



KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Meeting Minutes: December 12, 2024

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at KIPP New Orleans Schools, 1055 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70130.

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

The following members were present: Michael Balascio, Sherice Clark, Barrett Green, Shana Handy, Bruce Hurley (arrived at 6:03 p.m.), Reggie Jackson, Ileana Ledet, Jay Mussell, Cianjanae Purvis, Ravi Sangisetty, and Danielle Willis

The following member was absent: Larry Washington.

Jordan Vaughn (remote) and Trenell Jackson (in person) were guests in attendance.

The following members of KNOS staff were present: Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise, CEO; Todd Purvis, CAO; Katie Walmsley, CFO (departed at 6:03 p.m.); and Kristen Chawla, Director of Engagement and Events.

Because Mr. Washington was not in attendance, Vice-Chair, Danielle Willis led the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes

At the start of the meeting, Ms. Willis neglected to call for a voice vote as required by Louisiana Open Meetings Law. To correct this procedural error, Ms. Willis later introduced a motion to reapprove the minutes from the October board meeting and called for a voice vote. Mr. Jackson made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Mussell. There were no public comments, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Jackson shared that the Finance Committee met the previous day, and that Ms. Walmsley would provide the report. Ms. Walmsley stated that the organization's audit partners attended the finance committee meeting and presented progress on the organizations FY24 audit, which is nearing completion, and will be submitted on time to all required parties.

Regarding the FY25 forecast, Ms. Walmsley stated continued uncertainty about the large forecasting error widely reported in the news of local revenues. The importance of the City of New Orleans and NOLA PS reporting accurately is critical to schools, as was emphasized by Ms. Willis.

Ms. Walmsley also provided an explanation for the need to adopt the revised FY24 Budget. Due to the expenses being +5% even though revenue also reflected a commensurate increase, the board is required to approve to adopt that revised budget at the earliest moment that the variance is recognized. This occurred in the process of closing the books and solidifying the organization's final intercompany management fee.

FY24 Revised Budget Adoption

After Ms. Walmsley's report, Ms. Willis asked the board to approve a revised FY24 budget. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Green. There were no public comments, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

CEO Report

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise began her report discussing the announcement by NOLA PS about upcoming school closures. She notified the board that KNOS has not been approached by NOLA PS about any potential building site assignments. However, KNOS has been in communication with leaders at The Delores Taylor Arthur School scheduled to close in December and will explore potential solutions within KNOS to help the junior and senior classes remain together by inviting them to share space at Booker T. Washington High School. There are several factors that impact a final decision which include the school's student enrollment, their teachers' willingness to move with the students and assurances that the seniors are on track to graduate in May.

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise notified the board that John F. Kennedy High School's charter has been renewed for five years and KNOS has four other schools currently participating in NOLA PS site visits in the Spring of 2025.

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise invited members to attend the upcoming KNOS Holiday choir and band performance and to be aware that there are numerous celebrations scheduled for the spring in recognition of the organization's 20th anniversary.

Governance and Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Balascio reported that the committee met prior to the 5:30 board meeting. The committee continues to discuss revisions to the existing by-laws, the ongoing engagement to recruit new members, and to expect a finalized board member engagement survey by the end of the year with the goal of discussing the results at the annual board retreat in January. He also reminded members to participate in their annual ethics training due by the end of the year.


Board Retreat Preview

The board retreat will be held on Jan 10th. The members will engage in an academic and enrollment deep dive as well as a session about One KIPP.

Ms. Willis and Ms. Kalifey-Aluise both thanked Bruce Hurley for serving two three-year terms on the board and recognized his contribution to the board over the years.

There were no public comments and Ms. Willis asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Hurley. There were no public comments, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kristen Chawla

Approved by:



Danielle Willis