

International School of Louisiana Board of Trustees

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday January 27, 2021 at 6:00 PM CST

Location

The Board held a meeting via electronic means due to a declared state of emergency or disaster within our geographic area. Members of the public were able to attend the meeting by phone or video conference. Members of the public obtained meeting information, including, but not limited to, the teleconference dial-in information and video conference links, via email from Susan Chapman, Chief of Staff, at schapman@isl-edu.org. Members of the public were allowed to submit comments in advance to be read aloud during the public comment period of the meeting by submitting comments via email to schapman@isl-edu.org. Requests for other accommodations were available by contacting Ms. Chapman by email.

Board Members Present

Larissa Muetzel, Jade Brown-Russell, Sarah Murphy, Chad Rice, Grant Ligon, Max Correa, Howard Rodgers IV

Board Members Absent

None.

Guests Present

Melanie Tennyson; Susan Chapman; Emily Thomas

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by the Board President at 6:00pm.

B. Record Attendance and Guests – The Board Secretary called the roll and a quorum was present.

II. Action Items

A. Proposed Authorization for Hazard Pay– The Staff recommends that the Board authorize the use of school funds for a special distribution of hazard pay to employees. Board Member Rogers asked how long is the hazard pay for? Staff advised that it will be a single payment that will be the same sum of money to all employees, and it's in recognition of the hazard of all that been involved and coming in and out of the things with COVID. Board Member Correa noted that in the future it would be helpful to, before we vote on something, get a small summary. Board Member, Jade Brown-Russell offered a motion for approval. Board Member Howard Rogers seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition or abstentions.

B. Nomination of New Board Member

Board Member Rogers, in his capacity as Chair of the Governance Committee recommends nomination of Sharon Barthelemy as a board member. Sharon Barthelemy completed the vetting process and the committee believes that she will be a good member for the board. Board Member, Howard Rogers offered a motion for approval. Board Member Jade Brown-Russell seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition or abstentions. The public was given the opportunity to comment on item before the Board voted. No public comment was made

III. Head of School Report

HOS Report – ISL has a current enrollment is 1294 -- Dixon we have 345, uptown 460, and the West Bank, 309 students. Presently, we have been doing enrollment and in the first round of enrollment. It looks like we are going to fill our seats I may have more information about that later in the report too but they go hand in hand and that's really exciting as there are fewer numbers of eligible kindergarteners in that city, right now, and across America in general. Thank you. And Max for increasing enrollment and Andrew in the future because kindergarten, the number of Kindles available kindergarteners is down there. No public schools announced today that kids will go back on Monday. We've been out, you know, for a month and I know, As I mentioned last week we've had individuals on both sides of the fence reaching out to us but many more families, desperate to have their children in school so a lot of families will be happy, come Monday morning, K through eight will come back into our buildings and we will be ready for them. As of January, 25 we have zero employees and zero, students who are positive, and we have two students and one employee who are quarantined that's those numbers are really great. We have been working with Nolan public schools again today we got more information with them about getting our teachers vaccinated. and so I'm feeling cautiously optimistic that that we're moving toward that happening. Each day, we're getting a little closer. State standardized testing is still scheduled for the spring. There is no evidence that children will be allowed to come into the building to test Demeter stay out of the building to test they're staying still that all children need to come in and test. Testing will take place. There are some challenges there. I think I mentioned last week that in the upcoming weeks with the new education secretary, that might change, because it's all tied to federal Every Student Succeeds Act funding, and that Monday there, Louisiana State Accountability Commission me, and they'll be talking about testing there, too. And so, I'll log in to that meeting and see what they have to say. Everything I've heard from. I directly I hear from one of my other heads of school, colleagues that sits on that committee. She says that the superintendent doesn't want to penalize children or schools, um, they're just trying to figure out how to work through all of the red tape and the reporting that the states have to do, to the federal government to make sure that this can go as smoothly as possible, schools get the information they need to be able to help students because standardized testing does give us information and it's just one of the tools we use. And ideally, we'll be able to test students that are eligible to come into the building and be tested get that data and use it to help them and move forward with educating our kids, next year. Um communications and development. We got another \$10,000 grant from pro bono the rec foundation for more shade. We're going to determine where we are going to put that which one of our campuses. We met with the Marcello family and Welch's today who are the custodians of the kindy fund the kindy fund that was a donation that was given to ISS, or some parents along. And then we added some of their PTO funds when that school closed down and those families merged into the type. We have a pretty substantial sum of money, we're talking about building a performance Pavilion. With those dollars we need to make sure we can get permissions. There's like \$50,000 there and like a high shaded area and platform, either at uptown or Dixon camp could put the kindy label on there so we met with them today Carla, Emily and I and so we're trying to move that so we'll have two more shaded outdoor areas. At our school, which will help a lot with the, you know, tremendous heat of the spring and summer that our students and teachers endure doing PE and circus arts, outside the family directory is completed that was a, a bigger project than we thought it would be. But we have over 200 families who now have access to first some emails, and that so that they can communicate with one another, set up playdates and birthday parties and whatever it is they need to do directly, without going through the school and there's no violation of anybody's privacy. I think that's really exciting parents have wanted that for a long time and we

have finally made that happen in keeping with our really strict privacy laws and tend to return we sent out our intent to return form as we do annually and this year, 96.7, or 212, employees indicated that they intend to return for the 2122 school year. That's great news we always have a couple of people who have life you know intervene whether partners job is transferred or something comes up, and they leave us but those are the outliers so we feel really great about going into next year with a stable workforce employees. Health insurance participation is currently at 81% of our employees and 78% of our employee, employees are participating in the retirement plan. Finally, we got more Chromebooks or Mr. Big orders back in December and January the IT department distributed also a number of additional hotspots to families who needed them for this wave of virtual learning. And we talked about in finance committee last week that both the MFP for Jefferson Parish and Orleans Parish went up Jefferson Parish went up significantly \$850 per student Orleans Parish, only about \$50. They said it could be more either way Jefferson Parish had passed a millage out there which increased their collection of revenue. So that has offset. The loss of students that we had this year and so in terms of budget we're breaking even now, as we mentioned in the finance committee meeting, it will be interesting to see how that works. Next year when they start collecting taxes, and there are many fewer I'm not sure that the assessments can off. Set the empty hotel rooms, but that's just my personal aside editorial comments there. But, Jefferson Parish is millage should continue so that's really good news for us, um, the school nurse school's annual audit was completed for people who were at the finance committee meeting car Ingram Riggs was there, and there were no major findings, the probably the. Well, the biggest finding was that the labor certifications for our title one employees, which was something we had always done in the past and it dropped out of our radar, and that it was having people who are play paid with federal dollars, acknowledge that they understand if you are the family liaison, you know that your salary is paid with federal dollars not state MFP and we already have put things in place to make those corrections food service revenue was up in January when the kids came back. Then it dropped again. Two days later, but we anticipate that it will increase. Again, this upcoming week. As I said earlier, the main round application window closes on January 29 for kindergarten and first grade spots but we've already heard from enroll know that we have more than sufficient applications to fill those spots covered vaccine, we're working with another public schools to make sure we have and Children's Hospital thrive and Ochsner to make sure we have things in line. Our renewal visit for our charter annual charter review is on February 3 we don't anticipate that there will be any issues there, they'll come into the building. The next step is to make sure that all of our fire extinguishers have green tags Miss Eva, and they'll pull a few random employee files or spend. They'll ask us some questions and. And that's generally a very nice experience facility search. We visited a couple of properties in December. And as I talked about in strategic planning, everything that we're looking at now would require major renovations and historic tax credits and what that, what does that mean for the school to enter into those large scale construction projects with historic or older buildings versus new buildings and share. Sharing new board member has fallen right into place there. So we'll keep looking. But for now with the anticipated loss in revenue, and potentially decreased EMI. We may need to pause that search anyway and keep our reserve high and dry so that we don't to lay people off there were a couple of articles and advocate this past week talking to some of the big. The two biggest CMOS in town and they're already talking about. Then, how they anticipate having to lay off employees next school year and we've fortunately are not in that position.

IV. Public Comment

The Board President invited members of the public to address the Board. No public comments made.

V. Closing Items

A. **Adjourn** – Board Member Rogers made motion to adjourn. Seconded by Board Member Rice. Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.

International School of Louisiana Board of Trustees

Minutes

Board of Trustees Special Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday March 10, 2021 at 6:00 PM CST

Location

The Board held a special meeting via electronic means due to a declared state of emergency or disaster within our geographic area. Members of the public were able to attend the special meeting by phone or video conference. Members of the public obtained special meeting information, including, but not limited to, the teleconference dial-in information and video conference links, via email from Susan Chapman, Chief of Staff, at schapman@isl-edu.org. Members of the public were allowed to submit comments in advance to be read aloud during the public comment period of the meeting by submitting comments via email to schapman@isl-edu.org. Requests for other accommodations were available by contacting Ms. Chapman by email.

Board Members Present

Larissa Muetzel, Sharon Barthelemy, Sarah Murphy, Grant Ligon, Max Correa

Board Members Absent

Jade Brown-Russell, Chad Rice

Guests Present

Melanie Tennyson; Susan Chapman; Emily Thomas; Brandon Ferguson

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order – The special meeting was called to order by the Board President at 6:02pm.

B. Record Attendance and Guests – The Board Secretary called the roll and a quorum was present.

II. Action Items

Proposed Authorization for Facility Purchase

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the Head of School to proceed with purchasing the A.P. Tureaud school facility at 2021 Pauger Street, New Orleans. Staff reported that the AP Tureaud elementary school building, which is in what they call the south Seventh Ward, bounded by Elysian Fields, St Claude, St Bernard, like a triangle, there, was formerly the Homer Plessy building, for people who maybe weren't familiar with that site. It's been empty for about five or six years now. It is the one building that Orleans Parish school board has put up for either long term lease or purchase this year. Orleans Parish school board have always has to give charters the first right of refusal on all of their properties. And so, it's often quick we don't get a lot of advance notice we get, you know, something pops up that's how we got the Dixon building and how we were able to move into Dibert. Anyway, came up, we saw it, took us a couple of tries to get in there and look at it because we always, you know, have our

finger, try to keep our finger on the pulse of any school buildings that are available. Five of us were able to go in and see this school building. And we're actually pleasantly surprised. We didn't anticipate, actually I don't think it, I know, as we were going, that we were going to walk away and go "Wow, you know this is a fabulous location, and a building with really great old bones." The building had been vandalized internally. So it looks much different than the pictures we first saw; people went in, they stripped all that copper out of it. But anyway, so we went, and we were very excited about it. I brought it back, told Max, who's on our who's worked with us on facilities and Grant and the board we went back we looked again. We walked through it with an architect, this time to get their perception and point of view and they, they, too, thought that the building was in really good shape, much better shape structurally than they had anticipated. The architect we brought with us was from Mathis Briere, who had worked on our Uptown renovation. The work that we did to supplement NOLA Public Schools work, they've also done the Encore building they've worked at. They've done work at NOCCA, doing some work for Lycee. They've done a lot of school buildings around the city. Anyway, so they were excited to see what great shape it was in and told us we were not. We weren't, we were right to think that it would be a good school. A good building for a school; it's in good shape, worthy of renovation. We have a couple of ideas for the building we we're not set on one course right now. The first and foremost pre k has come to our minds we've always talked about having pre k have never had this space. Pre k have room requirements and outdoor requirements and a lot of very specialized needs for those young children. There's a tremendous demand in in our city, the state, the country as a whole but in New Orleans in particular for high quality early childhood education. And we would like to be able to step up to the plate and help. Having another building would allow us to do that. Additionally, being an immersion school the earlier we can get kids into immersion, you know, the better. And we are currently the only language immersion school in the city that does not have pre k attached to our program. We believe collectively I, I know the principals and I spoke with Tressa Northington, who is one of our kindergarten teachers who has a doctorate, that she completed in the last couple of years in early childhood education about the opportunities for children when they have early intervention early in pre k four, and C. But really, closer to, I'll come in, you know, I'll come and speak. When she did her research at our school 60% of our students came to us, not kindergarten ready right so she said in her class in particular that year, she had 55% of her students and she said it takes at least the first third of the year just to get as many of those students into the routines of school would like to be in school. foundational skills, and that having pre k four would really allow us to accelerate that learning. The principles in particular Miss Rosie, and I were talking, we all believe that being able to get kids earlier and get them wrapped the wraparound services they need, whether it's speech or occupational therapy those types of services will also help us to help students earlier and accelerate their learning right so not only are we, filling a need for families. Kids Learning, and then there's our personal goal of getting back to being an A rated school and the only way we believe, not the only way but having pre k could significantly impact that if we got two kids earlier and gave them those foundational support that they need. So that's why we're. That's why we love that particular idea. Now how we do that. How we bring pre k in with this building we could do that in a variety of scenarios and I don't know that that's the purpose of tonight's meeting if we are able to purchase the building, I think we could like really drill down into various struck ways we could structure, our different grade levels and have pre k at this school, and use this space to do that. I've talked to with Emily and I have spent time with Mike Dunn, our have done financials our consultant, and he has done projections, based on, last year we felt like COVID was a little wonky this year and so we use last year's projections and we feel like we are financially in a good place to add pre k we met. We meeting, Emily, Susan, and I met with the people at LDOE today - that might be assistant superintendent Taylor the queen of pre K - and got a lot of information about the different types of pre-Ks we could have, whether that's LA4, which comes with dedicated, annually dedicated pre k funding; we could have sliding scale opportunities for families, and we want to make sure we, you know, are still a diverse by design school. So we know more about that and with all of that in mind, using like a half LA4, our students being half LA4 and half of them being sliding scale students we - Mike - did the numbers, and we would still have a small surplus of - he came out with \$85,000 - quick kind of the quick and dirty thing, so we believe it's financially feasible, and we believe that it's a great, great way to use those dollars terms of cost of the building. They're offering it at \$1.2. million. That was the appraised value about two years ago or three years ago. Prior to them removing like every copper pipe and all of the chillers and the wires. I mean they got every infinitesimal scrap of copper they could get out of that building, so I believe that the new appraisal which Orleans Parish school board is required to provide within six months of a date of purchase will be even less, and

that we can make an offer of 85% of their appraisal appraise price but going with the 1.2 million right now, which the architect at Mathis Greer told us thinks is a steal. For that price say, you know, 85% of that as close to a million dollars or something like that. But anyway what I'm here to do tonight is to ask for your authorization to submit a letter of intent to purchase on behalf of the Board and the school. We have the letter from the bank, our bank letting Orleans Parish School Board know that we are financially solvent, and good for the purchase price, and that would move us to the next level of the process and that would be, we'd have to do title searches. And then negotiate, along with negotiating the purchase price and then we do know that some of these really old buildings that were built in New Orleans were built on land that are sometimes they were you know donated and tracks that criss cross and it can take some time to untangle that it's not impossible, but, but I know a couple of schools that have hit at those bumps in the road. I've spent time with Emily and Lee Reed, an attorney who has handled many of these types of projects for other schools, and he is there to help guide us through it, but kind of the big picture. I'm kind of lost in all the details.

Board Member Muetzel made motion to adjourn. Seconded by Board Member Murphy. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition or abstentions.

See full transcript for board dialogue.

IV. Public Comment

The Board President invited members of the public to address the Board. No public comments made.

V. Closing Items

A. **Adjourn** – Board Member Murphy made motion to adjourn. Seconded by Board Member Correa. Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.

International School of Louisiana Board of Trustees

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday March 24, 2021 at 6:00 PM CDT

Location

The Board held a meeting via electronic means due to a declared state of emergency or disaster within our geographic area. Members of the public were able to attend the meeting by phone or video conference. Members of the public obtained meeting information, including, but not limited to, the teleconference dial-in information and video conference links, via email from Susan Chapman, Chief of Staff, at schapman@isl-edu.org. Members of the public were allowed to submit comments in advance to be read aloud during the public comment period of the meeting by submitting comments via email to schapman@isl-edu.org. Requests for other accommodations were available by contacting Ms. Chapman by email.

Board Members Present

Jade Brown-Russell, Sarah Murphy, Chad Rice, Grant Ligon, Max Correa

Board Members Absent

Larissa Muetzel, Sharon Barthelemy

Guests Present

Melanie Tennyson; Susan Chapman; Emily Thomas; Brandon Ferguson

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by the Board President at 6:02pm.

B. Record Attendance and Guests – The Board Secretary called the roll and a quorum was present.

II. Action Items

A. **NONE**

III. Head of School Report

HOS Report – ISL has a current enrollment of enrollment, 1285, and of that number approximately 25% of our students still continue to learn virtually state standardized testing is going to move forward, this spring. All students are going to be required to come into the building and test on campus. He has let us know that Louisiana has chosen that option and that kids are not going to be able to test at home. So, we're currently working on putting our plan into place around how to schedule all of that but we have this space, and we believe that, under our current COVID plan, we can bring students in who have been learning virtually and create their individual learning groups and be compliant with our schools COVID plan, And certainly, but the new CDC guidelines which has eliminated the need for six feet of space.

Yeah, three feet. We should be able to do that fairly successfully it's a lot of moving pieces and parts especially at the Uptown campus where every single student tests. Nobody tests at Dixon. And then over on the West Bank, Mr. Ferguson has grades three through five that test. The other thing that's different this year is that all of our kids are going to test online and years past. ISL and a lot of schools chose to have our third and fourth graders still do a paper and pencil test. Because especially when they're writing they're still thinking you know from brain kind of to hand to pencil but with the on the advent of COVID, kids did a lot more work virtually and on their computers and are much more comfortable using their Chromebooks and technology. So this will be our first year of testing all grades three through eight on the computer without paper and pencil. So that's going to be a very interesting experience for us.

They pushed back testing, the testing window so we will start bringing in kids on May, either fourth or six, and they will test through the month of May. We'll have our older kids test first, because eighth graders need to take the DELE exam which is a Spanish language exam, and that's always right before they have their promotion, their last day of school, so we need to get them tested first, and then three, four and five will be later in the month. This is the latest we've ever tested, which is also kind of nice. When the window got pushed back so that kids teachers have more time to teach, I'd love to see it like this every year but I'm not sure that that'll take place. Right now our French students in fifth and eighth grade are taking the DELF, which is the French exam for non native French speakers, that's happening this week at the Uptown campus, and then the Spanish students will take their exam in May, we're excited to see what those results look like. Brandon Ferguson, who's with us tonight is participating in the School Leadership Center, a citywide school leader development program. They did a, like a half year session for school leaders, and Brandon is was the only one who of us who's in a leadership position who hadn't been through that. I had been through it in the early years and Rosy and Laura had been through one of their programs, and so we have Brandon participating now and that's exciting, that we'll all be alumni of that very successful and important program. Two middle school students were awarded scholarships to Circus Smirkus; one of our former circus artists is now working at college up in Vermont and has established a summer program called Circus Smirkus and offered in Vermont. Yeah, it's, it's a sleep away. Go. Stay in Vermont experience which we're super excited about Miss Meret and her team worked really hard to get the right people who could attend. You know some parents, that's a big, that's a big jaunt if you've never, you know some of our middle schoolers have never spent the night away from home, others you know outside of this city, so. So we have found two families who are excited and willing to take the challenge one is going to drive the student up there, the others going to fly them up and we're working with them to help fundraise so that there aren't any costs associated for those families. So we're really excited about that. We're working on summer school or summer learning opportunities for our kids right now. We've put that out there, to our faculty and staff, everyone who works at the school, and that's the big challenge not just for ISL but for all schools in the city. Earlier this week I was on a call with Dr Brumley, and it was open to all the charter leaders in New Orleans, and we all want to have the experience. You know the state has ESSR dollars that are coming down, but we're all finding that we put it out to our teachers and staff that people are feeling more burned out than usual. People want to travel at our school and go back to their country of origin and see their family. Some of them haven't seen them in almost two years. We found a small window, you know, where we believe we can, we can have a short experience. And so we're working on what that looks like, who we're going to prioritize in that time.

We have talked to our partners right so we're going to talk to TREE and see if we can have - that's the Teaching Responsible Earth Education and see if they can either come in or even we could have kids go potentially to the North Shore and do that experience. We work with Goat in the Road, we work with 21st Century, we work with KidSmart. So, we're going to work with people who have been coming into the school and working with us, but we haven't talked to another school about mixing kids. And it's also for us, trying to... There are there's a competing hierarchy of needs right now, right? So, we're talking about, like, we have 25% of our kids who have not been in our buildings and traditional school classrooms for over a year now. Do we need to prioritize them so they come back in, they have the routines of school, they have all that, like we want to do the social and emotional support for them as well as learning. Then we just have kids who we think, especially younger kids, who need more language because learning virtually has impeded or slowed down language acquisition, right? Their vocabulary might not be as big; they haven't been in a classroom or in the schools speaking the language hearing the language throughout the day like they have. So, we have just competing priorities, and a certain number of staff, and so we're

trying to figure out how to do that. Then we have kids who may need math and kids who may need ELA, so we're working on right now, a way to accommodate the children with the greatest need, in the most efficient way possible. And we know unfortunately with that, we're not going to be able to hit everyone with the staff we have available to us but, but we are giving it much thought. And we surveyed the faculty once, put it out there twice, and now we'll come back and try to get them nailed down, too because they're going to drive the programming by their availability.

Board Member Russell asked from a budgetary standpoint, how does that impact our budget in terms of possibly having, you know, some level of school services during the summer? Staff responded that this year, this year and possibly next year but this summer, it's there. There's plenty of funding for it, and, yeah, and it was such an interesting meeting with the Superintendent, because he had so recently been, I think you know, in Jefferson Parish and in this district. He was like, you know, and so we've got all this money coming, and he was really encouraging us like to throw money at people which we will. But even, you know, all the, the leaders have even some of the big, bigger, CMOs KIPP and Inspire, those things, we're doing, you know, where we want to do that, but that's for the first time ever that isn't incentivizing teachers to want to work because they're just mentally really tired.

Board Member Correa asked if given the bottleneck in the staffing, are we able to actually maybe outsource some of these programs, or does it have to be through the current staff? Staff responded that we're going to work with Community Works, who we already partner with.

See full transcript for board dialogue.

IV. Public Comment

The Board President invited members of the public to address the Board. No public comments made.

V. Closing Items

A. **Adjourn** – Board Member Russell made motion to adjourn. Seconded by Board Member Correa. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

International School of Louisiana Board of Trustees

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday April 28, 2021 at 6:00 PM CDT

Location

The Board held a meeting via electronic means due to a declared state of emergency or disaster within our geographic area. Members of the public were able to attend the meeting by phone or video conference. Members of the public obtained meeting information, including, but not limited to, the teleconference dial-in information and video conference links, via email from Susan Chapman, Chief of Staff, at schapman@isl-edu.org. Members of the public were allowed to submit comments in advance to be read aloud during the public comment period of the meeting by submitting comments via email to schapman@isl-edu.org. Requests for other accommodations were available by contacting Ms. Chapman by email.

Board Members Present

Larissa Muetzel, Sharon Barthelemy, Grant Ligon, Chad Rice

Board Members Absent

Jade Brown-Russell, Max Correa, Sarah Murphy

Guests Present

Melanie Tennyson; Susan Chapman; Emily Thomas; Ashley Weiss, Karla Marie Cochran, Brandon Ferguson, Laura Adelman-Cannon, Rosa Alvarado, Carol McCarthy, Katy Heeren-Mueller, Jennifer Hughes, Leslie Schutt, Valiant Cuiellette

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order – The special meeting was called to order by the Board President at 6:00pm.

B. Record Attendance and Guests – The Board Secretary called the roll and a quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve December 2020 Board Meeting Minutes - Board Member Larissa Muetzel offered a motion for approval. Board Member Sharon Barthelemy seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition or abstentions.

B. Approve April Finance Committee Minutes - Board Member Larissa Muetzel offered a motion for approval. Board Member Chad Rice seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition or abstentions.

C. Approve March Finance Committee Minutes - Board Member Larissa Muetzel offered a motion for approval. Board Member Sharon Barthelemy seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition or abstentions.

II. Action Items

NEW ITEM ADDED:

The Chair entertained a motion to amend the agenda to consider the selection of this accounting firm to perform 2021 audit and tax return. The motion made by Larissa Muetzel, and was seconded by Chad Rice. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition or abstentions.

A motion was made on the new item to consider the selection of this accounting firm to perform 2021 audit and tax return. The motion made by Larissa Muetzel, and was seconded by Chad Rice. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition or abstentions.

A. Appoint New Registered Agent

Staff recommends that the Board appoint Melanie Tennyson as the registered agent for the school. Board Member Larissa Muetzel offered a motion for approval. Board Member Sharon Barthelemy seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition or abstentions.

B. Virtual School

Staff provide narrative regarding Virtual School for next school year. The academic committee met two weeks ago for a formal meeting and discussed at length, next school year and what it is going to look like, and the team which spans all the three campuses principals. Head of School target language materials coordinator, Susan, who oversees admissions discussed it at length, and we resoundingly believe, based on what we've seen this year that it is in the best interest of the students have them all back in the building. Following Lee went which was last week we went to the directors meeting we talked about that with the entire leadership team, and they were all in agreement to. And so, I just wanted to bring that to the board, not only to your attention, but asked for word approval on that move. Jefferson Parish announced last Friday that all of their kids come back into the building. Lots of parishes are making the same decision no public schools might be a little different because they are, you know 60 independent charter schools or how many there are that reside in Orleans Parish now and it is up to each individual LGA superintendent Bromley supports children being back in school the research around COVID says that schools are safe places and most adults who work in schools are vaccinated, not all. So, we believe that it's in the best interest of the kids and our teachers. It's been a long haul for them with virtual school as well, to have everyone back in the building next year. Staff recommends that the Board approve all students to return to in-person learning next school year. Board Member Ligon made motion to adjourn. Seconded by Board Member Barthelemy. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition or abstentions.

IV. Head of School Report

Staff reminded Board members to file their annual financial disclosure reports by May 15.

ISL enrollment is 1284 We're holding strong there. We have held open sessions for parents, one around the LEAP testing, one was done, fully in Spanish, and the other one was done in English this year. Once again, we were able to do them virtually, and then those meetings were able to sit out on our website for people who couldn't attend, so they could access them so it was one of the, One of the good things we've learned from the pandemic, and were taking away testing will begin on May 6 and ends the 19th Cancer we're looking forward to it but we're prepared for it, and the results of that testing are really informed how we can address some or not. So, all of the students next year at the Dixon campus next year will participate in a pilot program of a kindergarten readiness tool. The program doesn't just evaluate the students, it evaluates teachers, and instructions so it's a very comprehensive tool and we're very excited

about being able to get in on the ground floor of that, and Miss Rosie has looked at it a lot and thinks that there's a lot of opportunity for it to be beneficial for our teachers, and that ultimately will benefit our students. We're going to have a two-week summer learning program, it's coming right along currently it's from June 14th to the 25th. From 730 to 1230 Every day we're prioritizing students who were learning virtually the ICP students as we refer to them and if so, then it will go to students who have demonstrate who came back in January, who were out the entire first semester, then students had learning deficits. But we have a lot more, many more volunteers than we initially had so it looks like we'll be able to add a lot more kids to that two-week session which is exciting to do our buildings reopen for Wednesday instruction, a couple of weeks ago, and now, kids are in are in school in person, five days a week, something really exciting that happened just today, and I quickly added it to the homeschool report is that the lion Center has confirmed that we will be able to have our eighth grade promotion ceremony there. We didn't have that last year for our students and we didn't have a lot of our traditional celebrations, we are not able to invite parents and families, this year due to the limitations of the numbers of people that they can accommodate but the students will go along with that faculty and staff will have this ceremony and we will live stream it on face book and also YouTube so that friends and families can see their eighth graders have that promotional exercise, and while it's not, we're not back 100% I think it will be really meaningful for children, especially, and also their families so that is great news, and our communications and development partner department has made a big push to fill our last at French kindergarten seats so you'll see our advertising and bus shelters streetcar we have a new streetcar ad and we have a couple of electronic billboards and I always find it really exciting, even now after all these years when I'm driving, you know, and on I 10 And I looked up and I see the billboard with comes ISL and our beautiful children's faces up there so you might see some that we Carla and I submitted an application to new schools in New Orleans last week, they're offering grants for additional funding for summer school. And we anticipate receiving some funding to offset the cost of that, in addition to the money that we're getting from the federal government, through the Essers program so summer school should be paid for, and teachers will be paid handsomely. I think for their time, I mean, a lot of teachers are burned out and fatigued wants to travel, but with this two-week window, And this I think this infusion of cash to do it will ultimately make them feel better and appreciated for taking the time out of their summer. Give Nala days coming up May 4 Carla has been sending emails to everyone's bored email inboxes. She's done a wonderful promotion. This year, you can take that email and forward it to your friends, family members everybody random people in your inbox. Though enjoy seeing all the faces of the many faces of our wonderful children, and donors who make a donation of \$50 or more will receive a special gift this year. Operation operations. Emily and I have been working on parts of the budget. So I'm working with Mike so we'll have that ready to go at the May Finance Committee meeting, and for our traditional schedule, we will have the budget hearing on that June 26 board retreat. I want to put a bug in your ear grant and the executive committee and all board members actually that that retreat is coming up. We need to start planning. If we want to have someone come in do any training, look at that now before it gets too late. We can talk about that soon. If anybody has any ideas about things they'd like to hear about board members, let us know we can partner with La PCs. The Louisiana association of public charter schools they have Kevin Gutierrez and Sarah Vandergriff who do great government just general governance, kind of overviews, or if we have a bunch of new folks sometimes it's good just to get back to nuts and bolts, but if there are other issues about charter schools or what we do and how we do it. Let me know what you're interested in, and we can work on making that retreat beneficial for everyone. Employment ladders, returning employees will come out soon within probably the next week, week and a half, and there'll be a universal 2% base increase for full time salaried employees, and as we mentioned in the finance committee, the minimum, minimum wage at ISO has now been increased was \$10 a few years back and now we've raised that to 1250 So we're happy about that. Our annual school culture survey was completed. This year we adjusted it to reflect the times of COVID, and approximately 70% of all employees participated in this survey, and net morale and HR distributes the survey and puts out the summary, pardon me. It's hard to have a cold in times of COVID. It's. We've done it in different ways. This year we grouped, everyone, all three campuses and all faculty and staff together other years we've broken it out. But all that to say approximately 70% of our employees said that they were almost are generally happy with ISO, you know, all of the time so that, that was good, it says that we're, we're good. There are things that we can fine tune and get better at but we don't need to reinvent the wheel or drill down into any real problem areas. We have zero students and zero employees currently identified as positive for COVID or in quarantine. It's been a long time since we could say that.

Board Member Ligon asked whether ISL has to use some special utilization of transport to make sure the kids get here for those important attending the test. Staff noted that we already have transportation in place, and if people were out in ICP we gave them the opportunity to talk to our Transportation Director and have transportation, during that time is the virtual kids have to come in.

V. Public Comment

The Board President invited members of the public to address the Board. No public comments made.

VI. Closing Items

A. **Adjourn** – Board Member Ligon made motion to adjourn. Seconded by Board Member Muetzel. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

International School of Louisiana Board of Trustees

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday May 26, 2021 at 6:00 PM CDT

Location

The Board held a meeting via electronic means due to a declared state of emergency or disaster within our geographic area. Members of the public were able to attend the meeting by phone or video conference. Members of the public obtained meeting information, including, but not limited to, the teleconference dial-in information and video conference links, via email from Susan Chapman, Chief of Staff, at schapman@isl-edu.org. Members of the public were allowed to submit comments in advance to be read aloud during the public comment period of the meeting by submitting comments via email to schapman@isl-edu.org. Requests for other accommodations were available by contacting Ms. Chapman by email.

Board Members Present

Larissa Muetzel, Grant Ligon, Sharon Barthelemy

Board Members Absent

Jade Brown-Russell, Chad Rice, Max Correa, Sarah Murphy,

Guests Present

Melanie Tennyson; Susan Chapman; Emily Thomas, Ashley Weiss, Melissa Boudreaux, Brandon Ferguson, Rosa Alvarado, Carol McCarthy, Katy Heeren-Mueller, Alexandra Simon, Valiant Cuiellette, Geromy Moore, Andrew Rowland

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order – The special meeting was called to order by the Board President at 6:00pm.

B. Record Attendance and Guests – The Board Secretary called the roll and a quorum was **NOT** present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. May Finance Committee Meetings - No action taken.

II. Action Items

A. Proposed 2021-22 Budget – No action was taken.

B. Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire

No action was taken due to lack of quorum.

IV. Head of School Report

At all three campuses, each campus has a social and emotional learning component to it as well as a project based learning and arts integration. So we're really looking forward to seeing those kids who've been out back at school and seeing how, how that goes for those two weeks. Where am I on my list? Speaking of those kids who have been out and just kids who need extra support, the leadership team, or Academic Team has really been starting to dig in to our data of I ready and from the achievement network. And hopefully, I didn't mention when I was talking about lead testing. This is the first year all of our students have tested online. And that was a pretty big move. Many, because and years, we felt that fourth grade students were still learning the process of writing and paper and pencil, and that by fifth grade, they will have become familiar enough with keyboarding. And the process of thinking and writing. To be able to do that, well, this year, because kids had been out learning virtually with everybody with their Chromebook. I said, let's try it. And let's see it and how it works. And I was over at the West Bank working on that campus and talking to Brandon who had been a proctor for a leap. And he said that he was so surprised at how well those third and fourth grade students did virtually he was really impressed and excited and thinks that we will move forward. only doing online testing that will that'll be his suggestion when we come back and meet next. And of all schools do that, the amount of time it will take for us to get our leap results will be so much sooner because all the tests will be online. And then the Yes, assessment won't have to be written essays won't have packaged up and map off, you know, the snail mail to get someplace and graded that way. So we're really excited to be able to have the results earlier, we're not guaranteed to have results earlier. But we have fingers crossed. And we're hopeful because there's so much really rich data that comes from those assessments. Sorry, I went down that rabbit hole. So we're, we're digging into all of that where I'm talking about adding new positions to provide some remediation, but acceleration. I'm really trying to be strategic and are thinking about how we can best do that and have been entered a lot of people also to try to find people who are qualified and have that skill set because manpower is important. But we need people who who understand the work we're doing and how to do it. The follow up on that. We talked about Esser at the Finance Committee, which is the education stabilization funds are the acronym for education stabilization funds that are coming down from the fed from the Biden administration. And so the short I'm trying to give a short overview is that there are three allocations. So one has already come and we got that over the course of the past school year. And we spent that on Chromebooks and hand washing stations and all of the water bottles stations and the PP we quickly spent that allocation and were reimbursed all of these funds. I think it's important to note come to us, they're released in installments, and they come as reimbursable allocation. So we talked about where we get this money, we don't actually get the money until we spend the money. So we have to apply for the apply for the funds that have been allocated to us. Or write up a proposed usage that it has to be approved at the state level. And because this is so new, and there's so much money, going to all the different schools, the state is having to actually ask LD, he calls D, the Department of Ed, and it has a lot of questions. And we're all we're all working together and learning a lot about how we spend this money. One of the questions was, how does like what does this look like for kids? So we've gotten recently notification that we have two as installment from S, two and S are three. That's about well, S or two is 726,000. And s or three is 653. So when 3 million and we have until September 2023, and September 30 2024, to spend that money so far, and we will we won't spend all of it. Some of it we will use for

one time expenditures. There's a big emphasis on COVID, the pan dems in general, I think that the world is thinking that this could happen again in the future, and how would we be prepared. So some things are one time expenditures, for example, the outdoor rooms, per more permanent or semi permanent were like at the Uptown campus where we have a wooden deck for lack of a better word, big metal awning, that type of structure. If we could have two of those that we've proposed the usage for two of those at each campus so that we would have rooms where kids can learn, there's a lot of reasons for that kid that doors period. And then to continue serving lunch outside. One of the wonderful things about COVID was that all of our children ate out most of the year. And there were some real benefits to that in terms of lunch service was streamlined. Kids ate more of the food. They were because students weren't waiting in line patiently as they need to get to choose their lunch items. And there was less conflict, for lack of a better word. behavior was much better because kids this lunchtime, they could go they could pick up their grab and go lunch. So all that to say we're excited to be able to use this funding a sizable chunk to have outdoor classroom space for learning as well as to continue a lot more ideally, outdoor lunch and miss. We've talked to Melissa about that if it'll be challenging for her in some ways, but she's up for that challenge to figure out how we can do that. Lots of phonics, materials and all three languages as well as math materials and supplies in all three languages because we'll have more people doing that remediation and acceleration. Math has, especially middle school math, with the new math standards has been somewhat of a challenge. It is our biggest challenge. And we have been using the Eureka math curriculum across all grade levels. For the past few years. We've had great success with the early grades. Rosie and Brandon. were sharing their a met the latest benchmarks for that with us the early grades and kids are very successful Laura too but Middle School, it just nosedives. We thought we were alone in that and come to find out. There is a national trend where you Rica is not not what they thought it was going to be in middle school. So we're looking at the I ready math curriculum. And so that would be a pretty big one time purchase along with multiple years of training. If it's approved, and if we all decide, can commit that the administrative staff has talked about that, but we need to talk more with our teachers, they've looked at it, but sometimes you fall in love with you first see it and, you know, kind of second or third glance, you find some issues. So those are some one time and ongoing purchases, we're looking at setting up funds for counseling services for our staff, we know that this has been a really hard year, and life is hard teaching is hard. So wouldn't it be great if we could have songs helps individuals who want or need counseling or therapeutic services. We have money in there for additional intervention positions at each campus, that will be spent over three years with this, a good chunk of the money is going to go to 21st century up we partner with for summer learning and after school care, so they can expand the numbers of kids that they can take under their grant. We're trying to double that. In addition to that, we'll have an after school, academic component and the target language that will push into their after school programming. And we're working with Chandler and Tony, to work through the logistics of additional social and emotional support. First sense that's a big one, we done the second steps learning program, but we push more of that in the center for restorative approaches. Lots more PD without all staff had been trained. Early on, when Troy started that program, and restorative practices really new and excited everybody trained for over a year, we trainers. And now it's time to retrain some trainers and get make sure all of our teachers get that report. So these funds came at a really good time for that more Chromebooks and laptops we're at. We're at one to one right now. But their machines break. Adult and children alike sometimes drop and break them. And we always, you know, want to keep them our technology new and plentiful standing desks and other assistive technology. We have had two classrooms in the past where every desk is either a standing desk or a rocking chairs, big, big bouncy balls, you know that people sit on up all kinds of adaptive technology for students and we are going to take this opportunity instead of just having those model classrooms. We've distributed the school but we're going to use these sources, resources to maximize the amount

of assistive technology we have for kids to help them learn monies for parent PD family engagement through the roots connected program. We've partnered with our faculty and staff and I'm meeting with Saba tomorrow to talk about having another strand specifically for families that the school can pay for so there's access or everyone without any barriers there and I hope that we're able to work that out. Improved air quality systems, that's a chunk of money. They're all cleaning out all of our ducks. We did that once a new filters upgrading pieces and parts of our chillers I don't really understand it all but a Viva and Emily explained it to me and at the time, it all made absolute sense. And then some of the funds will also go to our summer did receive some money a generous grant from New School. New Orleans. And that will offset a portion of the summer experience. But then we'll also use these funds. So if all of the things I mentioned came about, that would be about 1.5 million, which is actually more than the initial allocations that we received. And so we fill out an application called that super app, or it's through our eg mF system, we will do that. Or we have, we've actually done that, and we'll wait for it to come back. We always have to add here and there, not a lot. But there are always a few things that need to be missed due to the barriers here. And then once we know that, by August or September, I'll have a really definitive list of things that the money is spent on and how we're going to expend that money. Over time, we'll get more sometime in the we have received no schedule for that money. But of course, we'll let you know. So, the per pupil allocation that we're about right now is about 1099, about \$100 per pupil, that would be that specific impact to our MFP. And we'll spend that over like the next 18 months. So that is S and it really it's just been it's been a really amazing opportunity for school leaders all over the country, you know, here in the city, I know we're all really about it and talking to one another and really working to share ideas and strategies for using the money and ways that we hopefully get information from the Department of Education where someone has proposed a creative view and it's approved. So that's being shared very quickly amongst all school leaders, or the school leaders, I think and NOAA public schools and the type twos to make sure that everybody is able to use the money as quickly and as successfully as possible to help kids which is which is a wonderful feeling, because we're all in it together. Communications and development this year is give Nola day raised over \$16,000. And big shout out to Carla Vanessa and all her volunteers and her team and everyone that contributed. Karla worked really hard to make it a fun event and reach those people who had the resources to give without making people who couldn't at this difficult time feel bad. And I think she did a really good job there as always, and I mentioned we had got money from new schools in New Orleans, we got a \$20,000 grant from them. Our budget has been presented put together the draft, we presented it to the board at the last finance committee meeting or the last week, and it's on the website, you can come to the school and review it. There is a surplus there. We talked a little bit about it. That surplus can go toward we didn't talk much about this at the meeting. But the legislature has been talking about additional pay raises for teachers. We have a 2% pay raise and our budget already. If this is if the legislature passes the pay raise, rather than saying Well, we've already budgeted that these funds and other funds in the budget could go just support. I said that backwards. Sorry, my brain is working. So we would get the additional money from the legislature and then we would still use these funds to offset the raise that we have in there so people would only receive more money. That's weird. All our employment letters have been returned 93.4% of all ISO employees are coming, have signed in, they're coming back before this upcoming school year. And we're really excited the state has when you went buy something with state money. In the past, you can't just decommission it, you can't throw it away, you have to bring it all back to Baton Rouge, and it's stored in a warehouse someplace or something. Well, the folks in Baton Rouge Andrew, when he was director of it found out for us, and I'm sure they're now talking about it, too. And Ashley, will hear more about what we're going to do with all of this technology that kids are using now. They said instead of sending laptops back and putting them in a warehouse in Baton Rouge, you know, some are piling up. Why don't schools just give them to students when they leave,

right. So if they're toward the end of life, which ours are ours or our Chromebooks are not have not exhausted their lifespan, but we were able to take our oldest Chromebooks that would soon be going off into a warehouse in Baton Rouge, or somewhere and give each age grader a Chromebook when I left ISIL. And that feels really terrific. Because while some of our kids have access, you know, to fancy, we're not so fancy technology at home, a lot of our kids didn't have it. And now we're confident that every student that goes to high school goes there with a device, right so that they're, they're set up in that way for success. So thanks, LD E. That was a really, I think, great way to solve this problem. Our annual school culture survey results were shared with staff. These are some of the highlights that apply to all. Like generally broad things. 93% of all employees reported that they are generally satisfied with ISO 99% indicate that the school community is driven by a commitment to make a positive difference in the lives of students in their 87% felt that the school has been supportive of the COVID pandemic. And 96% of employees believe the school fulfills its mission to provide a challenging education emphasizing language emergent International, where awareness celebration of diversity and community responsibility. So those we were we were all very pleased. I think they speak for themselves. These numbers speak volumes as of May 25. We have no students or staff who are positive for COVID. And no students, our staff who were isolated or quarantined. And we haven't had a new case amongst our school community, our kids and teachers and staff since April 23rd. So it's been a whole month that in kids and teachers and administrators have all been COVID. Free. That's really, that's really exciting for everyone to think about how that's how that it's shifting. Emily and I hsnct have been working together researching parental leave of the parental leave policy, one of our employees is going out to have a child and was reviewing the parental leave policy and wrote to us sharing her thoughts about you know, what we have, which is a school pays for short term disability for all of our employees, and traditionally our families have used that when they're having a child. But, you know, they made some, they made some very good points. And I took it under consideration. And so we're doing research and talking to other school leaders and developing a policy that we will present the board most likely at the June retreat to beef up and improve that parental leave. We both feel strongly that that is an area that we could improve and since the vast majority of our employees are women of childbearing age that we could do better around.

We hosted a virtual community event featuring the local writer and historian Sarah shinier, who spoke about the intersections of black and Francophone history in New Orleans. I attended them. Chapman, who's deaf, and Carla Cochran had the idea and hosted it and put it on. And I thought it was really terrific. Not as well attended as we would have liked, I think there were maybe 15 people there. But the people who were there were very much engaged and wanted more. And I think we'll continue to do more programming like that, for our families. No lapse, no public schools is in the midst name changes for their school buildings that are currently named after up owners, or people who participated in anti-civil rights activities. And I was in that meeting yesterday, because we have the Andrew Jackson building, which is on the list, and I wanted to see what names they were the head present. Initially three names and I can't remember what the initial Well, the initial ones were.

I think it's important for our community to know and just kind of FYI year when we first into that building, Mr. Wilson, who was head of school, then wanted to cover that up with a banner that, you know, wanted to cover up Andrew Jackson at the top with a banner that said, International School of Louisiana, and at that time, no public schools are, wouldn't let us do that. Like we had to keep that name. And I just think that's ironic and interesting now that we'll finally be able to change that. And the fun fact of this month, this year ISIL had 21 employees who enrolled their children as students at our school. And that has always been a point of pride for us. I think it's Things are changing in New Orleans to 15 years post Katrina and public school action is getting

better. But I still know school leaders who chill and do not attend their schools or teachers who work in schools, but don't send their children to the places they work. And I think that the people who work so their children attend school there. And it talks about commitment to the school, their comp, you know, their buttons in the quality education, but it also I should be reassuring, I hope to every who, from the outside funding their kids in my say outside is non employees that the people who work there are going to ensure Not only this, you know, the safety and well-being and the quality of education for their everyone they want, you know that level to be at a standard that is the highest it can possibly be because we know that parents want the best for their children. Right. So that's that I think, looking forward, we need to all just be aware that the governor has yesterday lift asked mandate for schools at the end of the semester. So he's saying, I don't know, he needs at the end of the school year, the end of the semester, meaning whenever that is for any schools, I interpret it by going through the end of the tschool year on the calendar, which would be June 30, you know, when our COVID policy would end. But that's something that we'll need to discuss about what does that look like moving forward next year.

V. Public Comment

The Board President invited members of the public to address the Board.

Christopher Holder – could not be heard due to technical issues.

Kelly Smith – Discussed a parent engagement meeting that the Louisiana Department of Education is focusing on parent engagement moving forward.

Christopher Holder – Teacher who discussed personnel issues at the Dixon Campus.

Jeremy Moore – A parent that made comments in support of Mr. Christopher Holder, music teacher at Dixon campus.

Jesse Thompson - A parent that made comments in support of Mr. Christopher Holder, music teacher at Dixon campus. Noted that the teachers have warmed our hearts again and again, while we await the administration to deliver on their sales pitch of community and inclusivity.

Unknown Commenter – Requested Board minutes and asked where absent Board members were.

Katie Mueller - A parent that made comments in support of Mr. Christopher Holder, music teacher at Dixon campus.

Lema Giangrosso (sp) - A parent that made comments in support of Mr. Christopher Holder, music teacher at Dixon campus.

VI. Closing Items

- A. **Adjourn** – No quorum. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.