



## KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Meeting Minutes: April 22, 2021

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Thursday, April 22, 2021, at 5:45 p.m., at John F. Kennedy High School, 6026 Paris Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70122.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

The following members were present: Donnell Bailey, Sherice Clark, Stanwood Duval, Jr. (departed at 6:55pm), Lauren Hitt, Robert Hudson, Bruce Hurley, Jr., Kelt Kindick, Drew Marsh, Larry Washington (departed at 6:53pm), and Danielle Willis (departed at 6:45pm).

The following members were absent: Roddrick Jones, and Steve Usdin.

The following members of KNOS staff were present: Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise, CEO; Katie Walmsley, CFO; Joey LaRoche, CSO; Todd Purvis, CAO; Brad Rosenblat, Managing Director of Finance and Accounting; Jamiela Sekou, Director of Finance; and Shawanda Raphael, Executive Assistant.

There were no guests in attendance at the meeting,

### Welcome

Mr. Washington welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Washington introduced a vote to approve the minutes from the February meeting. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Bailey 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, as well as the minimal number of COVID-19 positive cases in KNOS schools, and an update of the number of staff members vaccinated. To date, over 70% of staff have been vaccinated. Ms. Kalifey-Aluise thanked board member Danielle Willis for her support in the vaccination rollout to KNOS staff and families. Ms. Kalifey-Aluise also updated the board on current plans for summer opportunities for KNOS students and the status of planning for the 2021-2022 school year.

### Academic Committee Report

Mr. Purvis provided an academic update detailing the continued focus on priorities which includes instruction and attendance. Currently, 70% of K-8 students are in school buildings. Staff are planning tutoring strategies and summer sessions which will be held at all KNOS schools. Summer sessions will be held for all PK-8 students from June 1<sup>st</sup> through June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Schools are also preparing for LEAP testing and making provisions to accommodate the needs of all students, as testing requirements have not been waived or modified by the state. Mr. Purvis advised that the academics team is exploring options to continue the investment in talent and retain staff. Currently KNOS has hired approximately 90% of teaching staff for the upcoming school year. Potential talent investments include stipends and the expansion of the residency program.

Mr. Purvis advised that board that trends show that SPS schools are expected to drop this year. Therefore, his team is working to address students' needs and started the 15-month remediation plan in February which will address the decrease.

### **Finance Committee Report**

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

Ms. Walmsley reported the financial summary, noting the \$712 thousand decrease in projected FY21 deficit from the last committee meeting, which resulted from releasing 100% of contingency (~\$850 thousand), a projected increase in MFP funding from NOLA-PS (~\$600 thousand) due to lower-than-expected citywide enrollment, offset by additional strategic investments and increased busing costs (~\$750 thousand). She explained that the release of citywide enrollment figures from October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 reduced uncertainty in expected FY21 MFP revenue substantially, also reminding the Board of the one-year delay in local sales and ad valorem taxes translating into per pupil revenue; both of these factors enabled her to release contingency funds at this stage of the year. Ms. Walmsley continued that her projections are over \$400 thousand more conservative than NOLA-PS's current public projections imply, for KNOS alone, due to errors in their implementation of HB393 and their slow acknowledgement and correction of those errors, also noting that OPSB's FY20 audit remains unpublished.

Ms. Walmsley then turned to the FY22 enrollment forecast, highlighting an overall increase of 25 students from last committee meeting. She noted that most of the increase resulted from stronger-than-expected high school results, and that excess capacity in the elementary grades continues to be a substantial challenge in Orleans Parish. Ms. Walmsley then provided the Board with an update on KNOS's FY22 projected budget and multi-year financial trajectory. She reminded the Board of the FY20 surplus position, the FY21 projected operating deficit, the substantial expected drop in MFP-related funding in FY22, and the lower projected levels of non-COVID-related federal funding in FY22 and beyond. However, she noted several substantial sources of non-recurring revenue that will enable KNOS to weather this downturn and respond to the pandemic. She discussed sizeable COVID-related federal relief funds from the Consolidated Appropriations Act passed in December 2020 (ESSER II) and the American Rescue Plan passed in March 2021 (ESSER III) and the strategic planning that is underway to chart out how these funds will be used in FY22, FY23, FY24, and possibly also in FY25. She also informed the Board that KNOS met the updated qualifications for the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) forgivable loan, which was funded and received earlier in the month. Management expects that KNOS will qualify for loan forgiveness, though it is likely that the majority of this sum will be realized as revenue in FY21, offsetting the operating deficit in the approved FY21 budget and current forecast. She concluded her report, indicating that she looks forward to presenting the FY22 budget at the June Board meeting.

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

Mr. Bailey advised the board that the Annual Conflict of Interest Statement was attached for members to complete. The mandatory Tier 3 Financial Disclosure forms must be submitted by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Forms were provided to members to completed. Lastly, Mr. Bailey asked that members update their contact information if there were any changes.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

Due to Mr. Washington and Mr. Duval stepping out of the meeting, Mr. Hudson introduced a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Kindick. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved by:

  
Shawanda Raphael

  
Larry Washington, Board President