



KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Meeting Minutes: February 20, 2025

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at the regional offices of KIPP New Orleans Schools, Suite 400, New Orleans, LA 70130. Also, the meeting was hosted remotely via a Teams link.

The meeting started at 5:38 p.m.

The following members were present: Michael Balascio, Sherice Clark, Barrett Green, Shana Handy, Reggie Jackson (arrived at 5:41 p.m.), Ileana Ledet, Jay Mussell, Ravi Sangisetty (arrived at 5:51 p.m.), Larry Washington, and Danielle Willis.

The following member was absent: Cianjanae Purvis.

Jordan Vaughn was the only guest in attendance and there were no remote participants.

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

Ms. Willis welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the meeting agenda items.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Willis introduced a motion to approve the December meeting and January Retreat minutes. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Jackson. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

CEO Report

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise invited members to attend the 20th anniversary celebration on March 20. She then reviewed the document titled "District Right-Sizing Board Advocacy Memo." This document provides detailed information about the impacts and rationale of right-sizing the district. The document includes a call to action and provides talking points for KNOS advocates. A review of current enrollment numbers then led to the Finance Committee Report.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Green and Ms. Walmsley provided a summary of Wednesday's Finance Committee meeting and informed the board that they are responsible for supporting KNOS in upcoming financial decisions. Their immediate focus is the FY25 budget and deficits caused by local governance miscalculations and projections, along with long-term planning to address the projected financial deficits for FY26. This projected deficit results from both local and federal funding decreases.

The board engaged in a robust conversation about the financial challenges of both FY25 and FY26. To address the immediate concerns, the board was tasked with determining the best use of the fund balance to support the FY25 budget deficit. The deficits are projected to cause an even larger decrease for FY26 which will require creative and strategic planning. Recognizing the importance of addressing FY26 concerns, Ms. Willis recommended the formation of a board strategy committee. The board supported this recommendation.

Ms. Willis introduced a motion to establish the committee. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Washington and seconded by Mr. Mussell. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Governance and Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Balascio provided a summary of the committee meeting held earlier in the day. He encouraged the entire board to review the survey results and direct questions or concerns to him. He then introduced Jordan Vaughn and highlighted the strengths she brings to the group and formally recommended her as a new board member.

Election of Director

Ms. Willis introduced a motion to vote on the election of Jordan Vaughn as a director. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Washington and seconded by Mr. Jackson. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment:

Ms. Willis asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Washington. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote and the meeting ended at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved by:

Kristen Chawla

Danielle Willis, Board Chair