenue remaining to be received, and that revenue projections remain on target for the fiscal year. Year-to-date expenditures included $28.9 million in salaries and benefits and $11.8 million in other-than-personnel costs, resulting in an operating surplus of approximately $4.9 million, exceeding the original forecast. Ms. Fox reported an adjusted surplus of $4.5 million after capital outlay expenditures and noted that the organization is projected to end the fiscal year with a stronger fund balance than previously anticipated.

Total assets increased by approximately $3.8 million to $50.1 million, including cash balances of approximately $29.6 million, while liabilities decreased by $1.1 million to $2.2 million. Total net assets exceeded $47 million, reflecting the organization's continued strong financial position. 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 recommended approval of the FY 2026–2027 budget, including an additional $6 million allocation for the purchase of new computers. The committee also recommended approval of the Canvas contract renewal in the amount of $119,250 and recommended acceptance of the first option presented for the Brown & Brown insurance renewal, which provides an estimated cost savings of approximately $6,000. Additionally, the committee recommended amending the Cash Management and Investment Policy to align with state law regarding permissible investment options. Discussion of investment opportunities through LAMP was deferred to the full Board pending an informational presentation and further consideration. No vote was taken.

D. Governance Committee Chair Thomas Nealsson reported that the Governance Committee has nothing to report. Board President Holliday recommended that the Governance Committee begin setting up interviews for her replacement. No vote was taken.

E. Facilities Committee Chair William Biossat reported that the Facilities Committee has nothing to report. No vote was taken.

F. Mr. Barry Harris provided a status update on current facility projects. No vote was taken.

    1. Lynx Den: Mr. Harris reported that the solar interconnection application remains under review by Entergy and that Base Camp Renewables is continuing to work with Entergy representatives to obtain a status update. Regarding the Lynx Den parking lot complaint, Mr. Michael Adams noted that

engineers are continuing to review the issue and that any necessary corrective actions will be addressed by the responsible contractor.

2. Academic Center: Mr. Harris reported that modifications to the main elevator are ongoing, with additional repairs required following an inspection failure, bringing the project cost to approximately $99,812. Mr. Harris reported that repairs to Room 505 have been completed, environmental testing confirmed satisfactory air quality, and documentation has been submitted to the state.

3. Bennington II: Mr. Harris reported that fencing installation around the playground area is scheduled to begin in July. The total price for this project is $28,975.

4. Summer Projects: Mr. Harris reported that several summer facilities projects are underway, including the scheduled removal of trees at the Assessment Building, ongoing renovations to Suite D, routine summer maintenance activities such as pressure washing and parking lot restriping, and concrete apron repairs across multiple buildings. He noted that apron repairs at the Playground and Henderson have been completed, with the Assessment Building remaining as the final site to be addressed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Approval of Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. Ms. Melissa Fox presented an amended FY 2026–2027 budget that included a $6 million allocation for a district-wide computer replacement initiative. The revised budget would utilize a portion of the school's fund balance while maintaining a strong financial position. Board members discussed the importance of replacing student devices, the need to establish a long-term funding plan for future technology refresh cycles, and the impact of potential changes to state funding related to employee stipends. The Board noted that the school's fund balance provides the flexibility to address critical technology needs and discussed plans to replenish reserves over time. Following discussion, the Board considered the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve the amended budget, including the $6 million computer purchase, while deferring any budget adjustments related to employee stipends pending further developments regarding state funding and related pending litigation.

On motion by Director Anderson and seconded by Director Biossat, to approve the adjusted budget, including the $6 million allocation for computers. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Biossat, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor. Director Price denied. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

B. Discussion and Approval of Draft 2026-2027 Employee Handbook. The Board reviewed the draft 2026–2027 Employee Handbook. Ms. Krystle Dabney reported that the proposed revisions were previously presented and discussed during the Board retreat and consisted primarily of language clarifications, formatting updates, and improvements to readability. No substantive policy changes were proposed.

   On motion by Director Price and seconded by Director Anderson, to approve the 2026-2027 Employee Handbook. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor. Director Biossat abstained. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

C. Discussion and Consideration of Strategic Planning Facilitation Services. The Board discussed long-term planning and the proposed conference center project. Board members reviewed the status of a previously authorized planning study and discussed the need to define the facility's intended purpose, scope, and budget parameters. The conversation also included consideration of broader strategic planning efforts, including the potential use of stakeholder input and a facilitated planning process to guide future facilities decisions. Board members agreed that additional information regarding the conference center study, including preliminary concepts and planning assumptions, should be presented at the next Board meeting before further decisions are made. No vote was taken.

Approved 7/21/2026 DH

D. Discussion and Approval of Learning Management System Contract Renewal (Canvas). Ms. Lekisha Chambers presented the proposed renewal of the Canvas Learning Management System contract for FY 2026–2027. It was noted that Canvas serves as the primary instructional platform where students access coursework and submit assignments, making it a critical component of the school's educational program. The renewal includes licenses for all students, staff, and administrators and requires Board approval because the contract exceeds $100,000.

   On motion by Director Cavell and seconded by Director Nealsson, to approve the Canvas contract renewal. 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.

E. Discussion and Approval Brown & Brown Insurance Renewal. Ms. Matte Haack presented the Brown & Brown insurance renewal proposal for FY 2026–2027, reporting a reduction in annual premiums from $428,326 to $422,101. She attributed the savings primarily to improved conditions in the Louisiana property insurance market. Ms. Haack reviewed available coverage options, including an alternative to reduce the named storm deductible, but noted that the Finance Committee recommended maintaining the current deductible structure and accepting the premium savings. She also highlighted the organization's favorable claims history and strong risk management practices, which contributed to the positive renewal outcome.

   On motion by Director Price and seconded by Director Anderson, to approve the Brown & Brown insurance renewal, which provides an estimated cost savings of approximately $6,000. 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.

F. Discussion and Approval of Amendments to the Cash Management and Investment Policy. The Board discussed proposed amendments to the Cash Management and Investment Policy to align the policy with applicable Louisiana law governing permissible investments. The amendment incorporates language referencing the applicable Louisiana Revised Statutes to ensure that the organization's investment practices remain consistent with state requirements and automatically reflect any future legislative changes.

On motion by Director Anderson and seconded by Director Price, to amend the Cash Management and Investment policy to reflect Louisiana law regarding investments. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Biossat, Anderson, Nealsson, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor. Director Esmail abstained. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

G. Discussion and Approval of Investment Options. The Board received a presentation from Mr. Theo Sanders, Chief Executive Officer of the Louisiana Asset Management Pool (LAMP), regarding investment options available to public entities. Mr. Sanders provided an overview of LAMP's structure, investment objectives, governance, liquidity, risk management practices, and current returns. Board members discussed investment security, liquidity, FDIC insurance considerations, and the potential benefits and risks of utilizing LAMP as an investment vehicle for a portion of the organization's reserves. Following discussion and questions from Board members, the Board elected to defer any action regarding investment options until the July Board meeting to allow for further review and consideration of available alternatives.

On motion by Director Nealsson and seconded by Director Price, to defer to the July Board meeting. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor. Director Biossat abstained. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. July Board Meeting: July 21, 2026

B. National Charter School Conference: June 24-26, 2026

Approved 7/21/2026 DH

C. Title 28 - Bulletin 126 Review

VI. CLOSING ITEMS

A. On motion by Director Anderson, seconded by Director Biossat, and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Biossat, Anderson, Nealsson, Esmail, Cavell, and Holliday voting in favor.

CONFERENCE ROOM & ONLINE GUESTS:

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

Approved 7/21/2026 DH