

KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Retreat and Meeting Minutes: January 11, 2019

A public retreat of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Friday, January 11, 2019, at 8:30 am at KIPP East Community Primary located at 6519 Virgilian St., New Orleans, LA 70126.

The meeting was called to order at 8:42 am.

The following members were present: Larry Washington, Toya Barnes-Teamer, Steven Usdin, Donnell Bailey, Jodi Aamodt, Stanwood Duvall, Bruce Hurley, Drew Marsh, Sherice Clark, Kelt Kindick, and Lauren Hitt (departed at 1:00).

The following members were absent: Robert Hudson.

The following members of KNOS staff were present: Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise, CEO; Katie Walmsley, CFO; Joey LaRoche, CSO; Todd Purvis, CAO and Kristen Chawla, Director of Engagement & Events.

The following guests were present: John Alford, KIPP Foundation (departed at 1:00); H. Suzve and Lauren Fisher, Kenilworth Middle School in Baton Rouge (arrived at 9:20) and Jennifer Eplett Reilly and Adam Knapp, New Schools for Baton Rouge Board members (arrived at 12:20 and departed at 1:15).

Welcome

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise welcomed everyone to the retreat and provided an overview of the meeting agenda and purpose. Ms. Kalifey-Aluise reviewed the board decisions made at past years' retreats and the impact they have had on the organization.

Academic Updates

Mr. Purvis presented a school by school performance update which included: letter grade, student attrition data, teacher retention and plans for school improvement. As each school in the KNOS portfolio was reviewed, board members had an opportunity to ask school-specific questions.

Break and Pre-Kindergarten Classroom Visit (10:10 – 10:38 am)

Board members had an opportunity to visit Pre-Kindergarten classrooms with Amanda Cole, Director of Pre-K programming and Jaritza Alecon, Dean of Instruction.

Growth Opportunity and Strategy

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise discussed growth opportunities and strategy for KNOS. Opportunity for growth at this time may include expanding KNOS to Baton Rouge. 70% of Baton Rouge students of color are attending C, D, and F schools. There is a tremendous need in Baton Rouge for high caliber, best in class, public education. The board participated in an exercise about expanding our reach specific to exploring the possibility of adding Baton Rouge school(s) into our portfolio.

Break and lunch from 11:50 – 12:20

Baton Rouge Partner Discussion

Ms. Reilly and Mr. Knapp provided an overview of their work recruiting charter schools to Baton Rouge to increase academic opportunities for the students in their area. The board had an opportunity to ask specific questions about the challenges of opening a KIPP school in Baton Rouge.

At the end of the retreat, the board agreed to greenlight the exploration of opening a KIPP school in Baton Rouge. The KNOS Team will prepare specific scenarios in the coming months.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Kristen Chawla

Approved by:

  
Larry Washington, Board President