

Community Leaders Advocating Students Success (C.L.A.S.S.) ---d.b.a. Fannie C. Williams  
Minutes of the Special Meeting held on August 26, 2021.

Board members present: Duane Stelly, Donnyette Love, Emily Roubion, Brenda Minor, Al Edwards, Shannon London, Debra Dean (entered during the budget discussion), and Anthony LaPierre.

The meeting was called to order at 6:36p.m. with the presiding chair being Mrs. Roubion.

Before requesting a motion to adopt the agenda, The Chair asked if there were any public comments. Hearing none, Mr. LaPierre made a motion to adopt the agenda with a second by Mrs. Love. A vote was called for and the agenda was unanimously adopted.

Next The Chair asked for a motion to adopt the prior board minutes. Public comments were called for. Hearing none; Mrs. Love made a motion to adopt the prior board minutes with a second by Mrs. Minor.

The CEO then gave her report.

The following was noted:

- The six-year charter is set to expire so Fannie C. Williams (Fannie C or The School) will begin the renewal process. A comprehensive evaluation will be done by the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) before the renewal process begins. On 9/17, The School will have to submit a written narrative to be used as part of the process with a public meeting held by OPSB and additionally respond in writing to questions presented by OPSB. The annual site visit will occur on 9/21. On 9/23, the public meeting will be held. Also, as part of the renewal process, Fannie C will have to provide: 1) organization and academic performance, 2) argument for renewal, and 3) organization and academic accomplishment

Mrs. Batiste and Mr. Stelly will hold a meeting with the district.

- Fannie C is still looking for teachers for ELA & Math, Middle School, & Special Education.

Questions were asked by various board members. A brief discussion then took place regarding the questions asked.

Mr. Edwards then followed with another question regarding the student count; to that, Mrs. Batiste responded very low. Mr. Edwards then asked was virtual learning the reason for the low student count. Mrs. Batiste responded that she was not certain.

Ms. London followed up with a similar question asking if the reason for the falloff in attendance was due to Covid. Mrs. Batiste responded that she could not really say because the reasons vary i.e., some of the students have moved out of the district.

- Vaccinations-Mrs. Batiste informed the board that The School would be hosting a vaccination event tomorrow from 9:30-11:30 for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dosages. They are encouraging students who can take the shot to take the shot. She also informed the board that over 90% of the staff are vaccinated.

Mrs. Minor asked if anything come up mandating vaccinations; Mrs. Batiste responded not really. Mrs. Minors then asked what are the staff concerns? Mrs. Batiste stated she was not sure because she lets the nurse handle any questions regarding the vaccine.

Mrs. Roubion then stated that the Governor has not mandated vaccines yet.

- Mrs. Batiste then informed the board that The School will also be hosting an event for Covid testing with a \$25 incentive provided via a grant.

Mr. Edwards then asked whether there was any incentive that Fannie C could offer as an incentive to get the shot i.e., restructuring Covid pay. Brief discussion took place regarding this. Mr. Edwards then stated that being the case; could we gauge why parents have not enrolled their kids? Mrs. Batiste responded that The School has been following up with people regarding the reason(s) for their child not being enrolled.

With no further comments, Mrs. Batiste concluded her report and Ms. Watson gave the Business Manager's report.

The following were noted:

- B & L Transportation (B & L) Update-Out of 12 (twelve) buses only four buses passed inspection. Because of this, Fannie C has been running double routes for the 4 (four) buses. Additionally, Ms. Watson stated that The School was going to cancel insurance on the 8 (eight) buses that have not passed inspection. Also, she informed the board that B & L would be pulling out of New Orleans. Because of this, Fannie C will have until December to find someone else. And this is because an RFP must go out for the new company by September.

Ms. Watson then presented 2 (two) options

1. Continue running double routes for the 4 (four) buses that passed inspection, or
2. Lease buses from a company in Oklahoma.

Further discussion continued this matter, and several questions were raised by board members. In response to some of the questions, Ms. Watson stated that even if The School went the route of a van service that they would still have to go through the same inspection process as the buses.

Mr. Edwards then asked about continuing the use of the four buses. Mrs. Batiste responded that that is not efficient because the double routes are cutting into instructional time.

Discussion continued with board members again asking questions regarding mitigation of the deficit. With no further comments regarding transportation, Ms. Watson discussed the budget. She stated that given the state of things regarding Covid that The School is facing a deficit of about \$1.3 million dollars (rounded to nearest hundred thousand). Ms. Watson went on to present some statistics giving rise to the deficit. In particular, she stated that over the past 3 (three) years that Fannie C has lost 103

students. Additionally, she stated that the current budget is for 420 students but that The School needs 520 to break-even.

Mrs. Minor asked about Fannie C.'s current staffing and whether the current staffing is appropriate given the drop in students. Again, a discussion took place regarding this matter. Ms. Watson stated that Fannie C loses out on \$420 per student that does not return. Further discussion took place regarding having a plan in place in anticipation of OPSB asking for one; given the projected loss.

Mr. Edwards then asked whether the current budget is for 12 (twelve) buses or four; to that, Ms. Watson responded twelve. She also pointed out that there are going to be savings since The School is only running 4 (four) buses. Mr. Edwards made additional comments regarding the efficiency of running 4 (four) buses and that The School may want to look at going into the transportation business.

Discussion continued regarding the budget deficit. Mrs. Dean made comments regarding additional state funds that could be used to offset the deficit. Other board members made comments regarding the matter and Mrs. Dean offered to assist Ms. Watson regarding the utilization of state funds to offset the deficit.

With no board recommendation on how to resolve the budgetary issue; the matter was tabled.

With the matter being tabled, The Chair called for a motion to accept Ms. Watson's report. A motion was made by Mrs. Dean; seconded by Mr. LaPierre to accept Ms. Watson's report. The motion passed unanimously.

Prior to adjournment Mrs. Batiste stated that due to state requirements regarding a board approved budget, that a special meeting will be required to comply with the state. As such, a special meeting was schedule for Thursday, 9/16.

With the special meeting being scheduled, The Chair then asked for a motion for adjournment. Mr. LaPierre made the motion; seconded by Mr. Edwards. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting ended at 8:35p.m.