



## KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Meeting Minutes: February 25, 2021

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 5:45 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m.

The following members were present: Donnell Bailey, Larry Washington, Sherice Clark, Lauren Hitt, Drew Marsh, Stanwood Duval, Danielle Willis, and Steven Usdin.

The following members were absent: Robert Hudson, Roddrick Jones, Kelt Kindick, and Bruce Hurley.

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

The following guests were present: Nolan Ross, Tulane University student, Paige Jackson, Director of School Accountability, NOLA PS.

### Welcome

Mr. Washington welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Washington introduced a vote to approve the minutes from the December meeting and the January session. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Hitt and seconded by Mr. Marsh. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### CEO Report

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise provided an update about schools which included: the continued success managing COVID-related challenges and absences; the return of students to in-person learning across all campuses; the recent loss of a high school student; and KNOS partnership with health organizations to vaccinate all KNOS staff who work closely in schools. Vaccine clinics are located in the schools. Initial vaccinations will be completed in the next week, and a second vaccine will follow at the appropriate time. The goal is to have 75% of KNOS staff members vaccinated.

Board members asked about the loss of the student as well as overall mental health support for students and staff. Mr. Purvis shared specific programs in the high schools that are designed to promote student experiences while participating in-person or virtual. These experiences are designed to connect them to school, to their classmates and friends, and to teachers.

### Academic Committee Report

Mr. Purvis provided an academic update and the continued focus on this year's priorities which include high-quality outcomes for students and attendance. Due to ongoing attendance concerns, schools keep a tracker which helps identify an attendance concerns that need to be addressed. Schools are allocating resources and providing incentives to increase attendance which has been exciting for students and has been successful thus far.

Academic drops at KNOS reflect student achievement trends from across the country. As a result, the Academics Team is working on a 15-month remediation plan to address the decrease. The first goal is to finish the next nine weeks as strong as possible with a focus on ELA and math.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Marsh opened the Finance Committee report, indicating that Ms. Walmsley would be reporting on the organization's FY21 position, FY22 enrollment progress, and FY22 budget trajectory.

Ms. Walmsley began her report by reminding the Board of the FY20 surplus position, as a result of conservative expenditures in the spring of 2020 as well as a preliminary drawdown of COVID relief funding. She reminded the Board that this FY20 surplus provided context for the Board when they approved an FY21 budgeted deficit and that the majority of FY20's surplus remains in the adjusted fund balance for potential use in FY22. Ms. Walmsley also reminded the Board of the one and two year timing lags between decreases in local revenue collections and decreases in recurring revenue for schools.

Ms. Walmsley presented the current FY21 forecasted position as within \$50k of the FY21 budgeted deficit and confirmed that Management continues to hold the full budgeted contingency as a conservative practice at this stage of the fiscal year. She then turned to the FY22 enrollment forecast, highlighting an overall decrease of 27 students from last committee meeting. Ms. Walmsley noted that most of the decrease resulted from pre-K and grades 5 - 8, offset by positive increases in 9 - 12. Lastly, she indicated that current FY22 projections put KNOS's expected decrease in recurring funding at within \$200k of available FY20 surplus to utilize as FY22 deficit spending. A separate expected net increase in non-recurring revenues, as a result of the Consolidated Appropriations Act passed in December 2020, would enable new investments in COVID recovery efforts in FY22, with a specific focus on addressing learning loss. She concluded her report by indicating that she looks forward to providing the Board with an update on the FY22 budgeting process in April.

### **Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Credit Line**

Mr. Marsh introduced a resolution to renew the credit line and requested a motion from the Board to entrust Management with the authority to extend KNOS's no-cost line of credit with Whitney Bank for another two years and to renew this line of credit in the future with the same financial institution and terms. Ms. Walmsley provided context that this line of credit has not been drawn on in many years. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Washington and seconded by Mr. Duval. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Governance and Nominating Committee Report**

Mr. Bailey stated that all member and officer terms are up to date. He emphasized the importance of board member attendance at meetings and will follow up accordingly.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

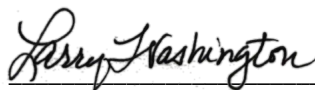
Mr. Washington introduced a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Clark and seconded by Mr. Bailey. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Shawanda Raphael on behalf of  
Kristen Chawla

Approved by:



Larry Washington, Board President