



## **KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Retreat Minutes: January 10, 2025**

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Friday, January 10, 2025, at KIPP Morial, 7701 Grant, New Orleans, LA 70126. The meeting was also hosted remotely via a Teams link.

The meeting started at 8:40 a.m. after a school tour and visit to classrooms.

The following members were present: Michael Balascio, Barrett Green, Reggie Jackson, Ileana Ledet, Cianjanae Purvis, Ravi Sangisetty, Larry Washington, and Danielle Willis.

The following members were absent: Sherice Clark, Shana Handy and Jay Mussell.

There were no guests in attendance.

The following members of KNOS staff were present: Rhonda Kalifey Aluise, CEO; Todd Purvis, CAO; Kristen Chawla, Director of Engagement and Events; Mark Burton, Managing Director of Organizational Systems and Strategy (arrived at 9:10 a.m.); Katie Walmsley, CFO (arrived at 9:20 a.m.); Diana Archuleta, Managing Director of Talent (arrived at 9:30 a.m.); and Ashley Daniels-Hall, Managing Director of Impact (arrived at 11:30 a.m.).

### **Coffee, Fellowship and KIPP Morial School Background and Tour**

Board members started the day hearing about KIPP Morial's school history and then participated in a school tour led by School Leader, Deanna Reddick.

### **Introduction and Retreat Overview**

After the tour, Ms. Kalifey-Aluise welcomed everyone to the retreat and outlined the agenda and structure of the day.

### **School Performance Deep Dive**

Mr. Purvis shared three overall successes which include:

- School cultures that support adult and student successes and
- Steady enrollment increases as well as academic growth among the English Learner student population.
- School leadership stability and strength.

Mr. Purvis then presented an analysis for each school and asked members to work in small groups to develop specific school site and grade specific questions for primary, middle and high schools. This led to a robust discussion with members answering the questions raised. Topics included overall academic performance, teacher retention and student retention.

Mr. Purvis presented to the board the current threats to the organizational health:

- Teacher and assistant principal compensation and longevity.
- Accountability formula and standards shifts.
- High school redesign and
- KIPP Foundation expectations for regions.

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise then asked members to participate in working groups to brainstorm teacher retention and potential compensation strategies.

During members working lunch, the conversation was focused on questions raised about accountability structures, the concerns about high school redesign that causes instability, lack of continuity of high school programming based on state requirements, as well as concerns with a change in expectations for regions set by the KIPP Foundation.

### **Enrollment Deep Dive**

Mr. Burton led the presentation about the current enrollment challenges at KNOS. These include sustainability risks that are categorized as:

- Current excess capacity across the city.
  - This is due to a continued downward trend in enrollment citywide that is not being accounted for by NOLA PS,
  - The NOLA PS reported fill rate is inflated.
- Central City schools and Booker T Washington High School.
  - Declining enrollment and declining student retention over time.
  - Matriculation from KCCA to BTW has declined while increasing at JFK.
  - Potential shifts in students preferring to stay in their neighborhood zip codes.
- Student attrition.
  - Post-pandemic movement of students and families outside of Orleans and the state.
  - Continued focus on setting expectation for KNOS 8<sup>th</sup> graders to matriculate to a KNOS high school.
  - Focus on PreK retention.
  - Focus on building strong schools with thriving student and staff cultures.

Mr. Burton provided specific strategies designed to address each enrollment challenge with the goal of increasing enrollment across schools but especially those in central city.

### **Board Governance**

Mr. Balascio informed the board about the upcoming votes. The ballots scheduled for the retreat include:

1. Election of Officers. The proposed slate:
  - Danielle Willis – Chair
  - Reggie Jackson – Vice-Chair
  - Barrett Green – Treasurer
  - Sherice Clark – Secretary
2. Re-election of Members for an additional 3-year term.
  - Cianjanae Purvis
  - Sherice Clark
  - Larry Washington

### **Election of New Officers**

- Mr. Washington introduced a motion to vote on the slate of proposed officers. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Balascio and seconded by Mr. Jackson. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote and Mr. Washington turned the meeting over to Ms. Willis.

### **Reelection of Directors**

- Ms. Willis introduced a motion to vote on the term renewals. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Washington and seconded by Mr. Balascio. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Signatory Authorizer Resolution:**

Mr. Jackson introduced a motion to vote on the resolution required by NOLA PS stating that Danielle Willis is the board chair and has the authority to sign NOLA PS documents on behalf of KIPP New Orleans. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Washington and seconded by Mr. Balascio. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

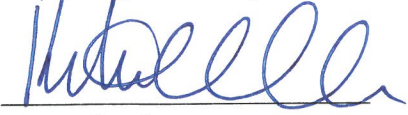
### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Closing:**

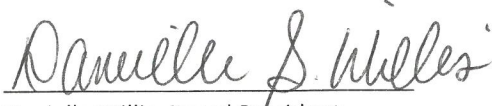
Ms. Willis asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 p.m. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Ms. Ledet. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kristen Chawla', written over a horizontal line.

Kristen Chawla

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Danielle S. Willis', written over a horizontal line.

Danielle Willis, Board President

