

Regular VAL Charter Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 6, 2023
VAL Administration (639 Harrison Street, Thibodaux, LA)

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

1) Opening of Meeting

a. Roll Call

Members present:

Michael Rieth, President; Shontell Terrebonne, Vice-President (via call-in); Monique Pitre, Secretary (via call-in); Donald Andras, Treasurer; Curtis Bouvier, Travis Toups, Shelba Harlan, Cheryl Thomas, Bernita Deville

Members absent:

None

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 March 7, 2023 were approved on motion of Mr. Toups and seconded by Ms. Harlan. Motion carried.

2) School Director's Report

a. Student Enrollment Update

Mr. Adams reported that VAL's enrollment at the end of the 2022-23 school year was approximately 20 less than the count on February 1st. He announced that enrollment for the 2023-24 school year is currently in progress with a target number of 485-490. He further noted that the Thibodaux and Cut Off sites continue to have much larger numbers than Central and Bayou Blue. Ms. Thomas next questioned Mr. Adams about VAL's enrollment process, and he described the procedures in place once an application is received.

b. Staff Changes

Mr. Adams described several staff changes which occurred at the administrative level, namely Laverne Dennis requested to return to a teaching position and will be replaced by Dr. Paul Nelson as St. Mary High site manager; Cheryl Boudreaux (K-8 enrollment coordinator) has accepted a teaching position and her duties will be fulfilled from within; and Kim Boura has been appointed as Assistant Site Manager at VAL South.

c. Report on Sites

Mr. Adams noted there were still several teaching positions available, and described the openings at each site.

d. Finances/Budget Update

As announced at the Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Adams again mentioned his confidence that MFP funding will return to the previous year's total and is eager to regain some of that funding. He also mentioned that ESSER funds will be available again this year from the Lafourche Parish School system.

e. School Curriculum Changes

Mr. Adams announced it is essential that VAL's K-2 reading curriculum, along with K-8 math curriculum is addressed this year in preparation for the 2024-25 school year. He explained that although VAL had already purchased over \$10,000 of Eureka math material, it was alarmingly discovered that this curriculum will no longer be Tier 1, requiring the purchase of a new curriculum. In an effort to avoid any future surprises of this type and to keep abreast of any major upcoming changes at the State level, Mr. Adams stated the LDOE weekly newsletter is being received and closely monitored by himself and his curriculum team. He did note between the new K-3 science and reading training, along with the purchase of the new math curriculum, the remaining ESSER funds will be well spent.

3) School Board Business

a. Old Business

i. Graduation

Mr. Adams reported that VAL's 2022-23 graduation ceremony went well and he was very pleased with the turnout. He also noted he had received lots of positive feedback.

b. New Business

i. Approval of Robotics Purchases

Mr. Rieth brought to the attention of the Board the desire of VAL's Robotics team to purchase a trailer for the purpose of transporting material and equipment to competitions. Discussion was held regarding the matter, and concerns regarding liability issues were expressed. Before making any final decision, a motion was offered by Ms. Harlan and seconded by Ms. Thomas to table the discussion until more information could be obtained on the policy in place at other schools for transports of this type. Motion carried.

ii. School Calendar Revision

Mr. Adams referenced VAL's 2023-24 school calendar, and expressed concerns regarding the effect the newly-released LEAP testing schedule may have on it. He explained because testing will now begin ten days earlier than expected, the need for more instructional days is necessary. To best accomplish this, Mr. Adams requested the removal of three Professional Days embedded throughout VAL's calendar, and making them instructional days. On motion of Ms. Harlan, seconded by Mr. Bouvier, Mr. Adams' request to revise VAL's 2023-24 school calendar was unanimously approved.

iii. Service Animals

Mr. Adams informed members of his need to contact legal counsel as a result of the unusual support/service animals accompanying visitors to the VAL sites this year. He stated the animals have been snakes, lizards, and ducks, and for the assured safety of staff and students, legal counsel advised VAL to adopt the policy from Lafourche Parish schools. Copies of VAL's Service Animal Policy was made available to board members, and on motion of Ms. Terrebonne, seconded by Ms. Deville, the policy was unanimously approved.

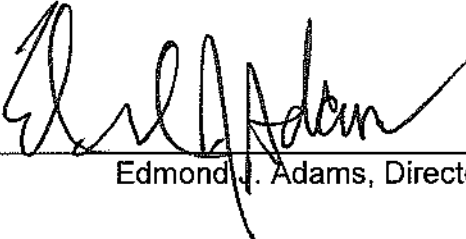
iv. Next Board Meeting Date, Time, Place

All members agreed their next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at VAL's South site in Cut Off, with times remaining the same.

Mr. Wilson Lirette, the newly-appointed Robotics Administrator, was introduced to the Board.

4) **Adjourn**

There being no further business, Mr. Rieth entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting, and on motion of Ms. Harlan, seconded by Mr. Toups, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm.



Edmond J. Adams, Director