

KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Meeting Minutes: August 22, 2024

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at KIPP New Orleans Schools, 1055 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 400, New Orleans, LA 70130.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

The following members were present: Michael Balascio (arrived at 5:38 p.m.) Sherice Clark, Barrett Green, Bruce Hurley (arrived at 5:38 p.m. and departed at 6:50 p.m.), Reggie Jackson, Jay Mussell, Cianjanae Purvis, Larry Washington and Danielle Willis.

The following members were absent: Shana Handy, Ileana Ledet (attended virtually until 6:15 p.m.), and Ravi Sangisetty.

The following members of KNOS staff were present: Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise, CEO; Todd Purvis, CAO; Katie Walmsley, CFO; and Kristen Chawla, Director of Engagement and Events.

Welcome

Mr. Washington welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr. Washington asked for a motion to amend the agenda and add an Executive Session to discuss CEO performance as the last agenda item. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Willis and seconded by Mr. Green. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

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

CEO Report and Academic Update

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise opened the CEO report by highlighting the strong start of the school year across all campuses and that schools already feel energetic and productive. Mr. Purvis shared the feedback from a recent KIPP Foundation visit to KNOS. He then presented the academic update which included an overview of the 2023 - 24 LEAP scores and an overview of John F. Kennedy High School that is participating in the renewal process this year. He shared the strong attendance data from across the network which is encouraging and reflects improvements from last year's data. The report ended with an update about the conclusion of the LDOE Reimagine Grant which has helped fund Postsecondary programming across the three KNOS high schools as well as English Language Learner programing and services across all KNOS campuses.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Jackson and Ms. Walmsley provided the committee report. The Finance Committee met on August 21 to review the current FY25 financial position and the close of the FY24 budget. There are financial decisions about the KIPP Believe building and ownership that must be considered this fall, and the Finance Committee will make a recommendation to the board at the October meeting. Ms. Walmsley stated that Ericksen Krentel will be retained for the FY24 audit and advised that before this year's audit, board approval of the Louisiana Audit Compliance Questionnaire is required.

FY24 Budget Adoption

Ms. Walmsley stated that there have been no changes to the FY25 budget presented to the board at the June meeting. Mr. Washington introduced a motion to adopt the budget. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Mussell and seconded by Ms. Willis. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Louisiana Audit Compliance Questionnaire

Mr. Washington introduced a motion to approve the Louisiana Audit Compliance Questionnaire. A motion to approve was made by Dr. Hurley and seconded by Mr. Jackson. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Governance and Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Balascio shared updates which include: the need to continue building a pipeline for new members and an plan to renew and update the by-laws which were last amended in 2016. Mr. Washington expressed interest in reinstating the Strategic Planning and Leadership Committee.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Executive Session

Mr. Washington introduced a motion to begin the Executive Session to discuss CEO performance. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Ms. Willis. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote and staff members were asked to leave the room.

Mr. Washington introduced a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Balascio and seconded by Mr. Green. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Washington introduced a motion to resume the regular meeting. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Willis and seconded by Mr. Mussell. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote and the staff members were asked to leave the room.

Mr. Washington introduced a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Mussell. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted.

Kristen Chawla

Approved by:

Jarry Washington, Board President