



KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Meeting Minutes: December 8, 2022

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at the Greater New Orleans Foundation, 919 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70130.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

The following members were present: Michael Balascio, Sherice Clark, Reginald Jackson, Cianjanae Purvis, Larry Washington, Steve Usdin, Dr. Bruce Hurley (arrived at 5:50 p.m.), and Danielle Willis (arrived at 5:57 p.m.).

The following members were absent: Donnell Bailey, Stanwood Duval, Jr., and Drew Marsh.

The following members of KNOS staff were present: Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise, CEO; Katie Walmsley, CFO; Todd Purvis, CAO; Connie Jackson, COS; Kristen Chawla, Director of Engagement and Events; and Shawanda Raphael, Executive Assistant.

The following guest was present: John Alford, KIPP Foundation.

Welcome

Mr. Washington welcomed everyone to the meeting. He welcomed new members Michael Balascio and Reginald Jackson to their first board meeting. Additionally, Mr. Washington advised that the meeting would be the last for Mr. Duval and Mr. Usdin.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Washington introduced a motion to approve the minutes from the October board meeting. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Usdin and seconded by Ms. Clark. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

CEO Report

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise opened the CEO report with highlights from recent end of the year events at KNOS schools, including the Holiday Fest and Open House. Ms. Kalifey-Aluise also outlined current student recruitment efforts, student belongingness, and attendance at schools. Ms. Kalifey-Aluise shared updates on current trends related to principal burnout, talent recruitment efforts and school safety.

Academic Committee Report

Mr. Purvis provided an update highlighting the recent SPS data release, updates for renewal schools, and mid-year school data. KNOS high schools averaged 8 SPS points of growth. Frederick A. Douglass High School is the highest performing open enrollment high school in the city and John F. Kennedy High School had the 2nd highest SPS growth of any school in the state. KNOS K-8 schools doubled the state average for SPS growth. Eighty percent of KNOS K-8 schools were in the top 10 for open enrollment schools in the city on the Assessment Index for Progress Index.

Finance Committee Report

Ms. Willis advised that the Finance Committee met on December 5th. The primary discussion at the meeting was the status of the annual audit. Ms. Walmsley reviewed the current FY23 financial summary and provided additional information regarding the status of the annual audit.

LDOE Reimagine Grant Sustainability Resolution

Mr. Washington introduced a motion to authorize KNOS' regional management team to allocate resources to continue expansion efforts of postsecondary programs funded by the Reimagine Grant from the Louisiana Department of Education. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Usdin and seconded by Dr. Hurley. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Governance and Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Washington presented the committee report in the absence of Mr. Bailey. Mr. Washington advised that Mr. Duval's and Mr. Jones' terms have expired, and neither is seeking nomination for an additional term. Mr. Usdin's term expires in December 2023, but he has chosen to finish his term early. Mr. Washington thanked each of them for their dedicated service. Mr. Washington again welcomed Mr. Balascio and Mr. Jackson. Both have completed their new board member orientation.

Election of Directors

Mr. Washington advised that a new Vice Chair needed to be confirmed due to Mr. Duval's departure. He then recommended Ms. Willis. Mr. Washington introduced a motion to elect Danielle Willis as Vice Chair of the board. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Usdin and seconded by Ms. Purvis. Ms. Willis abstained from the vote. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Board Retreat Preview

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise reminded members that the retreat is scheduled for Friday, January 20th and will be held at John F. Kennedy High School. The agenda will include an academic deep dive, school data updates, board governance and a continuation of the DEI work facilitated by K. Allen Consulting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Mr. Washington introduced a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Usdin and seconded by Ms. Willis. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,


Shawanda Raphael

Approved by:


Larry Washington, Board President