

KIPP New Orleans Board Meeting Minutes: August 23, 2018

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans (KNOS) was held Thursday, August 23, 2018, at the KNOS School Support Center, Myrtle Banks Building at 1307 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.

The meeting was called to order at 5:51pm. The following Board members were present: Larry Washington, John Landrum, Robert Hudson, Bruce Hurley Jr., Drew Marsh, and Steve Usdin.

Board member Toya Barnes Teamer arrived at 5:56pm.

The following Board members were absent: Jodi Aamodt, Donnell Bailey, Sherice Clark, Stan Duval Jr., and Kelt Kindick.

The following KNOS staff members were present: Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise, CEO; Matt Lehigh, CFO/COO; Joey LaRoche, Chief Strategy Officer; Jonathan Bertsch, Director of Advocacy & Communications; Brad Rosenblat, Managing Director of Finance & Accounting; Katharine Schweighardt, Managing Director of School Operations; Kristen Chawla, Director of Engagement & Events; Javier Cortez, Director of Finance; Nanette Blake, Communications Manager; and Virginia Fernandez, Office Administrator.

The following guest was present: Elie Teichman

Mr. Washington welcomed board members, staff, and guest to the meeting.

Mr. Washington deferred a vote on the June meeting minutes, as a quorum had not yet been established. Quorum was established at 5:56pm upon the arrival of Ms. Barnes Teamer.

Academic Committee Report

Mr. LaRoche presented the Academic Committee report, which included projections for each school's 2018-2019 assessment indices. He gave a brief overview of the academic plan put in place this summer at the teacher's professional development meetings. Mr. LaRoche emphasized KIPP's goals for all students to perform at grade level expectations and how teachers and interventionists work closely together to dedicate class time to grade level work. He informed the board that the School Performance Scores (SPS) formula is changing and will continue to change until 2025.

At the conclusion of the Academic Committee report and following the establishment of a quorum by the arrival of Ms. Barnes Teamer, Mr. Washington turned to the approval of the June meeting minutes. After board members reviewed the minutes, Mr. Usdin made a motion to approve them. Mr. Marsh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Marsh opened the Finance Committee's report, noting that the fund balance was in good shape and that this year's audit is in progress. Mr. Lehigh then summarized the report. FY 18 finished well, and thanks to a higher enrollment rate than anticipated, FY19 is off to a good start. Schools are expected to be at capacity this academic year.

FY19 Budget Adoption

Mr. Marsh made a motion to adopt the current budget and Ms. Barnes Teamer seconded the motion. The FY19 Budget passed unanimously by voice vote.

Development Committee Report

Ms. Chawla delivered the Development Committee report. She reviewed the Save the Date information shared with the board. Ms. Chawla then invited the board members to the Development Committee meeting on Thursday, September 13, 12pm-1:30pm. She will send out calendar invitations for all events discussed. Ms. Kalify-Aluise extended an invitation to the Bard Early College Kick Off Event at Renaissance on October 9, 2018.

Governance and Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Landrum delivered the Governance and Nominating Committee report. He introduced new board member Dr. Bruce V. Hurley Jr. Mr. Landrum also noted the committee's intent to add a new board member. A candidate is currently being considered and Mr. Landrum will check with the board members for their input. Mr. Landrum's term will end in December. Ms. Kalify-Aluise brought up the importance of having a current KIPP parent on the board in order to be 100% compliant with KNOS' authorizers and asked that the board keep this in consideration.

Strategic Planning Committee Report

Mr. Kindick was not in attendance to present a report. Ms. Kalify-Aluise will have a phone conference with him and the Strategic Planning Committee in the upcoming week to discuss leadership planning, pipeline planning, the assistant principal developmental work that is in progress and the search for the new Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operations Officer. She also shared that the Strategic Planning Committee will be studying processes concerning attendance, attrition and culture.


CEO Report

Ms. Kalify-Aluise presented the CEO report. The school year started well. There has been a concentrated effort on improving attendance for the first weeks of schools, resulting in high student attendance for the first two weeks. We are working closely with our team at OPSB to make sure that issues are being addressed and the transition goes smoothly.


Ms. Chawla then shared with the board videos of KIPP students' first day of school and Pennant Day for KIPP Renaissance graduates held last school year.

Following the conclusion of the CEO report, Mr. Washington noted that the guest, Mr. Teichman, did not wish to address the board, rendering the comment period unnecessary. He adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Virginia Fernandez *Kristen Chawla*
on behalf of
Virginia Fernandez

Approved by


Larry Washington, Board Chairman
Star Duval
On behalf of
Larry Washington