

PELICAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

REGULAR BOARD MEETING Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 11:00 AM

8716 Siegen Ln
Baton Rouge, LA, 70810

AGENDA

Notice: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting may request assistance by contacting us at info@kenilworthst.org

Opening Items

- I. Welcome and Call to Order
- II. Attendance and Quorum
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of the minutes from the regular board meeting on April 13, 2025 – Attachment A

Information Agenda

- V. Update from the Planning and Instruction Committee
- VI. 2024-2025 Operating Budget Update – Attachment B
- VII. 2023-2024 Retirement Plan Financial Statements & Audit Report – Attachment C
- VIII. Update from the Executive Director and the Team – Attachment D

Action Agenda

- IX. Approval of the compensation manual for 2025-2026 – Attachment E
- X. Approval of the retention and recruitment stipend for 2025-2026 – Attachment F
- XI. Nomination of a new board member - Attachment G
- XII. Resignation of a current board member

Closing Items

- XIII. Announcements
 - i. Upcoming meetings
- XIV. Adjournment

MINUTES

PELICAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 11:00 AM
8716 Siegen Ln Baton Rouge, LA, 70810

I. Welcome and Call to Order

These are the minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Pelican Educational Foundation Inc. (PEF), a Louisiana non-profit corporation. This meeting was held at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 8716 Siegen Ln. This meeting was called to order by Dr. Orhan Kizilkaya, the President.

II. Attendance and Quorum

Present: Dr. O. Kizilkaya, Dr. S. Wiley, Ms. M. Kilic, Mr. S. Cankirli, and Ms. V. Valdez.

Absent: Dr. O. Kazan, and Mr. S. Masarath.

Also in Attendance: Mr. H. Suzuk.

III. Public Comments

No public comment.

IV. Approval of the minutes from the regular board meeting on April 13, 2025 – Attachment A

Motion: To approve the minutes of the board meeting held on April 13, 2025.

Moved by: Dr. O. Kizilkaya.

Seconded by: Dr. S. Wiley.

Discussions: The minutes of the board meeting held on April 13, 2025 were presented and discussed. Approved unanimously.

Information Agenda

V. Update from the Planning and Instruction Committee

The Planning and Instruction Committee meeting was held on Sunday May 18, 2025 at 10:40 AM at 8716 Siegen Ln. The participants were Dr. S. Wiley, Ms. M. Kilic, Ms. V. Valdez, and Mr. H. Suzuk. The committee discussed the following topics:

- I. Welcome and Call to Order
- II. Audience Introductions
- III. KSTA High School

IV. 2025 – 2026 School Year Planning

V. Adjournment

VI. 2024-2025 Operating Budget Update – Attachment B

Mr. Suzuk presented the updated actual operating budget for the 2024–2025 fiscal year as of May 16, 2025. Medicaid revenue may fall short of expectations in the first year, as the funds are not anticipated until June 2026. Mr. Suzuk and the finance team are closely monitoring expenditures. The year is expected to conclude with a positive balance, although the budget remains tight.

VII. 2023-2024 Retirement Plan Financial Statements & Audit Report – Attachment C

Mr. Suzuk presented the 2023–2024 Retirement Plan Audit, Financial Statement, and Required Communications Letter with Governance to the board, as prepared by CRI CPAs. The audit reported no findings. The board discussed the improvement points suggested by the auditors.

VIII. Update from the Executive Director and the Team – Attachment D

Mr. Suzuk presented the report as detailed in Attachment D including the following items:

- Staffing Update
- Student Enrollment Data
- 2025-2026 Enrollment Status
- Parent Complaints
- English 1, Algebra 1, LEAP Connect Results
- Parent Survey Results
- Compensation Study Updates

Action Agenda

IX. Approval of the compensation manual for 2025-2026 – Attachment E

Motion: To approve revised compensation manual for 2025-2026 school year as presented..

Moved by: Dr. O. Kizilkaya.

Seconded by: Ms. M. Kilic.

Discussions: Mr. Suzuk presented the revised compensation manual for the 2025–2026 school year. Key changes include: removal of the Academics PD stipend and a \$1,250 increase to the base salary instead, an increase in home visit compensation to \$40 per visit, and a refined health insurance contribution structure for administrators. The revisions were approved unanimously.

X. Approval of the retention and recruitment stipend for 2025-2026 – Attachment F

Motion: To approve retention and recruitment stipend for 2025-2026 school year as presented.

Moved by: Mr. S. Cankirli.

Seconded by: Dr. O. Kizilkaya.

Discussions: Mr. Suzuk presented the recommendation to maintain the retention and recruitment stipend for the 2025–2026 school year, noting that many districts are increasing salaries to attract highly qualified teachers. LDOE Differentiated Compensation funds will be used to support this stipend, specifically to fund core classroom positions. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

XI. Nomination of a new board member - Attachment G

Motion: To accept Mr. Akin Akinci as a new board member of Pelican Educational Foundation.

Moved by: Dr. S. Wiley.

Seconded by: Ms. M. Kilic.

Discussions: Mr. Suzuk and Dr. Orhan introduced Mr. Akin Akinci as a candidate for the Pelican Board. Mr. Akinci is a Data Analyst at IBM with a strong background in statistical analysis, data modeling, and data visualization. With hands-on experience using tools such as SQL, Python, Power BI, and Snowflake, he has successfully transformed complex datasets into strategic insights across various projects. He also has teaching experience both in the United States and internationally and holds a Mathematics degree. His combined expertise as an educator and data scientist, along with his residence in Baton Rouge, makes him a strong candidate for Pelican. The nomination was unanimously approved.

XII. Resignation of a current board member

Motion: To accept the resignation of Mr. S. Cankirli from the board..

Moved by: Ms. V. Valdez.

Seconded by: Dr. S. Wiley.

Discussions: Mr. S. Cankirli submitted his resignation from the Pelican Educational Foundation Board due to his relocation to another state. The board unanimously accepted the motion. Members thanked him for his unwavering commitment, insightful leadership, and meaningful impact on the success and growth of Kenilworth School students.

Closing Items

XIII. Announcements

- i. Upcoming meetings: The next regular board meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2025.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion duly made and seconded by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining. The Board of Directors voted to adjourn the meeting.