

Regular VAL Charter Board meeting
Tuesday, July 19, 2022
VAL Central Site (3737 Hwy 308, Raceland, LA)

Meeting called to order at 6:58PM

1) Opening of Meeting

a. Roll Call

Members present:

Michael Rieth, Shontell Terrebonne, Curtis Bouvier, Travis Toups, Shelba Harlan, Bernita Deville

Member absent:

Donald Andras, Monique Pitre, Cheryl Thomas

Others present:

Edmond Adams, Holly Naquin

b. Pledge of Allegiance by Curtis Bouvier

c. Invocation by Michael Rieth

d. Public Participation Policy by Michael Rieth

e. Minutes of Val Charter Board meeting held June 8, 2022 approved on motion by Curtis Bouvier and seconded by Bernita Deville. Motion carried.

2) School Director's Report

a. Student Enrollment Update

Mr. Adams reported 460 students were currently enrolled, but with several weeks until school begins, he predicts this number will increase.

b. Staff Changes

Mr. Adams announced starting with Harrison Street staff and following to school sites, any unnecessary hours and/or staff may be cut. He also announced Ms. Laverne Dennis has been hired as Site Manager for the St. Mary High School site, and funding for the increase in her salary will be made possible by not replacing several staff members who were not performing to capacity, along with Ms. Dennis' decision to continue to also serve in the capacity of a teacher.

c. Report on Sites

Mr. Adams reported on the staff needs at each of the VAL sites.

d. Finances/Budget Update

Mr. Adams announced VAL is officially a Title I school, with approximately \$55,000 to spend for academics and \$2,400 in funding to be used for parent engagement activities. Although he's unaware of the amount, Mr. Adams announced VAL will also receive ESSA funds. He noted this funding, along with the reduction in staff and/or hours, will help in cushioning VAL's budget.

e. School Curriculum Changes

Mr. Adams announced there are no plans to change VAL's curriculum, but to monitor programs throughout the year and make adjustments where necessary. Based on students' needs, he noted software usage and programs may be streamlined.

f. School Vision/5 year plan

Although there is no School Vision/5 Year Plan in place for VAL, Mr. Adams informed board members he has a goal/vision for the school. He stated as a charter, VAL is a virtual school, but in practice, it's a blended school. He said the period in which VAL operated 100% virtually was not successful, forcing the school into Corrective Action, and its status was only able to be rectified with the incorporation of more direct instruction. With the incorporation of intense direct instruction for students at the lower levels blended with virtual learning as they grow older, Mr. Adams described his vision/goal to give students the skills needed to become independent virtual learners. He further described with this plan, students should become more comfortable working virtually and less reliant upon teachers clearing seat space for those students who do require more direct instruction.

g. Community Relations

Mr. Adams announced he and Mr. Rieth participated in a segment on HTV. He stated in his role on the Lafourche Education foundation, he will be representing VAL, and is making attempts to include recognition of VAL teachers in the Foundation's Teacher of the Year Awards Program. He also stated with the placement of billboards throughout Lafourche Parish in high-traffic areas, he plans to promote the Virtual Academy of Lafourche.

Mr. Adams informed board members an agreement made several years ago with Lafourche Parish School Board allowing VAL students to participate in sports, clubs and classes at Lafourche Parish schools at a cost of \$1000 per activity has re-surfaced, and he currently has a request from a high school student to participate on an athletic team. Mr. Adams expressed his concerns regarding the payment of \$1000 for what is now an unlimited number of activities. Discussion was held, and board members agreed Mr. Adams should set up a meeting with Lafourche Parish School Board staff members to re-negotiate the agreement. Regarding the matter at hand, Bernita Deville offered a motion to allow the student to take the necessary steps to participate in one sport for the 2022-23 school year until the issue is resolved between VAL and Lafourche Parish School Board. Her motion was seconded by Travis Toups and unanimously carried.

3) School Board Business

a. Old Business

i. Personal Financial Disclosure Requirements

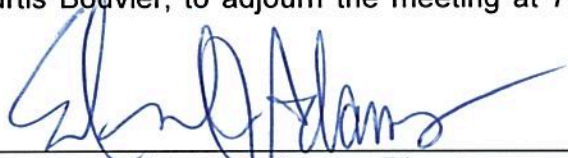
Board members were reminded of the need to submit Tier 3 of the Personal Financial Disclosure statement to the Louisiana Board of Ethics, and the steep fees that come for those who do not were mentioned.

b. New Business

Following brief discussion, Tuesday, August 23, 2022 was set as the date for the Board's next meetings with Finance Committee beginning at 6:00 pm and the Board meeting at 6:30 pm. VAL's Bayou Blue site was selected as the location of the next meeting.

4) Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Rieth entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion of Travis Toups, seconded by Curtis Bouvier, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm. Motion carried.



Edmond J. Adams, Director