

Regular VAL Charter Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 13, 2024
VAL Administration (639 Harrison Street, Thibodaux, LA)

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

1) Opening of Meeting

a. Roll Call

Members present:

Shelba Harlan, President; Shontell Terrebonne, Vice-President; Bernita Deville, Secretary; Curtis Bouvier, Treasurer; Monique Pitre; Travis Touns; Donald Andras

Members absent: Michael Rieth; Cheryl Thomas

Others present: Edmond Adams; Holly Naquin

b. Pledge of Allegiance by Shelba Harlan

c. Invocation by Shelba Harlan

d. Public Participation Policy (no one from the public was in the audience and reading was dispensed with)

e. Minutes of VAL Charter Board meeting held December 20, 2023 were approved on motion of Travis Touns and seconded by Shontell Terrebonne. Motion carried.

2) School Director's Report

a. Student Enrollment Update

Mr. Adams reported that VAL's February 1st enrollment count was 479, slightly above the October 1st count allowing for a small increase in VAL's MFP allotment. He noted, for operational purposes, he is content with this number as it is manageable without overstaffing the sites. Copies of a report containing a breakdown of student enrollment by site, ethnicity, gender, grade levels, and classification (special education/504) were distributed. The numbers at each site were reviewed, and Mr. Adams stated the low numbers at the Bayou Blue site will be discussed later in the meeting. He further noted VAL is currently in its Open Enrollment period with the majority of applications being received for Thibodaux's elementary site.

b. Staff Changes

Mr. Adams announced staff changes have been minimal, and has remained consistent across all sites.

c. Report on Sites

Mr. Adams reported that things are going well at all sites, particularly at St. Mary Elementary, and invited board members to visit the site to see for themselves. Next, he reminded board members of the merging of St. Mary Middle and High School sites, and explained how this will be accomplished, along with the financial savings that will result from it. He stated the name will remain St. Mary High, but it will now consist of grades 7-12. He stated the enrollment has grown at VAL's central site, and it remains consistent. Due to the continued low enrollment at VAL's Bayou Blue site, Mr. Adams informed the Board that the site manager and staff have been notified of the intentions to close the site. He assured the Board a place will be made available to their staff and students at other VAL sites, and he will send a letter to

their parents at the beginning of April regarding the school closure. Mr. Adams further stated the pending renewal of multi-year leases at the Thibodaux sites, and the low enrollment numbers in Bayou Blue contributed to the decision to close St. Mary Middle and VAL Bayou Blue sites. As far as VAL's South site, Mr. Adams commended their high school team and their great efforts getting students ready for graduation, and noted his intentions to add more elementary staff for more services in the lower grades. With the merging and closing of sites, Mr. Adams stated VAL will consist of four instructional sites, as follows:

St. Mary Elementary (grades K-6)
St. Mary High (grades 7-12)

VAL Central (grades K-12)
VAL South (grades K-12)

d. Finances/Budget Update

Mr. Adams stated other than what was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting, he had no additional information to report.

e. School Curriculum Changes

Mr. Adams informed board members VAL still needs a new K-2 curriculum, but is awaiting the State's approval on which curriculum can be used. He announced the State is now requiring that the K-2 screener, which is Dibels, becomes part of the School Performance Score (SPS). He stated until he knows how VAL will be impacted, adjustments will be made to what is currently being used. He further stated a new 3-8 curriculum is needed, and one that is being considered is Gallopade. As far as curriculum for math and ELA, Mr. Adams stated there is no need for changes since VAL was recognized by the State as a Comeback Campus for its improvement above pre-Ida numbers in grades 3-8 ELA and math, along with ACT scores

3) **School Board Business**

a. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

b. New Business

i. VAL's 2024-2025 School Calendar

Copies of VAL's 2024-2025 school calendar was made available for review, and Mr. Adams noted it was kept closely in line with Lafourche Parish School District's calendar with only a few variations. Following his description of those variations, a motion was offered by Curtis Bouvier and seconded by Bernita Deville to approve VAL's 2024-2025 school calendar. Motion carried.

ii. VAL's 2022-2023 Audit Results

Copies of VAL's 2022-2023 audit results were distributed for review, and Mr. Adams referenced two findings; one being the omission of specific wording in VAL's Ethics and Sexual Harassment policies, and the other being the lack of the Director's signature on a bank reconciliation. He assured board members he will have revisions to the two policies available for review at their next meeting. A motion was then offered by Curtis Bouvier and seconded by Travis Toups to accept review of VAL's audit as presented. Motion carried.

iii. VAL's 2024 Graduation

Mr. Adams reminded the Board of VAL's upcoming graduation ceremony scheduled for Friday, May 24th in Thibodaux High School's auditorium beginning at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Adams took the opportunity to congratulate VAL's Robotics Teams on their recent accomplishments, and called upon Donald Andras for a report. Mr. Andras announced that both VAL's Tech and Challenge Teams represented VAL at the State competition, with the Tech Team placing 4th overall.

Mr. Adams mentioned he will soon be sending information to board members about completion of the Ethics and Financial Disclosure documents.

iv. Next Board Meeting Date, Time, Place

All board members agreed their next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at VAL's administrative office in Thibodaux, with the Finance Committee meeting beginning at 6:00 pm, followed by the Board meeting at 6:15 pm, rather than 6:30 pm.

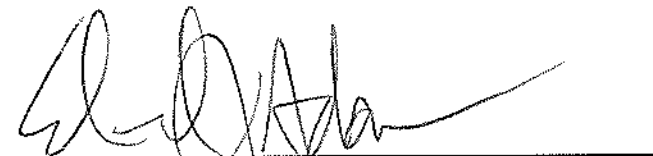
Ms. Harlan extended thanks to everyone from VAL who helped make this year's King Cake Festival a very successful one.

On behalf of the entire Board, Ms. Harlan extended congratulations to VAL for receipt of the Comeback Campus award.

Ms. Harlan also encouraged board members to visit the VAL sites whenever possible.

4) Adjourn

There being no further business, on motion of Donald Andras, seconded by Curtis Bouvier, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm.



Edmond J. Adams, Director