



KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Retreat Minutes: January 19, 2024

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Friday, January 19, 2024, at Junior Achievement, 5100 Orleans Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70124.

The meeting was called to order at 8:24 a.m.

The following members were present: Michael Balascio, Sherice Clark, Shana Handy, Bruce Hurley, Reggie Jackson, Cianjanae Purvis, Larry Washington and Danielle Willis.

The following guests were present: Barrett Green, Jay Mussell, Ravi Sangisetty (8:40 – 1:20) and John Alford (arrived at 8:45).

The following members of KNOS staff were present: Rhonda Kalifey Aluise, CEO; Todd Purvis, CAO; Kristen Chawla, Director of Engagement and Events; Mark Burton, Managing Director of Organizational Systems and Strategy (departed at 11:30); Towana Pierre Floyd, Managing Director of High Schools (10:10 – 12:10); Ashley Daniels-Hall, Managing Director of Impact (10:00 – 11:30); and Katie Walmsley, CFO (arrived at 10:10).

Welcome and Overview

Mr. Washington welcomed everyone to the retreat. Mr. Washington and Ms. Kalifey Aluise outlined the agenda and structure of the day.

Approval of Minutes

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

Governance and Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Balascio informed the board about the upcoming votes. He summarized the recent work of board members and staff to engage and steward new members through individualized meetings, committee and board meeting participation, and school visits. The ballots scheduled for the retreat include:

1. Election of Danielle Willis for a second three-year term.
2. Election of Officers. The proposed slate:
 - Larry Washington – Chair
 - Danielle Willis – Vice-Chair
 - Reggie Jackson – Treasurer
 - Sherice Clark – Secretary
3. Election of New Directors:
 - Ileana Garcia Ledet
 - Barrett Green
 - Jay Mussell
 - Ravi Sangisetty

Governance and Nominating: Elections

1. Mr. Washington introduced a motion to elect Danielle Willis to a second three-year term. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Balascio and seconded by Dr. Hurley. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.
2. Mr. Washington introduced a motion to elect Larry Washington as Chair, Danielle Willis as Vice-Chair, Reggie Jackson as Treasurer and Sherice Clark as Secretary. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Balascio and seconded by Dr. Hurley. The

motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

3. Mr. Washington introduced a motion to elect Ileana Garcia Ledet, Barrett Green, Jay Mussell, and Ravi Sangisetty to the Board of Directors. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Willis and seconded by Ms. Clark. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Context Setting: Talent Strategy:

Ms. Kaliey Aluise led a robust discussion about the challenges schools are currently addressing in the 2023-24 school year which impact the ability to run healthy schools. Additional critical factors include staff satisfaction and student and family satisfaction.

Organizational Health: School by School Analysis

Mr. Purvis shared 3 overall successes which include:

- Overall academic performance improvements
- Staff satisfaction (which is higher at KNOS than across NOLA PS)
- Security Investments across campuses which have improved safety perceptions and reduced incidents across KNOS

Mr. Purvis then conducted a detailed analysis for each school, leading a substantive discussion in response to questions from board members. Highlights include: an overall improvement in academic outcomes across schools, 8th grade matriculation to a KIPP high school, recruitment and enrollment, staff retention, family satisfaction, and the ELL and SPED populations enrolled in KNOS. Ms. Pierre Floyd co-facilitated the high school portion of the discussion and provided specific insight into those communities.

Ms. Kaliey Aluise outlined the existing organizational challenges, encompassing national teacher shortages affecting talent and staffing, the need for enhanced functionality in the KNOS regional office to better support school requirements, budgetary constraints involving rising costs and declining revenues, political discord and its impact on education reform, and the repercussions of trauma and violence on school communities.

Board Vision and Next Steps

The board expressed interest in being more vocal about NOLA PS and citywide issues that could be addressed with identified leaders. This encompassed talks about fostering connections with other charter school board members and establishing a coalition of advocates to leverage their collective influence

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Closing and Next Steps:

Mr. Washington asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:28 p.m. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Willis and seconded by Mr. Jackson. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kristen Chawla

Approved by:



Larry Washington, Board President