



KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Meeting Minutes: March 12, 2026

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 1055 St. Charles Ave., Suite 400, New Orleans, LA 70130. The meeting was also offered remotely via a Teams link.

The meeting was called to order at 6:19 p.m.

The following members were present: Michael Balascio, Sherice Clark, Reggie Jackson, Jay Mussell, Ravi Sangisetty, Larry Washington and Danielle Willis.

The following members were absent: Barrett Green, Ileana Ledet, Cianjanae Purvis, 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 Kristen Chawla, Director of Engagement and Events.

The following guests were present: Lee Reid, attorney at Adams & Reese (in-person) and several members of the public attended virtually.

Welcome

Ms. Willis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Ms. Willis asked for a motion to approve the October meeting, January retreat, and February meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Balascio. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

CEO Report

Ms. Kalifey-Aluise shared highlights from recent and ongoing KNOS activities, including a successful Mardi Gras season featuring strong participation from school bands and auxiliary groups. She also provided an update on main round student recruitment efforts. Mr. Purvis provided an academic update focused on preparation for upcoming assessments, and Mr. Mussell added insight from his direct work as a volunteer tutor with students on test preparation.

Executive Session

Ms. Willis introduced a motion to address a legal matter affecting bargaining power and ongoing/potential litigation in an Executive Session. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Washington and was seconded by Mr. Mussell. After board discussion and time for public comment, the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The board returned to the regular session at 6:42 p.m. Upon return from Executive Session, the board entertained open discussion of school consolidation issues and accelerated timing of same. Board Member Jay Mussell, made a motion to amend the agenda to add review and consideration of consolidation of Frederick Douglass and John F. Kennedy and site location consolidation of KIPP Central City Primary and KIPP Central City Academy. Said motion was seconded by Board Member, Michael Balascio. After board discussion and time for public comment, the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

With board discussion, Mr. Reid captured resolutions for board consideration.

Board Member Larry Washington moved for the adoption of a resolution to relocate Frederick Douglass to the Lake Area Campus, consolidate the John F. Kennedy and Frederick Douglass charters into the Douglass charter, and change the name of the consolidated charter to John F. Kennedy. Said motion was duly seconded by Board Member, Jay Mussell. After board discussion of the proposal, and time for public comment, the motion to adopt the proposed resolution was unanimously adopted.

Vice Chair of the Board, Reginald Jackson then moved for the adoption of a resolution for site consolidation of KIPP Central City Primary and KIPP Central City Academy into one campus at the Woodson building. The motion was seconded by Board Member, Michael Balascio. After board discussion of the proposal and time for public comment, the motion to adopt the resolution was put to a vote and unanimously approved.

Ms. Willis introduced a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. A motion to approve was made by Jay Mussell and seconded by Larry Washington. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved by:



Kristen Chawla



Danielle Willis, Board President