



## **KIPP New Orleans Schools Meeting Minutes: October 16, 2025**

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 1055 St. Charles Ave., Suite 400, New Orleans, LA 70130.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

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

The following members were absent: Sherice Clark, Cianjanae Purvis, Shana Handy and Jordan Vaughn.

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 Mark Burton, Managing Director of Strategy and Systems.

The following guest was present: Former board member, Stephen Rosenthal.

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

### **Welcome**

Ms. Willis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Ms. Willis asked for a motion to approve the August 28, 2025, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Green. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **CEO Report**

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise shared an overview of ongoing challenges around enrollment declines and student mobility, which impact both academic planning and financial sustainability. These issues were framed as central to upcoming strategic decisions, including potential school consolidations and long-term resource planning. Ms. Kalifey-Aluise then asked Mr. Purvis and Ms. Pierre-Floyd to share more specifics and an academic update.

Leaders shared encouraging projections for school performance scores (SPS), with all campuses expected to maintain their current letter grades and Frederick Douglass potentially advancing to an A. Targeted instructional improvements—including extended math and ELA blocks and a new curriculum—are underway to address performance gaps, especially at lower-performing schools. The high school redesign was a major focus, emphasizing post-secondary readiness through credentialed pathways. Thanks to expanded in-house and external partnerships, 46% of seniors are now enrolled in career or university accelerator programs, marking a significant increase from the previous year and positioning students for stronger outcomes under the state's new accountability system.

Additionally, four schools—KIPP Believe, KIPP Morial, KIPP Central City Primary, and KIPP Central City Academy—are up for renewal this year. Projections indicate that Believe and Morial are on track for eight-year renewals, while Central City Primary and Central City Academy are expected to receive five-year terms.

**Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Green and Ms. Walmsley provided a summary of the Wednesday, October 15 Finance Committee Meeting. The Finance Committee reported ongoing challenges tied to declining enrollment and increased student mobility, which are impacting budget sustainability. In response, the team is actively exploring strategic options such as internal restructuring to ensure long-term viability. Members were encouraged to join the committee to contribute to both financial and strategic planning, especially as these discussions deepen at the January board retreat. The committee continues to meet monthly to monitor trends and guide decision-making around resource allocation and organizational sustainability.

**Policy Resolutions**

Because there were no questions or comments, Ms. Willis introduced a motion to approve a resolution stating that the KNOS Board of Directors approves the dissemination of the LDOE Louisiana Education Stipend. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Mussell and seconded by Mr. Green. There were no public comments, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Because there were no questions or comments, Ms. Willis introduced a motion to approve a resolution stating that the KNOS Board of Directors approves the dissemination of the LDOE differentiated compensation stipends in alignment to state guidelines and defined in the KNOS 2025-2026 Talent Strategy and Approach to Compensation guidelines. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Mussell and seconded by Mr. Green. There were no public comments, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Governance and Nominating Committee Report**

Mr. Balascio shared an update from the Governance and Nominating Committee Meeting held immediately before the board meeting. The committee discussed fundraising, board member election cadence, support for KIPP staff, and other advocacy functions in which the committee might engage.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

Ms. Willis introduced a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Balascio and seconded by Mr. Washington. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved by:

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Kristen Chawla

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Danielle Willis, Board President