



### **KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Meeting Minutes: October 22, 2024**

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

The following members were present: Barrett Green (participated remotely), Shana Handy (departed at 7:03 p.m.), Reggie Jackson (arrived at 5:41 p.m.), Ileana Ledet, Jay Mussell, Cianjanae Purvis, Larry Washington and Danielle Willis

The following members were absent: Michael Balascio, Sherice Clark, Bruce Hurley, and Ravi Sangisetty.

Lee Reid was a guest in attendance.

The following members of KNOS staff were present: Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise, CEO; Todd Purvis, CAO (departed at 6:36 p.m.); Katie Walmsley, CFO; Mark Burton, MD of Organizational Systems and Strategy; and Kristen Chawla, Director of Engagement and Events.

Mr. Washington welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Washington introduced a motion to approve the minutes from the August board meeting. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Mussell and seconded by Ms. Willis. There were no public comments, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **CEO Report**

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise began her report discussing the recent announcement by NOLA PS about their FY24 financial miscalculation. Not many details have been shared with CMOs nor have CMOs been engaged in the process in any significant way which is extremely problematic. Ms. Kalifey-Aluise outlined the financial implications for KNOS and highlighted challenges that coincide with the overall decline in enrollment across the city. Ms. Kalifey-Aluise and Ms. Walmsley outlined several scenarios about how this unacceptable miscalculation could happen and the oversight that is needed to ensure it does not happen again. Also, they outlined various resolutions to aid in the solution but stated that NOLA PS must take ownership of how problematic and devastating this is for schools across New Orleans.

Mr. Purvis presented school performance and renewal updates. SPS scores should be released in the next month. The prediction for KNOS schools is strong overall. Once scores are announced, John F. Kennedy High School will be issued their renewal. KIPP Believe, Morial and Central City are all up for renewal this year.

Mr. Purvis concluded his presentation with current school-based challenges and wins. Challenges include teachers staffing that threaten school performance and the increasing complex financial and political landscapes that impact resource allocation and retention. The wins include a shining literacy program, talented school leaders who are quickly and successfully developing high quality coaches and teachers, and students who own their goals and habits and are driving their own academic success.

Mr. Burton closed out the CEO report with an update on enrollment and attendance. As the board has heard previously, birth rates continue to decline across the city and some families continue to move outside of New Orleans. Currently, KNOS has 13% of the students enrolled in public schools across the city. There are pockets of concern which are being strategically addressed. KNOS

attendance data is strong and three months into the school year, seeing attendance rates above 90% which is the strongest attendance data in several years.

**Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Jackson shared that the Finance Committee met last week and discussed financial decisions related to the KIPP Believe building. Ms. Walmsley then provided an update about the building and the plan to enter into a new lease agreement with Friends of KIPP New Orleans (FKNO) that will replace the current one with Bayou District Foundation Elementary (BDFE) should the transfer of building ownership from BDFE to FKNO proceed as planned in the coming weeks.

**Resolution Authorizing the Believe School Lease**

Mr. Washington introduced a motion to approve a resolution granting Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise the authority to enter into a new lease agreement for the KIPP Believe property.

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Mussell. There were no public comments, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Policy Resolutions:**

Mr. Washington and Ms. Kaliey-Aluise outlined the three resolutions on the agenda requiring a board vote.

Mr. Washington introduced a motion to approve a resolution stating that the KNOS Board of Directors approves the dissemination of the LDOE Louisiana Education Stipend. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Ms. Purvis. There were no public comments, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Washington introduced a motion to approve a resolution stating that the KNOS Board of Directors approves the dissemination of the LDOE differentiated compensation stipends in alignment to state guidelines and defined in the KNOS 2024-2025 Talent Strategy and Approach to Compensation guidelines. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Mussell and seconded by Mr Jackson. There were no public comments, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Washington introduced a motion to approve a resolution stating that the KNOS Board of Directors grants the Board Chair the authority to negotiate and finalize the salary of the KNOS CEO. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Ledet and seconded by Mr. Jackson. There were no public comments, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Washington asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Ms. Willis. There were no public comments, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved by:

  
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Kristen Chawla

  
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D. Willis – Vice Chair