



KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Meeting Minutes: April 10, 2025

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at the regional offices of KIPP New Orleans Schools, 1055 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 400, New Orleans, LA 70130. Also, the meeting was hosted remotely via a Teams link.

The meeting started at 5:36 p.m.

The following members were present: Michael Balascio, Barrett Green, Reggie Jackson, Jay Russell, Cianjanae Purvis, Ravi Sangisetty, Larry Washington, Danielle Willis and Jordan Vaughn.

The following members were absent: Sherice Clark, Shana Handy and Ileana Medet.

There was one guest in attendance who joined remotely via Teams at 5:40 p.m. – Gabri Juhasz, education reporter with New Orleans Public Radio.

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

Welcome

Ms. Willis welcomed everyone to the meeting. In recognition of a student death that occurred earlier in the day, she asked for a moment of silence.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Willis introduced a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Washington and seconded by Mr. Russell. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

CEO Report:

Ms. Kalife-Aluise shared the upcoming graduation dates and times as well as the proposed board meeting schedule for FY26. She stated that the majority of tonight's meeting would be spent talking about financials following a brief academic update by Mr. Purvis.

Mr. Purvis provided an overview of what the end of the year programming currently looks like in schools and end of year prep and testing across campuses which includes ACT and LEAP. School Leaders feel optimistic about their readiness for testing.

Ms. Kalife-Aluise provided an update about the funding concerns and recognized that there are entities looking into the deficits. Regardless of who is responsible, KNOS has an obligation to plan accordingly. That planning is based on the information and projections that the KNOS Finance Team and the Finance Committee are aware of at this point in time.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Green and Ms. Walmsley provided a summary of Tuesday's Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Barrett outlined the options the board will be asked to consider to solve the deficit which includes using a percentage of the fund balance. While this may be the solution for FY26, it is not a long-term decision and is not sustainable. Ms. Kalife-Aluise stated that one of the ways to help solve the deficit is to reduce seats across schools. In addition, reaching out to larger partner groups may be helpful. Ms. Walmsley highlighted that the seat fill-rate is at an all-time low. The current revenue environment and enrollment reality are not compatible. There will be dramatic budget reduction prioritizing non-staffing and operational cuts. In addition, a new staffing model will be introduced to schools in the next month.

Ms. Walmsley then shared an overview of both the worst- and best-case budget planning scenarios. The Finance Committee will work in partnership with KNOS Leadership to create a realistic FY26 budget which will be previewed at the June board meeting.

Board Governance

Mr. Balascio notified the board that the committee will meet again in June, and he will share a report at that time.

Public Comments

The guest in attendance, Aubri Juhasz, was asked via Teams if she had a comment or wanted to address the board. She stated that she did not.

Adjournment

Ms. Willis asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Mussell. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Chawla

Approved by:

Danielle Willis, Board President

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