

## **KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Meeting Minutes: April 23, 2020**

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Thursday, April 23, 2020, at 5:45 p.m. via online virtual meeting service Zoom, due to Louisiana Stay at Home order.

The meeting was called to order at 5:51 p.m.

The following members were present: Sherice Clark, Lauren Hitt, Robert Hudson, Donnell Bailey, Larry Washington, Bruce Hurley, Roddrick Jones (joined 5:55 pm), Toya Barnes-Teamer (joined 6:06), Steven Usdin (joined 6:07), Stanwood Duvall (joined 6:15), and Drew Marsh (joined 6:20).

The following members were absent: Kelt Kindick

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; Kevin Barnes, Managing Director of Engagement; Javier Cortez, Director of Finance; Kristen Chawla, Director of Engagement & Events; and Neia Limar, Executive Assistant.

The following guests were present: Timothy Pickett with Detail Computer Solutions and John Alford with the KIPP Foundation.

### **Welcome**

Mr. Washington welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **CEO Report**

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise provided an update on KNOS's response to the COVID19 pandemic concerning its impact on Team & Family members and the induction of new technology and remote learning. She shared reflections and acknowledged the challenges that come from the absence of in-person learning and connections. She further expressed empathy for the students who will be unable to celebrate graduation and prom, in traditional ways, but assured the board there will be alternative ways to commemorate these occasions.

### **Academic Committee Report**

Mr. Purvis reported that KNOS launched distance learning programs for KNOS teachers and students with the goals of: (1) making the schedule flexible for individual households (teachers whose own children are distance learning, students with siblings using shared technology, etc), (2) making distance learning accessible (KNOS provided laptops to students and mobile internet), and (3) making sure KNOS made roles and responsibilities clear for students and teachers. Mr. Purvis shared that KNOS adopted a "hold harmless" policy to ensure that student GPA, grades, and promotion opportunities aren't harmed as a result of school closures. Mr. Purvis also noted that KNOS is preparing for Teacher Appreciation Week. Mr. Purvis closed his report announcing that Bard granted free admission and \$20K scholarships to all Frederick A. Douglass High School seniors enrolled in their program.

Mr. LaRoche shared that the seniors from Douglass High School have received over \$8 million in merit-based scholarship dollars (surpassing other years). He also reported that schools are 80% hired, despite adding growth in kindergarten, an additional grade at KIPP East, and the acquisition of John F. Kennedy High School.

**Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Marsh and Ms. Walmsley shared the organization's financial response to COVID19. Ms. Walmsley shared the current FY20 financial position and explained the multi-year impact of the Coronavirus Recession on K-12 funding in New Orleans. She further synthesized the projected consequences of several economic scenarios and identified the scenario KNOS is using due to input received from key stakeholders. Ms. Walmsley quantified the impact of the model on KNOS's prior FY21 budget draft's revenue projection, identified key revenue-increasing solutions that KNOS is utilizing or pursuing to minimize financial gaps, and identified the range of expense-reduction measures that KNOS is pursuing to close the remainder of the financial gap.


Mr. Washington opened the meeting to public comment. Guest Timothy Pickett commented that the organization he represents, Detailed Computer Solutions, works with school districts to customize remote learning solutions.

There were no additional public comments.

Mrs. Chawla reminded board members to complete the Tier 3 Financial Disclosure Forms for the Louisiana Department of Ethics, which are due by May 15, 2020.

Mr. Washington adjourned the meeting at 7:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Neia Limar

Approved by:



Larry Washington, Board President