

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 11, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

School Board Office – 118 West 10th St., Reserve, LA

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. The Chair called for a moment of silent meditation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. ROLL CALL:

Albert Burl, III - Absent

Sherry DeFrancesch - Present

Patrick Sanders - Present

With 2 Present, 1 Absent, there was a quorum.

ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of March 12, 2019

Motion by: DeFrancesch

Second by: Sanders

Motion: To approve the minutes of March 12, 2019

Roll call: 2 Yeas, 1 Absent

The motion carried.

ITEM 4. Public Comment. Mr. Kevin R. George – Update on Negotiations between St. John the Baptist Parish School Board and Louisiana Premier Charter School

Mr. Burl arrived at 9:10 a.m. and was recorded as present.

Representing LAPC were: Mr. Thomas Hymel, Mr. Carey Roussell and Joe Neary (4th Sector Solutions).

Mr. Ty Manieri opened the discussion. He stated that the reason for this meeting is to open dialogue regarding the recent communication by LAPC to bring their concerns to BESE. Mr. Manieri went on to say that there were still some red-flag issues that must be addressed on the lease and wanted to say for the record that the communications between the two entities have been zero in the span of time between meetings, but is not due to the lack of responsiveness by the St. John School Board. He said that there are procedural issues with the contract, but those should be cleared up by the end of the week. He said there are still questions regarding the financial sustainability and he does not feel that it is structured to be sound or achievable financially.

Mr. Burl stated that the School Board was blindsided with the letter that LAPC would be going to BESE to ask for a Type 2 Charter. Mr. Hymel stated that BESE asked LAPC for an update.

Extensive discussion followed between all parties. Some topics discussed were:

- Number of students allowed 1st year (525)

- How Special Education needs would be addressed
- Shared “spaces” (how would this work fiscally?)
- Curriculum (Tier 1?)
- How the cost of the lease was calculated
- Race issues (history of Riverside Academy)
- Discipline policies

Mr. Sanders asked that the record reflect the following comments: He wanted LAPC to understand that he is for choice when it comes to parents making choices for their children. As a public servant, he must be accountable to the people that he represents, and must ensure that this contract is as sound as it possibly can be. He said that he would like to have all of us open in August on a good foot, so that all students can receive the best possible education. He also feels as if the Board has done their due diligence for ALL children.

Mr. Hymel responded that he appreciated the dialogue that took place at this meeting. Mr. Hymel also stated that he (along with others) have worked for many years to erase the assumption that Riverside is still a racially biased school. He said that a lot of questions were answered, great dialogue was shared and had a better understanding about how things will progress. He further stated that he appreciated the productive and honest conversation.

ITEM 5. Committee Items of Interest

ITEM 6. Public Comment. Adjournment

Motion by: Burl

Second by: DeFrancesch

Motion: There being no further business, motion to adjourn.

No objections.

TIME: 10:23 a.m.

Patrick H. Sanders, President