

**KIPP New Orleans Schools
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2023**

A public meeting of the finance committee of the board of directors of KIPP New Orleans Schools (“KNOS”) was held in person at the KNOS School Support Center on April 20, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.

The following members of the finance committee were present: Danielle Willis and Reggie Jackson. A quorum was established.

The following KNOS staff members were present: Chief Executive Officer Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise, Chief Financial Officer Katie Walmsley, Controller Ivette Casey and Director of Finance Jamiela Sekou.

Ms. Willis called the meeting to order. Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2023 meeting; the committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Katie Walmsley, CFO began the meeting discussing the current financial summary which reflects a positive end of year projection. This is rooted in an acceleration from the organization’s original plan in ESSER grant claiming. Ms. Walmsley explained the ESSER claiming guidance to the Board as well as KIPP’s methodology for claiming. A narrative began on projection of multi-year financials and potential conclusions that someone outside of the organization may form from year-to-year fluctuations without having the full context of COVID-driven revenue volatility over a multi-year period.

Ms. Walmsley introduced the potential for reinstating an investment strategy while interest rates are low with low-risk commercial paper and corporate bonds. Ms. Walmsley indicated that she reached out to the audit firm of Ericksen Krentel for guidance on what monies are acceptable to use, as well as the available uses of Friends of KIPP New Orleans to elongate the impact of COVID revenues on KIPP New Orleans Schools’ program operations.

Conversations returned to guidelines for ESSER claiming with a current deadline for all expenses being September 30, 2024 and the potential impact that the completion of this grant would have on KIPP schools. Ms. Willis suggested that the organization spend the funds on temporary programs that the organization would not have to sustain in the future. Ms. Walmsley reflected on what strategies KIPP is considering in order to counteract the loss of ESSER funding.

Review of financial statements began with Ms. Walmsley explaining that the negative balance was due to timing. The financials in the packet were presented through February and therefore do not reflect the quarter three federal grant claims that were recorded at the end of March.

The enrollment presentation showed a projected decrease of 136 students for next fiscal year, with Booker T. Washington’s projected decrease comprising of 107 students. With this decrease, the committee shared thoughts on facility footprint options as a cost-saving solution to evaluate in the future. Ms. Willis suggested that the organization explore strategies for stimulating growth in schools where we have decreased student attendance.