
FOUNDATION FOR LOUISIANA STUDENTS

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

3113 Valley Creek Drive

Baton Rouge, LA

First Floor Conference Room

August 25, 2026

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LOUISIANA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

I. OPENING ITEMS

- A. Board President Holliday called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.
- B. Board President Holliday requested a roll call vote. The following Directors, by voice vote, were recorded as present: Mr. William Biossat, Ms. Grace Anderson, Dr. Hala Esmail, Ms. Linda Holliday, and Ex-officio member – Dr. Quentina Timoll.

Procedural Note: Director John Price entered the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

Guests present: Ms. Darah Husser, Mr. Michael Tran, Mr. Barry Harris, Mr. Michael Adams, Ms. Melissa Fox, Ms. Beth Liner, Ms. Eugenia Cardozo, Ms. Krystle Dabney, Ms. Traci Payne, and Mr. Joe Keeney.

Conference Room & Online Guests: See attached list.

- C. On motion by Director Anderson, seconded by Director Biossat, to approve the Regular Board meeting agenda for August 25, 2026. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Biossat, Anderson, Esmail, and Holliday voting in favor. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

II. ROUTINE BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Minutes from the July 21, 2026, Regular Board meeting. On motion by Director Anderson and seconded by Director Biossat, to approve the Regular Board meeting minutes for July 21, 2026. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Biossat, Anderson,

and Holliday voting in favor. Director Esmail abstained. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

III. ORAL REPORTS

- A. Dr. Quentina Timoll presented the Superintendent's Report, highlighting strong academic momentum and enrollment growth following the August 6 opening of the school year. Active enrollment reached 4,167 students with 426 students participating across eight Micro Academy locations and 170 applications remaining in the processing pipeline. While anticipating a standard 10% enrollment loss (~370–400 students) by October 1 due to auto-drops and truancy, the administration is shifting focus toward student retention and engagement. Early daily tracking in Canvas indicates high student participation, which will be monitored weekly to trigger proactive intervention outreach for disengaged learners.

Dr. Timoll also detailed key student achievements, program rollouts, and district initiatives. Highlights included the onboarding and DIBELS testing of 63 students during Kindergarten Kickoff, a summer graduation that brought the record-breaking Class of 2026 total to 412 graduates, and student recognitions in DECA, Adobe Luminaries, and a national art publication. Staff prepared for the year at a district-wide convocation centered on the theme "Growing Every Learner, Achieving Every Goal, and Thriving Every Day". No vote was taken.

- B. Board President Holliday led the Discussion of the preliminary Financial Report for July 2026 with Ms. Melissa Fox. Ms. Fox reported revenue for the first month totaled nearly \$4 million against an annual budget of \$50.6 million. Expenditures totaled \$2.98 million, resulting in a monthly operating surplus of \$974,269 before depreciation adjustments. Balance sheet figures reflect \$27.4 million in cash, total assets of \$47.8 million, total liabilities of \$892,000, and total net assets of \$46.9 million. No vote was taken.
- C. Board President Holliday presented the Finance Committee Report. The committee met to review the 2026 Finance and Accounting Procedure

Manual and discussed the availability of funds to address backfunding for the Superintendent's 457(b) retirement plan. No vote was taken.

- D. Governance Committee Chair Thomas Nealsson was absent; no report was given.
- E. Facilities Committee Chair William Biossat presented the Facilities Committee Report. The committee reviewed revised architectural concept drawings for the proposed Conference Building aimed at scaling back the footprint and construction costs. Key revisions include replacing a full commercial kitchen with a catering setup, reorienting the layout to eliminate unnecessary hallways, and evaluating a one-story vs. a partial two-story design with perimeter breakout rooms. The Board discussed physical limitations due to a rear site servitude, parking impacts, the feasibility of a solar grid tie-in, and facility utilization for events such as convocations, career fairs, and graduations. The administration will further define the facility's specific needs before scheduling a full board meeting with the architects to finalize a budget cap. No vote was taken.
- F. Mr. Barry Harris provided a status update on current facility projects.
 - 1. Academic Center: Elevator modernization remains delayed while awaiting a backordered valve.
 - 2. Bennington II: Phase 1 of the fencing project will be completed tomorrow (August 26). Renovations for the next section of the Henderson Building are being prepared to begin.
 - 3. Parent Center: Renovations are on track to be completed by September 4, 2026.
 - 4. Campus-wide: State-funded grant LED lighting upgrades across five campus buildings began today and will conclude next week. Maintenance crews are actively isolating three minor, non-structural roof leaks at the Lynx Den, Henderson, and Academic buildings. No vote was taken.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Approved 9/15/2026 DH

- A. Executive Session: Pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(2) and (A)(11), the Board will convene in executive session to receive privileged legal advice from counsel regarding pending EEOC matters (EEOC Charge Nos. 461-2026-00658; 461-2026-00659) and related personnel issues.
- B. Executive Session: Status of pending litigation – Holton vs UVA 19th JDC Parish of East Baton Rouge and UVA vs Lloyds et al 19th JDC Parish of East Baton Rouge
- C. Executive Session: Discussion of the Superintendent’s Employment Contract

On motion by Director Price, seconded by Director Anderson, to enter into Executive Session at 5:42 p.m. to discuss pending legal and investigative matters. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Biossat, Anderson, Esmail, and Holliday voting in favor. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

On motion by Director Anderson, seconded by Director Esmail, to return to regular open session at 7:02 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Biossat, Anderson, Esmail, and Holliday voting in favor. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

Board President Holliday reported that three executive session items were discussed, no votes or formal actions were taken during the executive session, and legal counsel was instructed to handle the matters as directed.

- D. Discussion of Assurances to BESE. Board President Holliday and Superintendent Timoll reviewed the annual BESE Authorized Board Chair and Head of School/CEO Assurances. President Holliday highlighted core contractual governance obligations, emphasizing compliance with charter contracts, public laws, ethics codes, nonprofit corporation status, and the Board's role as the final authority over school staffing, financial accountability, and curriculum. No vote was taken.
- E. Discussion and Approval to Dedicate the Solar Project to Mr. Michael W. Howes. The Board considered dedicating the Lynx Den solar project in honor of Michael W. Howes and placing a commemorative plaque

prominently on campus. Traci Payne will assist in drafting plaque language.

On motion by Director Price, seconded by Director Anderson, to approve dedicating the Solar Project to Mr. Michael W. Howes and erecting a plaque on campus. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Biossat, Anderson, Esmail, and Holliday voting in favor. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

- F. Discussion and Approval of the 2026-2027 Finance and Accounting Procedure Manual. The Board reviewed minor operational updates to the 2026-2027 manual, as recommended by the Finance Committee, and directed that the Table of Contents be realigned to match the updated section pages.

On motion by Director Anderson, seconded by Director Biossat, to accept and approve the 2026-2027 Finance and Accounting Procedure Manual with the Table of Contents realignment. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Biossat, Anderson, Esmail, and Holliday voting in favor. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

- G. Discussion and Approval of Funding for Superintendent's 457(b) Plan. Legal counsel and finance staff reported that the contractual 12% salary contribution to the Superintendent's 457(b) plan had gone unfunded in prior years. To remedy the oversight and compensate for lost investment earnings without incurring tax penalties, counsel recommended contributing the IRS-maximum allowable amount (\$24,500 annually) for four tax years: 2023, 2024, 2025, and the current year, 2026, for a total of \$98,000.

On motion by Director Anderson, seconded by Director Biossat, to approve funding of \$98,000 toward the Superintendent's 457(b) plan to cover prior and current year contributions. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Biossat, Anderson, Esmail, and Holliday voting in favor. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

- H. Elections of Board Officers. Nominations were opened for Board Officers for the upcoming term. Per Board bylaws, Vice President John Price advanced to the position of Board President. The slate was presented as follows:

President: John Price

Vice President: John Cavell

Treasurer: Grace Anderson

Secretary: Dr. Hala Esmail

President Holliday called for additional nominations from the floor three times, per Robert's Rules of Order. Hearing none, nominations were closed.

The motion to elect the proposed slate of officers passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Biossat, Anderson, and Esmail voting in favor. Director Holliday abstained. The newly elected officers will assume their duties at the next regular meeting. The Board requested public comment. No public comment.

- I. Resignation of Board President Linda Holliday. Board President Linda Holliday tendered her formal written resignation from the Board of Directors after more than 12 years of service as President and Treasurer. She reflected on the school's growth, including expanding enrollment, sound financial reserves, and additions to campus facilities during her tenure. The written resignation was delivered to the Board Secretary and incoming Board President. No vote was taken.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. September Board Meeting: September 15, 2026
- B. LAPCS Conference Registration Open

VI. CLOSING ITEMS

- A. On motion by Director Price, seconded by Director Biossat, and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote, with Directors Price, Biossat, Anderson, Esmail, and Holliday voting in favor.

CONFERENCE ROOM & ONLINE GUESTS:

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	LOCATION
		Conference Room
Please note: Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was unable to be live-streamed. The technical issue was cleared and an audio/video recording of the entire meeting was captured and posted.		