



**New Beginnings Schools Foundation Board Meeting**

October 26, 2015

5:30 pm

2045 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 438

New Orleans, Louisiana

**Minutes**

The New Beginnings Schools Foundation met in session on October 26, 2015, at 2045 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 438, New Orleans, Louisiana at 5:37 pm. Leslie Bouie, Chair called the meeting to order.

**Present for the meeting were:**

Wanda Brooks  
Sheila Danzey  
Travis Chase  
Val Marshall  
Kathy Saloy  
Jill Sylvain  
Jay Ginsberg  
Austin Zaunbrecher

**Absent from the meeting were:**

Ashley Spears  
Carla Major  
Don Wheat

**Agenda Adoption**

Leslie Bouie asked for a vote to amend the agenda and remove the Executive Session. Sheila Danzey moved to remove the Executive Session and Val Marshall seconded.

**Presentation on Capdau School**

Ron Bordelon, Chief Facilities Officer with the Recovery School District did a presentation on the Pierre A. Capdau School. Mr. Bordelon stated there is corrective remediation at the site which began in May, 2015. The remediation will take sixty to ninety days to complete. CORE Construction Services is the contractor for the project. Mr. Bordelon advised that the project is on schedule and anticipated move in date is May 2017. There is an energy model to give an estimated cost of operation of the school. Mr. Bordelon advised that would be within the first quarter of 2016. Leslie Bouie requested the LDQ Remediation Report.

### **Old Business**

Chair Bouie requested a vote to approve the minutes of August 17, 2015. The motion was made by Kathy Saloy and second by Val Marshall. Chair Bouie also requested to approve the minutes of August 31, 2015. The motion was made by Wanda Brooks and second by Val Marshall. Chair Bouie requested a vote to approve the corrected minutes of May 18, 2015. The motion was made by Shelia Danzey and seconded by Wanda Brooks.

Chair Bouie also called for a motion to approve the Insurance Broker Contract with Eustis Insurance Company and Demarie & Timmerman. On motion by Travis Chase and second by Val Marshall. On vote taken Austin Zaunbrecher abstained.

Chair Bouie called for a motion to approve the leave request of board member Don Wheat until December 2015, the motion was made by Shelia Danzey and second by Wanda Brooks.

### **New Business**

Chair Bouie called for a motion to approve the minutes of September 21, 2015. The motion was made by Kathy Saloy and second by Austin Zaunbrecher. Jay Ginsberg stated since there was no quorum, we did not need minutes.

Chair Bouie called for a motion to approve the Para Position for Pierre A. Capda School. Austin Zaunbrecher, acting chair of Finance Committee recommended approval of the para position at Capdau. We are running a deficit at the school, however the fund balance is healthy enough to approve the para position. The motion was second by Wanda Brooks. Sametta Brown explain that board approval is required when monies are taken from the fund balance as requested by the board.

Chair Bouie called for a motion to approve the RFQ for HVAC Services for Lake Area, Capdau and Nelson. Shelia Danzey motioned to recommend that all corrections/changes be made in the next forty-eight hours. Val Marshall second motion.

Chair Bouie called for a motion to approve the RFQ for Elevator Services for Medard H. Nelson and Lake Area with a maximum of \$5,000.00. Shelia Danzey motion to recommend, Kathy Saloy second.

On motion by Chair Bouie to approve the RFQ for Grounds Maintenance for all the network schools due to the contract expiring. Austin Zaunbrecher motion to recommend approval, Kathy Saloy second.

Chair Bouie called for a motion to approve the RFQ for Non-Hazardous Waste for all network schools. There was a recommendation to add the addresses on all RFQs for all the network schools. The motion was made by Shelia Danzey and seconded by Wanda Brooks.

Chair Bouie asked for a motion to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire. Karen Craig, CFO, explained the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire was part of the audit specific to charter schools regarding laws and regulations. The questionnaire was approved by Leslie Bouie, Chair, Austin Zaunbrecher, Acting Treasurer and Jill Sylvain.

Jay Ginsberg gave an update of the review of the bylaws that was discussed at the board retreat on September 26, 2015. Jay Ginsberg said the bylaws were tweaked by the Governance Committee and the bylaws will be brought to the full board for board approval at the next meeting.

### **Finance Committee**

Austin Zaunbrecher, Acting Treasurer, advised the board Sherina Clavier of Bruno and Tervalon gave an update on the audit. Austin Zaunbrecher explained the auditor found five accounting significant deficiencies to policies and procedures. Karen Craig, CFO, presented the Fiscal Policies and Procedures. Austin Zaunbrecher advised the policy needs to be updated and the policy would be presented at the next board meeting for approval.

Karen Craig presented the following:

### **SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF September 30, 2015:**

**We received the preliminary 10.1.15 student count. The schools have until 10.31.15 to finalize the numbers. The preliminary numbers are:**

**Capdau 394, budgeted 419 (a decrease of 25 students)**

**Nelson 454, budgeted 488 (a decrease of 34 students)**

**Lake 786, budgeted 737 (an increase of 49 students)**

**Gentilly Terrace 440, budgeted 464 (a decrease of 24 students)**

**The final differentiated tiered special education funding, over-age students and English Language learner funding (that is new this year) may make up some of the difference in total funding if a school's total count decreased. The budget amendment will be presented at the December board meeting. At the end of the first quarter, all schools are at or under the budget projections.**

**CAPDAU- Feb 1, 2015: 404 Students, Budget prepared on 419 students.**

**Actual fund balance at 9.30.15 \$1,109,401 Budgeted fund balance at 9.30.15: \$1,060,905**

Total revenue is over budget by \$35,426:

We received more MFP local funding, this will change with the funding updated by student. Also we received a \$10,000 Educate Now Grant for Social Studies.

Total expenses are under budget by \$(13,070) due to:

-I. Instruction Total expenses over under budget \$(9,633). This represents health and other benefits being under budget for the teachers. The budget will be adjusted with the new open enrollment amounts.

-II. Support Service Programs and Operation Expenses are budget under by (\$2,713) Invoices have not been received for September for our special education services, benefits are under budget, building maintenance was over budget and cleaning supplies for the custodians were under budget. Transportation is over budget by \$14,137. This will smooth out and trend to budget as the year progresses with the scheduled holidays and days off for students.

**LAKE AREA- Feb 1, 2015: 687 Students, Budget prepared on 737 students.**

**Actual fund balance at 9.30.15 \$2,029,177 Budgeted fund balance at 9.30.15: \$1,992,195**

Total revenue under budget by (\$72,376) due to: - MFP current being funded for 687 students and the budget was prepared anticipating 737, the October count was 786. Funding will be adjusted with the budget amendment in December. The Grants are under budget do to the timing of the claims.

Total expenses are under budget by (\$109,358.) This represents vacancies at the schools, health benefits being under budget, one ROTC teacher instead of the two that were originally budgeted and timing of expenses. The change in the ROTC program will be taken in consideration with the budget amendment.

**NELSON- Feb 1, 2015: 488 Students, Budget prepared on 488 students.**

**Actual fund balance at 9.30.15 \$2,882,057 Budgeted fund balance at 9.30.15: \$2,869,858**

Total revenue over budget by \$15,031 due to:

- MFP changes mentioned above.

Total expense is over budget by \$2,831 due to:

-I. This represents Instruction professional services under budget by (\$5,914), athletics materials/supplies under by (\$4,716) and transportation expense being over by \$14,137. This will smooth out and trend to budget as the year progresses with the scheduled holidays and days off for students

**GENTILLY TERRACE - Feb 1, 2015: 464 Students, Budget prepared on 464 students.**

**Actual fund balance at 9.30.15 \$1,901,883. Budgeted fund balance at 9.30.15: \$1,836,124**

Total revenue over budget by \$33,501

- MFP changes mentioned above

Total expense is under budget by (\$33,512) due to:

- This represents vacancies at the schools, health benefits being under budget, and timing of expenses.

## **Network**

Total revenue is under budget by (\$527)

-Expenses are under budget due to timing, PBIS under budget and reduction in pupil support salaries.

Insurance expense is over budget due to higher premiums and the budget will be adjusted with the budget amendment after the October count.

## CEO Report

Sametta Brown report provided information regarding statewide test scores in English and math. The 2014-2015 was designed to: Move away from multiple choice questions to ones that allow students to demonstrate a real understanding of what they know and can do by writing essays, solving real world problems, and reading and analyzing complex. Overall PARCC task was more challenging than LEAP questions, collecting more evidence across more standards. Higher performing students tended to show more evidence of “Mastery” than in the past, while lower achieving students tended to show less evidence of even basic skills.

Because the assessment instruments changed, the State Department of Education is not calculating apples-to-apples comparisons in student performance levels from one year to the next (“Mastery” in 2014 vs. “Mastery” in 2015, e.g.). The 2015 results will establish the “Year One” baseline from which to calculate school performance scores moving forward.

- Individual student test scores were released last week. All school within the State showed a drop in achievement but is not an indication of overall student achievement due to the change in the test. A low score does not mean all children of the Network did not improve or that we did a poor job of instruction. It simply means that the expectations have been raised for all students.

High Schools: Results will be released the week of October 26th. Districts will receive final results on Tuesday, October 27th, via email and results will be released publicly on Thursday, October 29, 2015.

Ms. Brown also reported how the Network staff plan to use the test results:

- Scores will be used to help teachers identify where students needs extra support, or can be challenged by going deeper into subject matter.
- They will also be used to measure how we are doing as a Network of Schools to help students achieve higher expectations.
- We will look at other grades, solicit teacher feedback and use benchmark data to develop a plan to improve student achievement across the Network.
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She also reported: The Academic committee meet last week to discuss benchmark data.

- A-net data presented indicated the majority of our students in grades 2 thru 8 are in need of intensive remediation in math and ELA.
- Several interventions have been are currently being used to improve student achievement. Data day: where teachers wrote action plans, reviewed the data, collaborated with other content teachers and developed student interventions.
- The next A-net interim assessment will be December 7-11.

Chair, Leslie Bouie ended the meeting at 7:28pm.