

KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Meeting Minutes: February 13, 2020

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Thursday, February 13, 2020, at 5:45 p.m. at the KIPP New Orleans Schools Support Center located at 1307 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70113.

The meeting was called to order at 5:51 p.m.

The following members were present: Stanwood Duvall, Drew Marsh, Lauren Hitt, Kelt Kindick, Roddrick Jones, Donnell Bailey, Bruce Hurley, Sherice Clark (arrival 6:09), Toya Barnes-Teamer (arrival 6:20), Steven Usdin (departure 6:27)

The following members were absent: Larry Washington and Robert Hudson

The following members of KNOS staff were present: Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise, CEO; Katie Walmsley, CFO; Joey LaRoche, CSO; Todd Purvis, CAO; Brad Rosenblat, Managing Director of Finance and Accounting; Kevin Barnes, Managing Director of Engagement; Donna Paramore, Director of Development; Kristen Chawla, Director of Engagement & Events; and Neia Limar, Executive Assistant.

The following guests were present: Toni Pickett, NOLA Public Schools

Welcome

Mr. Duval welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Duval introduced a vote to approve the minutes from the October Board meeting and January Board retreat. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Kindick. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Academic Committee Report

Mr. Purvis provided updates regarding the academic status of KNOS mid-year. He shared news related to the success of the after-school tutoring program and schools' focus on preparation for testing. He also detailed efforts related to talent and retention. He expressed the growing hiring need for teachers across the country and encouraged each person to refer teachers to the KNOS Talent & Recruitment Team.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Marsh reported that the finance committee met on Monday, February 10th and indicated that Ms. Walmsley would provide a summary of updated financial projections and February 1st enrollment of students who receive additional per-pupil funding to support their differentiated needs. Ms. Walmsley provided an overview of the typical arc-of-the-year which Orleans Parish public schools receive clarity on per-pupil funding levels. She reminded the Board that public schools in Orleans Parish typically learn what deferred revenues they will receive each February after NOLA-PS's prior fiscal year audit is completed in December, and that OPSB typically approves the pay-out at their February board meeting. This year, NOLA-PS has delayed their recommendation to OPSB on the deferred revenue pay-out until March, but the KNOS finance team has calculated an estimate based on NOLA-PS's FY19 audit and reflected that increase in their financial summary. The majority of the net impact of this adjustment remains unallocated in KNOS's statement of financial position, but the KNOS executive team decided to allocate a portion of it for additional high-stakes spring academic strategies. Ms. Walmsley concluded by reporting that the February 1st special education student counts landed very close to what the KNOS team had originally forecasted, and also that English Language Learner (ELL) student counts had grown substantially when compared to the original forecast.

Resolution Authorizing Charter School Operating Agreement Signatory

A motion to approve the resolution to authorize the Charter School Operating Agreement Signatory was made by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Kindick. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Development Committee Report

Ms. Paramore thanked all for supporting the gala. She shared information regarding the stretch goal for this year’s fundraising efforts and invited all to attend and to encourage their colleagues to come and support.

Governance and Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Bailey reminded the board members of their previous discussion regarding the desired competencies to note when nominating new members, scheduling new officer positions and renewing officer terms. He presented a vote for the proposed slate of officers; Larry Washington as Chair, Stan Duval as Vice-Chair, Drew Marsh as Treasurer and Lauren Hitt as Secretary.

Election of Officers

A motion to approve the proposed slate of officers was made by Mr. Usdin and seconded by Dr. Barnes-Teamer. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Renewal of Directors

Mr. Duval excused himself from the room as a motion to renew his term as Vice-Chair was made by Mr. Usdin and seconded by Mr. Kindick. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bailey reviewed in detail the skill sets for potential board members based on criteria discussed during the January 2020 Retreat. He also introduced a candidate in the board member pipeline and will share more details with the board as it develops.

CEO Report

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise provided an update on KNOS’s interest in expanding operations into the Baton Rouge area and detailed the data that supports the benefits of this expansion with a targeted focus on Capitol High School. Mr. La Roche revisited critical questions that were taken into consideration during consultations with Bain & Co. related to KNOS’s readiness and ability to offer support to schools in Baton Rouge. A discussion was held and concluded with confirmation that KNOS will remain actively engaged in exploring potential growth in Baton Rouge.

Mr. Duval adjourned the meeting at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved by:

Neia Limar

Larry Washington, Board President