

Academie Lafayette  
Board Of Directors Special Meeting  
February 24, 2010

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

Dave Cozad, President  
Michael Zeller, Vice President  
Brian Hendrickson  
Pam Gard  
Harriett Charno  
Steve Green  
Herb Hardwick  
Chad Phillips

**Board Members Absent:**

Jane Alley

**Staff Members Present:**

Eric Nelis	Eric Roskam	Jacque Lane
Patrick Sprehe	Karin Hanriot	Sandrine Salas
Andrea Yeager	Shelly Doucet	Jean Claude Diatta

**Special Guest:**

Former board president Ruth Terrell.

***Meeting called to order.***

David Cozad, President, called the meeting to order and asked that the Board go into closed session to discuss Real Estate. He requested the attendance of Eric Nelis and Ruth Terrell.

**Motion**

Mike Zeller moved that the board go into closed session to discuss Real Estate. Herb Hardwick seconded.

***Roll Call vote taken.***

Pam Gard	Yes
Chad Phillips	Yes
Michael Zeller	Yes
Dave Cozad	Yes
Herb Hardwick	Yes
Brian Hendrickson	Yes

Harriett Charno  
Steve Green

Yes  
Yes

### **Open Session**

**Director of Communications position** discussion was opened by Eric Nelis. Herb Hardwick suggested that the board review the information in closed session after the general meeting. David Cozad tabled the discussion for closed session.

**Kindergarten enrollment** discussion began by Eric Nelis distributing handouts and recommending that the board vote to increase the enrollment of kindergarten students from 85 to 120 for the 2010/2011 school year. He thanked Carlos McClain for her work in putting together the handouts for the meeting.

He voiced concern that the estimated number of “new” families would consist of only approximately 30 out of the 85 and requested that the new Director of Development, Shelly Doucet, speak to the issue. Steve Green noted that the number of “new” families would continue to decrease each year because the higher kindergarten class size insures that sibling applications will increase exponentially.

Shelly presented research that she compiled with regard to KCMSD kindergarten enrollment trends. The KCMSD enrollment of kindergartners has dropped considerably while Charter schools, including Académie Lafayette have shown a significant increase.

Eric and Shelly have met with kindergarten parents for the past few Fridays and intend to make it a regular practice so that they can get to know the families.

**Discussion points** regarding the need to have both schools at capacity so that Académie Lafayette can afford to maintain the quality of the program. On the other hand is the school at risk for detrimentally affecting the quality of education because of too much growth?

Eric mentioned that the school needs to be able to pay good salaries and provide materials, staff development etc. and that the school is stronger than 5 years ago when it was smaller. If the board is not mindful, the program might not be financially sound. Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes have interns so class sizes should be larger.

He added that for the most part the kindergarten parents are thrilled and the teachers are very positive about the k campus. The school needs to create closeness in 2 campuses.

Steve Green recalled that there was strong discussion in the past from parents who chose the school because of its small size. Mike Zeller remembered it as being more of an issue of which grade levels would stay at the Nichols campus. Chad Phillips commented that AL has outgrown the Nichols campus.

Kirk Farmer was invited to share financial information that he compiled based on 85 vs 120 kindergartners. He voiced the opinion that 800 students are too many for one campus but having two separate schools would fix that. He pointed out that when the population reaches 800 students, there would be enough classrooms to provide one for the middle school English teachers but the lower level English teachers would probably continue to use a cart.

The board discussed the fact that a second school building has not been purchased and it would be a leap of faith to accept 120 kindergartners without a guarantee of the space. The JC Nichols building combined with the 74<sup>th</sup> street campus will not be large enough to accommodate the students by the 2011/2012 school year.

Herb Hardwick questioned the board as to its willingness to accept the burden and added pressure of making a commitment to the 120 number. Discussion ensued that enrolling 120 is the best plan.

- The school can possibly lease, if a building is not available for purchase.
- If a building is purchased 85 students will not provide the revenue necessary to meet the debt.
- The difference between 120 students and 85 students is equal to approximately \$325,000 in revenue.

Patrick Sprehe questioned the timing of the financial information regarding the problem with debt service – why the day before the lottery? The board seems to be basing everything on financials and not quality. Will the Middle School be too big – how long will the teachers have to “make do” with current textbooks, supplies etc.

Chad Phillips commented that the board has between now and the start of school in the fall to accept from the waiting list – why increase the number in February?

Dave Cozad offered that the change should be made before the lottery so that it is open and cannot be thought of as being influenced by the next child on the list.

### **Motion**

Mike Zeller moved that the board accept a change in enrollment from 85 to 120 kindergartners for the 2011/2012 school year and that 120 will be the number accepted each year for the next 10 years. Steve Green seconded.

7 yes

1 nay

Motion approved

Eric Nelis requested the board go into closed session to discuss personnel.

### **Motion**

Brian Hendrickson moved that the board go into closed session to discuss personnel. Herb Hardwick seconded.

***Roll call vote taken.***

Pam Gard	Yes
Chad Phillips	Yes
Mike Zeller	Yes
David Cozad	Yes
Herb Hardwick	Yes
Brian Hendrickson	Yes
Harriett Charno	Yes
Steve Green	Yes

The meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by,