

KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Meeting Minutes: August 20, 2020

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Thursday, August 20, 2020, at 5:45 p.m. in person at Booker T. Washington High School, 1201 S. Roman Street, New Orleans, LA 70125 and also virtually via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 5:52 p.m.

All members were present. The following members were present in person: Donnell Bailey, Larry Washington, and Robert Hudson, and via Zoom: Sherice Clark, Lauren Hitt, Bruce Hurley, Toya Barnes-Teamer, Roddrick Jones, Steven Usdin, Stanwood Duval, Kelt Kindick, and Drew Marsh.

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

The following guests were present: Robyn McCormick, Assistant Head of Isidore Newman High School.

Welcome

Mr. Washington welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Washington introduced a vote to approve the minutes from the June meeting. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Hudson and seconded by Mr. Bailey. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. 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. Hudson. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

CEO Report

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise provided an update on KNOS's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the successful remote start of the school year. She informed the board that NOLA Public Schools will announce next week the date for students to begin school in person. Ms. Kalifey-Aluise provided updates across the region which included a review of the policies and procedures to maintain student and staff health and safety, regular and voluntary COVID testing availability for staff, 1:1 technology for students, and mobile MiFi for those students who need it.

Ms. Masten provided an overview of the plans to upgrade the HVAC system in school buildings.

Adoption of the 2020-21 Safe Start Return to School Policy

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise provided a detailed overview of the KIPP New Orleans Schools Safe Start Return to School policy. This plan was developed in accordance with Act 9 of the 2020 State Legislature and meets the standards established in BESE Bulletin 126 for school operational practices during the current pandemic. Mr. Washington introduced a vote to approve the adoption of the policy. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Usdin and seconded by Mr. Duval.

Academic Committee Report

Mr. Purvis reported that KNOS successfully started distance learning on Monday, August 17. Attendance has been high, students have been engaged, technology successful, and teachers feeling encouraged by the initial feedback from students and families. Technology has been provided to all KNOS students, mobile MiFi if needed, and learning kits which include manipulatives, whiteboards, and headphones.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Marsh reported that the Finance Committee met on Monday, August 17, 2020, and discussed updates on the conclusion of FY20 and the first several months of FY21. He also reminded the Board that they would be voting on the passage of the FY21 budget as it was presented to the Board and the public at the June Board meeting. He then turned over the remainder of the report to Chief Financial Officer Katie Walmsley.

Ms. Walmsley reported the FY20 financial summary, noting that KNOS expects to add \$5.2 million to the end-of-year adjusted fund balance, which was in line with what she had previously projected at the June Board meeting. This end-of-year position is due to the return of contingency funds, substantial cost-saving measures throughout the spring, and critical relief funding that the organization plans to use in FY21 and FY22 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Walmsley then turned to the organization's proposed FY21 budget that she initially presented to the Board and the public at the June Board meeting. She summarized that the FY21 budget proposes to run an operating deficit of \$2.9 million, resulting from the organization's planned use of \$2.5 million of the new fund balance generated in FY20 to offset (i) an anticipated decline in FY21 revenues due to COVID-19, and (ii) to continue paying just shy of \$500,000 in annual rent expense at KIPP Believe until New Market Tax Credit equity is fully realized. Lastly, Ms. Walmsley turned to the FY21 financial summary, noting that KNOS's current projected FY21 position was \$2.3 million better than the FY21 budgeted level. She explained that this improved position was driven almost entirely by OPSB's better-than-expected sales tax collections during the final quarter of FY20, and then partially offset by additional planned investments in KNOS's virtual learning programs and health/safety equipment and improvements. Ms. Walmsley concluded her report by explaining that these new investments will ensure that KNOS is prepared to operate in accordance with guidance from the Louisiana Department of Education and New Orleans Public Schools.

FY21 Budget Adoption

Because there were no additional questions about the budget, Mr. Washington introduced a vote to approve the FY21 Budget. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Usdin and seconded by Mr. Bailey. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Governance and Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Bailey updated the board about the recent committee meeting and reviewed current board member and officer terms. Mr. Bailey noted that he is the only member who will need to renew a term at the December meeting. Officer terms do not need to be addressed for another calendar year.

Mr. Bailey also discussed building a pipeline of new board member prospects and reminded the board that in past meetings, they identified the priority competencies of a new candidate include - diversity, expertise in finance, and potentially an alumnus.

Mr. Washington opened the meeting to public comment. Guest Robyn McCormick thanked the board for including her in the meeting. She has deep connections to KNOS and complimented the board and staff on their work in education.

There were no additional public comments.

Mr. Washington introduced a vote to adjourn the meeting. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Hudson and seconded by Mr. Bailey. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kristen Chawla

Approved by:



Larry Washington, Board President