

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

The Board of Directors of IDEA Public Schools Louisiana, Inc., met in a regular board meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2023, at 6:00 pm CST located at IDEA Bridge, 1500 N Airway Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70815.

Board members present:

Lakeisha Robichaux, President
Michael Tipton, Vice President
Theo Richards
Tonnisha Ellis
Darrell Lewis
John Murray

1. Opening

1.1 Call to Order – Ms. Robichaux called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. CST

1.2 Roll Call – A roll call was held. Ms. Albrecht was not present.

2. Approval of the Agenda

2.1 A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tipton. 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 minutes for the July 23, 2024, regular board meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Richards. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment. No public comment was shared. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Information Items

4.1 Introduction of Executive Director of IPS Enterprises, Inc.
Jessica Hess, Chief Governance Officer, introduced Adam Miller, the new National Executive Director for IPS Enterprises, Inc. Mr. Miller shared his previous experience and the goals for his role.

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4.2 State of the Region

Dr. Cottrill introduced Jamaal Henry, Vice President of Schools, to the board. The board received an update from Colleen Stearns, Chief Academic Officer, about the region's overall status. Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Chief Schools Officer, shared an update on staff and student persistence. In his report, he provided information about the 24-25 Strategic Plan. Katrice Terrance, Regional Director of Operations, presented an update on the enrollment progress.

4.3 Audit Update

The board received an update from Martin Winchester, Chief Human Assets Officer, and Felida Villarreal, VP of Human Resources, regarding the Audit Corrective Action Update on Human Resources. Marlon Shears, Chief Information Officer, then shared regarding the Audit Corrective Action Update for the Information Technology audit findings. Mr. Shears reviewed previously taken steps and stated that the finding had been resolved, and that there would be no further presentation or action by the IT team.

4.4 Financial Updates

James Dworkin provided a report on the Preliminary June 2024 Financial Statements. Krystal Lovato provided a detailed overview on drawdowns of current grants.

4.5 Budget Updates

Lawrence Galloway, Vice President of Finance, presented the Budget Updates, including a variance report.

4.6 Treasury Update

Jennifer White, Managing Director of Governance and Policy provided an overview of the current Banking Signature Authority Resolution. Ms. White noted that Nicole Reynolds, previously a member of the board and board treasurer, needed to be removed. Ms. White suggested that when the board elects a new treasurer their name would be added to the resolution.

4.7 Compliance Updates

Ms. White continued with a presentation of Compliance Updates, which included an annual review of the Wellness Policy. The board reviewed the proposed revisions to the policy. The presentation continued with a review of deadlines associated with School Board Disclosure Forms.

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4.8 Charter Contract Updates

Melissa Grand, Board Counsel, shared an update to the board on the Charter Contract.

4.9 Board Recruitment

Jessica Hess, Chief Governance Officer, shared on the IPSL Board recruitment. Mrs. Hess introduced candidate Laura Wilkinson, who joined the meeting. Ms. Wilkinson introduced herself to the board.

4.10 Board Bylaws & Elections

Jennifer White reviewed the bylaws with the board and noted that with the transition of Nicole Reynolds and the anticipated transition of Michael Tipton, following the August board meeting, the board would need to elect a new Treasurer and Vice-President. Ms. White also noted that the position of Secretary was also vacant. The board discussed the open positions. John Murray shared interest in the Treasurer role, Tonnisha Ellis was mentioned for the Secretary role, and Theo Richards was discussed as Vice-President.

4.11 Outstanding Board Service Recognition

Leslie Spencer stated that this would be the last board meeting for Michael Tipton, who has served on the board since before the schools opened to students and recognized him for his dedication to the students and families in Baton Rouge. Board members shared their gratitude for Michael for his long service to the board and organization.

5. Action Items

5.1 Approval of Audit Compliance Questionnaire

A motion was made by Mr. Richards to approve the Audit Compliance Questionnaire as presented and seconded by Ms. Ellis. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment, and none was made. Ms. Robichaux called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

5.2 Approval of Banking Signature Authority Resolution

Ms. Robichaux noted that action on the banking signature authority resolution would take place after action item 5.5, to give the board the opportunity to elect a new Treasurer, that would need to be added to the resolution.

5.3 Approval of Wellness Policy

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Tipton to approve the review and revisions of the Wellness Policy as presented. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment, none was made, and the motion passed unanimously.

5.4 Approval of Candidate for Board Membership –LW

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Tipton to approve the review and revisions of the Wellness Policy as presented. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment, none was made, and the motion passed unanimously.

5.5 Election of Board Officers

A motion was made by Mr. Tipton to elect John Murray as Treasurer and Tonnisha Ellis

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as Secretary. Mr. Murray and Ms. Ellis accepted the nominations, and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment, none was made, and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Robichaux for Theo Richards to be elected to the role of Vice-President for the remainder of his term. Mr. Richards accepted the nomination to hold the Vice-President position for the remainder of his term. Ms. Ellis seconded the motion. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment, none was made, and the motion passed unanimously.

5.2 Banking Signature Authority Resolution

With the election of Treasurer, Ms. Robichaux returned to action item 5.2 A motion was made by Mr. Richards to approve the removal of Nicole Reynolds from the banking signature authority resolution, and the addition of the new Treasurer, John Murray. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tipton. Ms. Robichaux called for public comment, and none was made. Ms. Robichaux called for a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

5.6 Executive Session. Board discussion to receive legal advice regarding confidential, attorney-client privileged matters from Board Counsel pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(10), and Board discussion of investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(4). The board moved into Executive Session at 7:20 pm CST. The board reconvened in Open Session at 7:45 pm CST. No action was taken in Executive Session.

6. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Richards to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Ms. Ellis. Mr. Tipton called for public comment, but none was made. The motion passed unanimously. The board meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. CST