



## **New Beginnings Schools Foundation Board Meeting**

December 15, 2016

5:30 pm

2045 Lakeshore Drive, CERM Building Rm. 438

New Orleans, Louisiana

### **Minutes**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of New Beginnings Schools Foundation was held on December 15, 2016 at 5:30 pm at 2045 Lakeshore Drive.

The following members were present:

#### **Present for the meeting were:**

Leslie Bouie  
Wanda Brooks  
Shelia Danzey  
Raphael Gang  
Tracey Jackson  
Val Marshall  
Kathy Saloy  
Jill Sylvain  
Tamara Wyre

#### **Absent from the meeting were:**

Travis Chase  
Ashley Spears

#### ***Adoption of Minutes***

#### **Voted:**

Board President, Leslie Bouie called to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2016 board meeting. Motion was made by Wanda Brooks. Kathy Saloy noted that she was not present for the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting as noted in the minutes. She therefore requested that the minutes be edited to reflect that change in attendance. The motion was seconded by Shelia Danzey. Chair Bouie called for the vote. Comments by Mrs. Danzey that the minutes were well done. **Motion carried.**

## ***Adoption of the Agenda***

### **Voted:**

Board President, Leslie Bouie called to approve the December 16, 2016 board meeting agenda as presented. On motion of Kathy Saloy and seconded by Shelia Danzey. Chair Bouie called for the vote. **Motion carried.**

### **Presentation:**

**CEO Report/Updates** – Michelle Blouin-Williams provided the monthly update to the board, which focused on two of the internal network priorities, student achievement and communications. Mrs. Blouin-Williams updated the board on current student enrollment, which has increased or held steady at all schools. The next enrollment count will be done in February. Academic assessments will be finished on December 14<sup>th</sup> at the high school level, but all students did not participate in the assessments. Benchmark assessments are also currently taking place at all K-8 schools.

Mrs. Blouin-Williams also informed the board that the Innovative Educative Cohort was introduced at all NBSF schools at the beginning of the school year, and the cohort met on recently to collaborate in order to find new innovative ways that the teachers could engage students. The Google Classroom strategies are being utilized to enhance the learning of the student. Several NBSF teachers will be attending the upcoming Google Education Summit, which will be held in New Orleans.

Mrs. Blouin-Williams also spotlighted some recent and upcoming activities that the NBSF schools and students are engaging in. Nelson will be participating the WGNO's Coats for Kids drive and those coats will be delivered on December 20<sup>th</sup>. The Capdau student council will be serving a holiday lunch to citizens experiencing homelessness in partnership with Lantern Light Ministries. This event will take place on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Capdau students and families also attended Celebration in the Oaks on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Lake Area students will be participating in the All Star Football Game on December 17<sup>th</sup> and two students will be participating in that game. All NBSF school teachers are participating in collaborative learning initiative by visiting other NBSF schools in order to encourage them to learn from each other. The network's professional development day will take place on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mailings are being delivered to residents to inform them to enroll in NBSF schools. The mailings including information about the schools and includes the Enroll NOLA codes for NBSF schools. The Teacher Advisory Committee met recently with Mrs. Blouin-Williams. The committee's mission is to serve as a voice for the school's faculty to discuss academics, professional development, cultures on the campuses and in the network, professional development and employee recruitment and retention. The committee's next meeting will take place on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Finance Committee** -- Committee Chair Shelia Danzey reported that the committee met on December 5, 2016 and there was no action taken at the meeting. Ms. Danzey also noted that the motion tonight was from management and not from the finance committee. Ms. Danzey also noted that the finance committee has made some requests to management and is waiting to receive that information before the next finance committee meeting.

**Academic Excellence Committee** – Committee Chair Val Marshall reported that the committee met on December 6, 2016. There was no action taken at the meeting. The committee received updates from the schools. SPED is in compliance and are taking steps to ensure compliance. The committee will be updated through the dashboard when the committee does not meet. The committee will meet in January, but may not meet in February.

### **Information Items:**

**Audit FY16 Presentation** – Al Tervalon of the firm, Bruno and Tervalon provided the board with a brief presentation regarding the audit results from FY 2016. Mr. Tervalon advised that due to logistical reasons, the final copy of the report is not ready for this presentation to the board. He also advised that the deadline for filing the audit to the State’s Legislative Auditor’s office was December 31<sup>st</sup>. He advised that the report is complete and that he just does not have the final copies available. There are no differences in the report, but minor changes in one of the schedules presented. The finalized report was given a clean opinion, also referred to as an “unmodified audit”. This report will remain essentially unchanged from the draft and will have the same information. Ms. Danzey stated that the finance committee did not take any action given the fact that there were some questions that were unanswered. She also expressed concerns regarding the fact that all board members did not receive a copy of the final document. Ms. Danzey also expressed skepticism about accepting the audit if every board member had not seen the draft of the report. Mr. Raphael Gang stated that he was at the finance committee meeting and advised that there were some actions that were required, he did not see any reason that the board should not approve the audit. Mr. Gang further suggested that the audit should be approved given the timeline of the statutory requirement, but that the matter be discussed further at the next meeting. Mr. Gang suggested digital copy be made available to the board if hard copy is unable to be produced. Ms. Danzey also stated “I’m glad we got an unmodified audit, but I think there are some things we need to clarify.” Board President, Leslie Bouie advised that the audit must be accepted by January 3<sup>rd</sup>, even though the audit must be submitted by December 31, 2016. Ms. Wyre also noted that there were no material differences between the draft that was submitted on December 4<sup>th</sup> and the draft presented for acceptance by the board. There is a summary of the concerns noted in the minutes of the finance committee meeting, in order to clarify some concerns in the report.

Legal counsel, Michelle Craig, also noted that the board should keep in mind the fact that the board should be comfortable with what was in the audit, so if there are questions or, and given the fact that the audit has been seen twice at two separate meetings, in October and November, it should

be indicated that the board is not accepting an audit that it has not had the chance to review. Additionally, if the board is uncomfortable accepting the audit, it should meet again before December 31<sup>st</sup> to further discuss the matter.

Board President, Leslie Bouie called to accept the draft audit of New Beginnings Schools Foundation for FY 2016 as presented. On motion of Raphael Gang and seconded by Shelia Danzey. Chair Bouie called for the vote. Ms. Danzey requested that in the future there be better communications on deadlines, submissions, and seeing a document. **Motion carried.**

***6:47 PM Meeting Adjourned***