KIPP New Orleans Schools Special Board Meeting Minutes: August 28, 2025

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at Booker T. Washington High School, 1201 S. Roman St., New Orleans, LA 70125.

The meeting was called to order at 5:44 p.m.

The following members were present: Michael Balascio, Sherice Clark, Barrett Green, Shana Handy, Reggie Jackson, Jay Mussell and Danielle Willis.

The following members were absent: Ileana Ledet, Cianjanae Purvis, Ravi Sangisetty, Jordan Vaughn and Larry Washington.

The following members of KNOS staff were present: Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise, CEO; Todd Purvis, CAO; Katie Walmsley, CFO, Towana Pierre-Floyd, Managing Director of High Schools; and Kristen Chawla, Director of Engagement and Events.

The following guest was present: Dr. T. Jackson, NOLA PS.

The meeting was hosted virtually via Teams and there we no guests in attendance.

Welcome

Ms. Willis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Ms. Willis asked for a motion to approve the June 12, 2025, and August 14, 2025, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Mussell. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

CEO Report

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise shared a brief update about the potential legal action against the City of New Orleans. She explained that the judge in the case issued a TRO in response to the lawsuit, and the city did not appeal it. As a result, KNOS anticipates receiving revenue from tax collection owed to the city between now and December 2026.

Mr. Purvis provided an academic update and highlighted achievements across the organization. These include: across primary, middle and high school, Basic+ increased by 3 points; significant improvements in 4 of the 5 KIPP national anchor metrics; K-2 students across the network are reading at benchmark, ahead of national norms; all primary schools increased math scores in both Basic+ and Mastery+; all middle schools increased in science in both Basic+ and Mastery+; high schools increased in Basic+ across all subjects. In addition, KNOS is seeing exceptional success in postsecondary readiness which includes having the highest average ACT score among all CMOs in the city. Mr. Purvis then described the numerous strategies that will be used to continue this academic momentum.

This year KNOS has four schools up for renewal which include KIPP Believe, KIPP Central City, KIPP Morial and Booker T. Washington High School. All four are expected to be renewed and above the threshold for automatic renewal. Mr. Purvis then outlined the new accountability model and key shifts that will impact letter grades.

KNOS has had a strong start to the 2025-2026 school year and Mr. Purvis shared highlights from across the network. These include student goal launch and outstanding attendance across campuses.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Green and Ms. Walmsley provided a summary of the Wednesday, August 27 committee meeting which included final reconciliation of the FY25 budget and a rationale for the adjusted revenue. The adjusted revenue primarily is due to Medicaid payments made in the current year instead of as projected in the upcoming year resulting in a small net income versus a loss as was previously reported.

Ms. Walmsley confirmed that the board would be asked to approve the FY26 budget noting that because the organization budgets conservatively, and due to cautious optimism regarding enrollment, there is some conservatism built into this budget. In addition, the $175/pupil impact of the court's injunction on the city's withholding of a collection fee on school revenues is not assumed in the budget.

FY26 Budget Adoption

Because there were no questions or comments, Ms. Willis asked for a motion to approve the FY26 budget. A motion was made by Mr. Mussell and seconded by Mr. Jackson. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Louisiana Audit Compliance Questionnaire Adoption

Because there were no questions or comments, Ms. Willis asked for a motion to approve the annual Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Mussell. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Ms. Willis asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Balascio and seconded by Mr. Jackson. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Chawla

Approved by:

Danielle S. Willis

Danielle Willis, Board President