

IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS LOUISIANA, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 27, 2024
6:00 PM

The Board of Directors of IDEA Public Schools Louisiana, Inc., met in a regular board meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2023, at 6:30 pm CST located at IDEA Innovation, 7800 Innovation Park Dr., Drive Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70820.

Board members present:

Lakeisha Robichaux, President
Michael Tipton, Vice President
Nicole Reynolds, Treasurer
Tonnisha Ellis
Darrel Lewis
Lakeisha Robichaux arrived at 6:48 pm CST.

Public members present:

Dr. Michelle Clayton, New Schools for Louisiana

1. Opening

1.1 Call to Order – Mr. Tipton called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

1.2 Roll Call – A roll call was held. Ms. Robichaux and Mr. Lewis were not present. Ms. Robichaux arrived after roll call at 6:48pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ellis. Mr. Tipton called for public comment. No public comment was shared. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 A motion was made by Ms. Ellis to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Reynolds. Mr. Tipton called for public comment. No public comment was shared. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Information Items

4.1 National Update

The board received a presentation from Dr. Clifford Wallace where he thanked board members for their service and celebrated Board Appreciation Month, which was in January. Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill then introduced the consultant for IPS Enterprises, Inc., Scott Gordon provided an introduction, described his past experiences, and gave an overview of his role and work with the schools in Baton Rouge.

4.2 Charter Renewal Corrective Action Update

The board received an update from Dr. Cottrill on submissions sent to the East Baton Rouge

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Parish School board. Also discussed were the upcoming submissions for compliance regarding grades in J Campus.

4.3 State of Region

The board received an update from Dr. Wallace on student persistence, staff retention, average daily attendance (ADA) and semester exam data results.

Layne Fisher, Chief Operations Officer, also provided information on 24-25 enrollment and discussed proposed changes to high school structure for the board to consider, specifically regarding IDEA University Prep.

The State of the Region presentation concluded with a report provided by Dina Hasiotis, Chief Strategy Officer, for Attuned Education Partners. Ms. Hasiotis described her role, the observations, and analysis of the work she has completed with Dr. Wallace and the schools to date.

4.4 Financial Updates

James Dworkin, interim Chief Financial Officer, provided a report on the financial statements for October 2023- January 2024. Also, presented was a report on the federal program revenue analysis and a report on drawn down of grants.

4.5 Budget Updates

Steven Parmer, Vice-President of Treasury and Financial Planning, provided a variance analysis as of February 27, 2024. Mr. Parmer continued by reviewing proposed Budget Amendments for February 2024.

4.6 FY 2022-23 Annual Audit Update

Mr. Dworkin provided an update on the FY 2022-23 Annual Audit. It was noted that the annual audit was submitted by CRI on January 17, 2024. A summary of the audit findings and an update on the corrective action planned to resolve findings was provided.

4.7 Grants and Contributions Update

Ms. Lindsey Schaefer, Senior Vice-President of Advancement, provided the board an update on current grants and contributions, specifically highlighting the grants where an extension was requested.

4.8 Conflict of Interest Policy Review and Signature

Board Counsel, Melissa Grand, provided an overview of the requirement to review the Conflict of Interest Policy. Board members were made aware that they were to review the policy and sign a statement that they had completed this review.

4.9 Board Recruitment Update

Jennifer White, Managing Director of Governance and Policy provided the presentation for this item. The IDEA Public Schools Louisiana Board is actively recruiting new Board members.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 27, 2024
6:00 PM

5. Action Items

5.1 Approval of High School changes IDEA University prep as presented (**ACTION ITEM**)
A motion was made by Ms. Robichaux to approve the High School changes for IDEA University Prep as presented and seconded by Mr. Richards. Mr. Tipton called for public comment, and none was made. Mr. Tipton called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

5.2 Approval of FY 23-24 Quarter 2 Financial Statements (October-November-December 2023) (**ACTION ITEM**)

Prior to any motions, there was a question whether the submission of Quarter 2 reports and financial statements to East Baton Rouge was required by statute. Clarity was provided that for Quarter 1, the board had approved Board President signature on a letter to East Baton Rouge Parish stating that the board had reviewed Quarter 1 financial statements. Mr. Tipton requested that the requested action be amended to read “approval of reports and for Board President to sign required document, but any submission to be held until further clarity provided by EBR for this requirement.” Ms. Robichaux made a motion restating the amended language Mr. Tipton requested. This motion was seconded by Ms. Ellis. Mr. Tipton called for public comment, none was made. The amended motion passed unanimously.

5.3 Approval of February 2024 Budget Amendments as presented (**ACTION ITEM**)

A motion was made by Ms. Reynolds to approve the February 2024 Budget Amendments as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ellis. Mr. Tipton called for public comment, and none was made. Mr. Tipton called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

5.4 Approval of SIH Government Services Agreement (**ACTION ITEM**)

A motion was made by Ms. Reynolds to approve the SIH Government Services Agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Robichaux. Mr. Tipton called for public comment, and none was made. Mr. Tipton called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

5.5 Approval of Charter Communications Agreement (**ACTION ITEM**)

A motion was made by Ms. Reynolds to approve the Charter Communications Agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Robichaux. Mr. Tipton called for public comment, and none was made. Mr. Tipton called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

5.6 Accept final 2023 Audit Report (**ACTION ITEM**)

A motion was made by Ms. Reynolds to accept the final 2024 Audit Report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ellis. Mr. Tipton called for public comment, and none was made. Mr. Tipton called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

5.7 Approval of NSBR Grant Agreement revisions as presented (**ACTION ITEM**)

A motion was made by Ms. Ellis to approve the revisions to the NSBR Grant Agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Robichaux. Mr. Tipton called for public

IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS LOUISIANA, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 27, 2024
6:00 PM

comment, and none was made. Ms. Tipton called for a vote; he stated that he would be abstaining from the vote. The motion passed with votes from Ms. Ellis, Ms. Robichaux, Ms. Reynolds, and Mr. Richards.

6. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Reynolds to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. and seconded by Ms. Ellis. Mr. Tipton called for public comment, but none was made. The motion passed unanimously.