

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING
17373 PERKINS ROAD
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70810**

MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2026, BOARD MEETING

Call to Order: A meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by A. Bulliard, President, and Presiding Officer, on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel, Des Cannes Room, 7000 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810.

Roll Call: The following Board members were in attendance:
Amie Bulliard, MSN, RN, CPHQ, President, and Presiding Officer
Deborah Spann, MSN, RN-BC, CEN, FAEN, Vice President
Ann Carruth, DNS, RN, Alternate Officer
Michelle Collins, Ph.D., CNM, RNC-EFM, FACNM, FAAN, FNAP
Gilbert G. Humbert, MSN, RN
Sarita V. James, PhD, RN, CNE
Teresita McNabb, RN, MHA
Paul Molbert
Melissa Nunn, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC/AC, CNE, NEA-BC, CNEcl
Katrina O’Con, PhD, DNAP, CRNA, FAANA
Frederick Pinkney, EdD

The following staff members were in attendance:
Isonel Brown, MS, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer
Alicia Edmond Wheeler, JD, Executive Counsel
Monique Calmes, DNP, APRN, FNP_C, Chief Credentialing Officer
Sarah Luneau, Project Manager/Interim Executive Administrative Assistant
Suzanne C. Armand, CCR, CVR, Court Reporter

Ms. Bulliard welcomed all the new Board members and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Ms. Bulliard reported they are working hard with SSA Consultants in identifying the Board’s new executive director to replace Dr. Lyon.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: by D. Spann, seconded, to adopt the Agenda as presented.

There being no nays or abstentions, the motion carried.

Agenda Item 1
Executive Leadership Transition Plan

Ms. Bulliard, Ms. Carruth and Ms. Spann have met with SSA Consultants, addressing timelines and what is needed for them to be prepared within the next month or so to be ready for the next Board meeting in February. They have not discussed any applicants.

Mr. Rudy Gomez and Ms. Camille Fruge were present representing SSA Consultants to give updates and allow Board members to ask questions. Ms. Bulliard stated they will talk in more detail about the actual search committee later in the meeting.

Mr. Rudy Gomez gave an update regarding the executive search for the new executive director and CEO for the Louisiana State Board of Nursing.

Mr. Gomez distributed handouts to the Board. The first handout is a summary of their methodology and the second is a sample charter document that they typically put together and is given to the search committee involved. The last document is a bullet list of what has already been done and some information about what the next step will be.

Mr. Gomez stated they have been pleased with how everything has gone so far and the progress they have made and stated they can be ready with the help of the search committee to present a finalist to the Board at the February Board Meeting.

Ms. Fruge has been administering the day-to-day work done on the project and presented a summary of what has been accomplished and presented it to the Board.

They have received 113 applicants so far. Out of that number, there are 25 qualified applicants who are RNs with a master's degree in nursing. In addition, there are about 25 applicants who have connections to Louisiana.

Mr. Gomez and Ms. Fruge were available for questions.

(Discussion ensued regarding qualifications of applicants.)

Agenda Item 1.1

Anticipated leadership transition timeline

Ms. Fruge stated they plan to have the first search committee meeting during the week of February 2nd where they will review the top candidates' resume and select the semifinalists and close applications at that time.

The week of February 16th, Ms. Fruge stated they plan to do interviews with the semifinalists.

Mr. Gomez noted that if the Board wants to have in-person interviews at the February 26th meeting, then typically they go through a two-meeting process with the search committee.

Ms. Bulliard stated she will be out of the country the week of February 16th

(Discussion ensued)

Agenda Item 1.

Selection/Appointment of Executive Director Search Committee

(Discussion ensued regarding the makeup of the Search Committee)

Ms. Wheeler stated that the Board President is an ex officio member of any Board and does not vote unless to make up a quorum.

Motion: by D. Spann, seconded, that the Board appoint F. Pinkney, T. McNabb, K. O’Con, M. Collins, D. Spann, and A. Carruth, as the Executive Director Search Committee.

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; A. Carruth-yes; M. Collins-yes; Mr. Humbert-yes; S. James-yes; T. McNabb-yes; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O’Con-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; D. Spann-yes

Motion Carried

D. Spann was appointed as Chair of the Search Committee by Ms. Bulliard.

(Discussion ensued regarding a recommendation that every Board member have some oversight in the initial vetting.)

(Discussion ensued regarding proposed meeting dates.)

Motion: by P. Molbert, seconded, to go into Executive Session.

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; A. Carruth-yes; M. Collins-yes; Mr. Humbert-yes; S. James-yes; T. McNabb-yes; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O’Con-yes; F. Pinkney-yes; D. Spann-yes

Motion Carried

(Board went into Executive Session at 10:15 a.m.)

2. Executive Session

Personnel Issues – Organizational Continuity

(Ms. Bulliard called the meeting back to order at 10:45 a.m.)

3. Approval of Agency Continuity Plan

The Board is charged with the governance, oversight, and operations of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing. In that governance, the Board is authorized to employ an executive director to manage day-to-day operations of LSBN. However, circumstances may arise in which the executive director is temporarily unavailable due to absence, illness, vacancy, or other inability to perform the duties of the

office. It is necessary and prudent to ensure continuity of operations and uninterrupted administration of LSBN during such periods by delegating the authority vested in an executive director to the Louisiana State Board of Nursing section chiefs.

The following proposed Resolution of the LSBN to delegate authority to the Section Chiefs were read into the record by Ms. Wheeler.

A RESOLUTION OF THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING (LSBN)

Whereas, the Board is charged with the governance and oversight of the operations of the LSBN; and

Whereas, the Board is authorized to employ an executive director to manage the day-to-day operations of the LSBN, implementing the Board's directives, rules and regulations, and assisting the Board in the implementation of the Louisiana Nurse Practice Act; and

Whereas, circumstances may arise in which the executive director is temporarily unavailable due to absence, illness, vacancy, or other inability to perform the duties of the office; and

Whereas, the Board finds it necessary and prudent to ensure continuity of operations and the uninterrupted administration of the LSBN during such periods;

Whereas, this resolution shall take effect immediately.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board delegates the following authority to the Executive Counsel, which may not be re-delegated by the Executive Counsel:

- Sign administrative complaints/charges, show cause orders, and hearing notices.
- Approve or deny requests for continuances.
- Sign off on Case Review Reports and Confidential Investigations Reports.
- Sign delay, deny, and automatic suspension letters.
- Approve and negotiate Consent Orders.
- Sign Consent Orders signed and submitted by a Respondent.
- Manage media inquiries.
- Manage legislative inquiries.
- Testify before the legislature and at committee meetings.
- Approve and negotiate Recovery Nurse Program Agreements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board delegates the following authority to the Chief Administrative Officer, which may not be re-delegated by the Chief Administrative Officer:

- Appointing authority over all Louisiana State Board of Nursing Employees.
- Act as custodian of records for the Louisiana State Board of Nursing.
- Execute service agreements, contracts and/or contract amendments for materials, services, and supplies with customary contractors/vendors

Approve invoices and initiate payment for routine supplies, goods, and services using ACH, wire transfer, and check cutting services.
Initiate purchase orders for supplies, goods, and services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board delegates the following authority to the Chief Credentialing Officer, which may not be re-delegated by the Chief Credentialing Officer:

Authorize student registration for the NCLEX.
Issue licenses to practice.
Sign continuing education audit letters.
Endorse qualified applicants with past board action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board delegates the following authority to all LSBN section chiefs, which may not be re-delegated:

Authority to issue directive letters in accordance with Civil Service Rule 11.13(g)

Motion: by K. O’Con, seconded, to approve the Proposed Resolution of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN).

Voice Vote: A. Bulliard-yes; A. Carruth-yes; M. Collins-yes; Mr. Humbert-yes;
S. James-yes; T. McNabb-yes; P. Molbert-yes; M. Nunn-yes; K. O’Con-yes;
F. Pinkney-yes; D. Spann-yes

Motion Carried

Ms. Bulliard stated that the following dates have been secured to continue with the process of the search.

The first Search Committee meeting is to be held the week of February 2nd The Search Committee’s zoom meeting will follow the February 26th Board meeting. SSA’s recommendation is approximately 30 minutes for each interview.

(Discussion ensued)

There will be a Special Call meeting in March. Date to be determined.

(Discussion ensued regarding selection of the February Hearing Panel.)

4. Public Comments

No Public Comments

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by D. Spann, seconded, to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Amie C Bulliard

**A. BULLIARD, PRESIDENT, and PRESIDING OFFICER
LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING**