

Regular VAL Charter Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 17, 2024
VAL South Site (14669 East Main Street, Cut Off, LA)

Meeting called to order at 5:48 pm

1) Opening of Meeting

a. Roll Call

Members present:

Shelba Harlan-President; Shontell Terrebonne-Vice-President; Curtis Bouvier-Treasurer; Bernita Deville-Secretary; Cheryl Thomas; Michael Rieth; Travis Touns

Members absent: Monique Pitre; Donald Andras

Others present: Edmond Adams-Director; Holly Naquin-Office Manager

- b. Pledge of Allegiance by Shontell Terrebonne
- c. Invocation by Shontell Terrebonne
- 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 September 17, 2024 were unanimously approved as written on motion of Michael Rieth, seconded by Travis Touns.

2) School Director's Report

a. Student Enrollment Update

Mr. Adams announced that VAL's October 1st enrollment count was 473, two students less than last year's count, and distributed a report containing a breakdown by site, grade level, gender, ethnicity, and classification (Special Ed./504/Homeless). He further addressed the second set of numbers on the report which reflected VAL's current enrollment growth to 488.

b. Staff Changes

Mr. Adams announced there have been no changes in staff at the sites, but VAL's SBLC/504 Coordinator, Jennifer Prejean, has retired. He further noted her roles will be absorbed by existing staff.

c. Report on Sites

Mr. Adams reported all sites are doing very well, and mentioned the possibility of VAL's Thibodaux and Raceland sites moving locations. He stated discussions have been had with Lafourche Parish School Board's Superintendent regarding the possible lease of the BCA building for Thibodaux's K-12 students, along with the school board's TIP building located behind Central Lafourche High School for Raceland's K-12 students. Although the South site will remain at its current location, Mr. Adams noted they are in need of space, and several expansion possibilities are being considered. He stated these moves would allow VAL to reduce its number of sites to three, with one in each area of the parish, which would make a better setting for management, operations, and finances.

d. Finances/Budget Update

As expressed at VAL's Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Adams stated is he extremely pleased with VAL's current financial status.

e. School Curriculum Changes

After consideration for several years, Mr. Adams was pleased to announce that VAL has purchased a new K-2 curriculum, entitled CKLA. He noted this is the same curriculum used by the Lafourche Parish school district, along with many other districts in the State. He further stated they have been pleased with scores in the lower grades, and because VAL's K-3 screener scores have been fairly low and will soon become part of VAL's SPS score, the need for a new curriculum was inevitable.

3) School Board Business

a. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

b. New Business

i. LAPCS Open Meetings Law

In accordance with the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools' (LAPCS) open meetings law, Mr. Adams announced VAL's charter board will be required to stream their meetings live and post the dates, times, and locations of all meetings at the beginning of each calendar year. He stated the information for the meetings will be posted in January, but requested that discussion regarding the live streaming is tabled until the Board's March meeting. On motion of Michael Rieth, and seconded by Travis Toups, the Board unanimously agreed to table the discussion regarding the LAPCS Open Meetings Law until its next meeting.

ii. Use of Artificial Intelligence in Louisiana Schools

Mr. Adams announced the use of artificial intelligence in schools has become a huge concern, and the Louisiana Department of Education has recently released an 18-page guidance on the use of artificial intelligence in its schools. He explained that technology allows students to download apps, and when visiting particular sites, the work is done for them enabling the student to produce perfect documents with little to no effort of their own. Although students will not be prohibited from using this method for research and resources, Mr. Adams stated it will be a requirement of VAL for the student and the parent(s) to sign an agreement on how and when to use AI with an understanding of the consequences for using it incorrectly.

iii. Recognition of Shontell Terrebonne's Eight-Year Term

According to VAL's By-Laws, board members can serve four consecutive two-year terms, and Mr. Adams announced that tonight's meeting completes the eight-year term for Shontell Terrebonne. He thanked her for her services to the Board, along with her limitless time and commitment to VAL. Following a brief discussion, on motion of Michael Rieth, seconded by Travis Toups, and unanimously carried, Ms. Terrebonne was nominated to return back to VAL's Board for another term, beginning with the next meeting.

iv. Election of Officers

In accordance with VAL's By-Laws, Mr. Adams reminded board members that election of officers occurs at the Board's December meeting. All existing officers agreed to remain in their current positions, and with no additional nominations, election results are as follows:

On motion of Michael Rieth, seconded by Travis Toups, and unanimously carried, Shelba Harlan was selected as President.

There being no additional nominations for Vice-President, this position remains vacant until the Board's next meeting.

On motion of Michael Rieth, seconded by Travis Toups, and unanimously carried, Curtis Bouvier was selected as Treasurer.

On motion of Michael Rieth, seconded by Travis Toups, and unanimously carried, Bernita Deville was selected as Secretary.

v. 2025 Board Meeting Dates, Times, Location

After some discussion, the third Tuesday of the month was selected for Board meetings, and on motion of Michael Rieth, seconded by Curtis Bouvier, board members unanimously agreed to the following meeting schedule:

DATES:

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

TIMES:

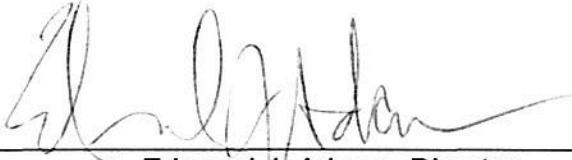
Finance Committee – 6:00 pm

Full Board Meeting – 6:15 pm

LOCATION: VAL's Administrative Office, 639 Harrison Street, Thibodaux, LA

4) Adjourn

There being no further business, on motion of Travis Toups, and seconded by Curtis Bouvier, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 pm.



Edmond J. Adams, Director