

KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Meeting Minutes: October 22, 2020

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Thursday, October 22, 2020, at 5:45 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 5:49 p.m.

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

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

The following members of KNOS staff were present: Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise, CEO; Katie Walmsley, CFO; Joey LaRoche, CSO; Todd Purvis, CAO; Liz Masten, COO; Kristen Chawla, Director of Engagement & Events; and Erica Lipoff, Director of Impact who joined at 6:09 p.m.

The following guests were present: Kristen Green with Junior Achievement and John Alford with the KIPP Foundation.

Welcome

Mr. Washington welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Washington introduced a vote to approve the minutes from the August meeting. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Duval and seconded by Mr. Marsh. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

CEO Report

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise provided an update on the school year which included staff and student morale and COVID compliance and accountability across the region. She also informed the board about plans for their participation in DEI training as part of their annual retreat.

Academic Committee Report

Mr. Purvis and Mr. LaRoche reported that in early October all grades at KNOS were back in person. Approximately 44% of students remain virtual learners. Students have been engaged, technology has worked successfully, and teachers are feeling encouraged by the initial feedback from students and families. However, attendance across schools (in-person and virtual) is an area of concern and our teams will continue to work with families and encourage increased participation. It's anticipated that more students will shift back to in-person learning for the second semester. Mr. LaRoche discussed staff mindset and morale, continued support for Capitol High School in Baton Rouge, and the ongoing participation in DEI training for all staff members across the region. The DEI work is part of a three-year strategic plan which includes: talent, hiring, and promotion practices; creating equitability of student experiences and developing a DEI lens across the region; and building robust community engagement.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Marsh opened the Finance Committee report, noting that the Committee convened on Monday, October 19th at the KNOS School Support Center with a virtual Zoom meeting option. He noted that the KNOS FY20 audit is progressing and that the audit will be reported in December. He also previewed a significant increase in the organization's FY20 ending position due to timing shifts from FY21 to FY20. Ms. Walmsley reported the FY20 financial summary, noting the \$2.5 million increase in KNOS's FY20 ending adjusted fund balance compared to what was previously reported. Ms. Walmsley shared that the increase consisted of \$2.2 million of timing difference from FY21 to FY20 (a \$1.7 million Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF) grant advanced from FY21 to FY20 to ensure that ample expenses remaining available for future grant claiming in FY21 and \$475 thousand of JFK start-up expenses

delayed from FY20 to FY21 and \$300 thousand of net increases mostly from unanticipated MFP revenue for students in private facilities.

Ms. Walmsley then turned to the FY21 financial summary, highlighting that the projected FY21 adjusted fund balance is currently \$1.2 million higher than the \$3 million net operating deficit that the Board approved in the FY21 budget, but \$1 million lower than the August forecast. These changes consisted of (i) the \$2.2 million that shifted from FY21 to FY20 as a result of the timing difference noted earlier, offset by (ii) \$1.2 million in net increases due to (a) school operating expense savings (due to delayed and reduced in-person student attendance), (b) staffing savings (due to moderate staffing vacancies), (c) additional unanticipated MFP revenues for students in private facilities, despite (d) decreased revenue due to lower student enrollment and (e) additional expenses to support student learning.

Ms. Walmsley then turned to FY21 preliminary October 1, 2020 enrollment results, which were 28 students below budget for the region. She indicated that the organization expects to fill the four Pre-K vacancies that remain, and that across K-12 grades, JFK experienced the largest enrollment shortfall as the school continues the first year of its transformation. Concerning overall excess seat capacity, the network's excess capacity is primarily in the lower elementary grades, which is consistent with enrollment patterns across the city.

Governance and Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Bailey reviewed current board members whose terms are eligible for renewal in December. This includes Mr. Marsh, Mr. Usdin, and Mr. Bailey. He also discussed a potential board candidate and invited others to meet with her before the December meeting.

There were no public comments.

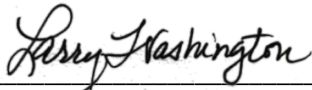
Mr. Washington adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kristen Chawla

Approved by:



Larry Washington, Board President