

The Board of Directors of IDEA Public Schools Louisiana, Inc., met in a regular board meeting on Tuesday, May 21, at 6:00pm CST located at IDEA Innovation located at 7800 Innovation Park Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70820.

Board members present:

Lakeisha Robichaux, President
Michael Tipton, Vice President
Nicole Reynolds, Treasurer
Tonnisha Ellis, arrived at 6:33 pm CST

Public members present:

Kara Maggiore, New Schools for Louisiana
Eric Robert- IDEA Innovation
Mahogane Kemp- IDEA Public Schools Louisiana, Inc.

1. Opening

1.1 Call to Order – Ms. Robichaux called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

1.2 Roll Call – A roll call was held.

2. Amendment of the Agenda

A motion was made to amend the agenda to include consider and act on a board membership candidate under the action items portion of the agenda. Mr. Tipton made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Reynolds. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment, none was shared. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 A motion was made by Mr. Tipton to approve the April 23, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment, none was shared. The motion passed unanimously.

3.2 A motion was made by Ms. Reynolds to approve the May 16, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Tipton seconded. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment. No public comment was shared. The motion passed unanimously.

3.3 A motion was made by Ms. Reynolds to approve the February 20, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Tipton seconded. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment, none was made, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Information Items

4.1 State of Region

The board received an update from Dr. Wallace on progress to goal regarding student persistence, staff retention, average daily attendance (ADA), enrollment progress, and overall direction for 24-25 and beyond. Scott Gordon, consultant for IPS Entreprises, Inc and Cody Grindle, President of the management company provided more information on the region moving into a more autonomous state and what that would mean for Dr. Wallace as the Executive Director and the region. The board discussed the new semi-autonomous state and asked the presenters questions.

4.2 Budget Update

Members of the Finance team, Erika Hernandez and Ismael Santamaria presented the proposed pro forma budget for 24-25 for board members to review.

4.3 Finance Update

The board received an update from various members of the Finance team, James Dworkin, Erika Hernandez and Armando Perez, that included a review of April 2024 financial statements, an update on federal programs and grants draw down, a variance analysis, and budget pre-approval requests for 24-25.

4.4 Audit Update

The board was reminded of the recent audit findings and the requirement to receive a report and presentation regarding the corrective action plan related to those findings. Chief Human Assets Officer, Martin Winchester provided the updates for the employee records findings, and Chief Information Officer, Marlon Shears, provided the updates regarding the student grades/records audit finding.

4.5 Contracts

Melissa Grand and Jessica Hess, Chief Governance Officer, provided an update regarding the New Schools Baton Rouge agreement and the proposed amendment. James Dworkin reviewed the general contracts for the board to consider for approval.

4.6 Board Recruitment Update

Jessica Hess provided the update and introduced a potential candidate for the board to consider. Board members discussed Misty Albrecht and her nomination.

4.7 Charter Contract Renewal Updates

Melissa Grand, Board Counsel, provided the board an update regarding the progress with the charter contract renewal.

5. Action Items

5.1 Approval of 24-25 budget pre-approval request as presented (**ACTION ITEM**)

A motion was made by Mr. Tipton to approve the 24-25 budget pre-approval request as presented and seconded by Ms. Reynolds. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment, and none was made. Ms. Robichaux called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

5.2 Approval of NSBR Agreement Amendment as presented (**ACTION ITEM**)

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve the NSBR Agreement Amendment as presented. This motion was seconded by Ms. Reynolds. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment, none was made. The amended motion passed unanimously.

5.3 Approval of payment for IDEA University Prep (UP) stipends as presented (**ACTION ITEM**)

A motion was made by Ms. Ellis to approve the payment for IDEA UP stipends as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Reynolds. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment, and none was made. Ms. Robichaux called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

5.4 Approval of Our Lady of the Lake Agreement-5th Amendment as presented (**ACTION ITEM**)

A motion was made by Ms. Ellis to approve the Our Lady of the Lake Agreement-5th Amendment as presented, which was seconded by Ms. Robichaux. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment, and none was made. Ms. Robichaux called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

5.5 Approval of agreement with Eriksen Krentel for 1-year of auditing services as presented (**ACTION ITEM**)

A motion was made by Ms. Reynolds to approve the approval of audit services for one year by Eriksen Krentel as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ellis. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment, and none was made. Ms. Robichaux called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

5.6 Approval of Misty Albrecht as a member of the IDEA Public Schools Louisiana, Inc. Board of Directors (**ACTION ITEM**)

A motion was made by Mr. Tipton to approve Ms. Albrecht as a new member of the board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ellis. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment, and none was made. Ms. Robichaux called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

6. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.