KIPP:
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SCHOOLS

KIPP New Orleans Schools Board Meeting Minutes: June 4, 2026

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) was held on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 1055 St. Charles Ave., Suite 400, New Orleans, LA 70130. The meeting was also offered remotely via a Teams link.

The following members were present: Michael Balascio, Sherice Clark (arrived at 5:55 p.m.), Barrett Green, Reggie Jackson, Ileana Ledet, Jay Mussell (departed at 6:55 p.m.), Ravi Sangisetty, Jordan Vaughn and Danielle Willis.

The following members were absent: Cianjanae Purvis 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.

There were no guests in attendance in person or remotely.

Welcome

Ms. Willis welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:49 p.m. Ms. Willis shared personal highlights from the KNOS high school graduations and her attendance at the KIPP Foundation Board Chair Retreat.

Ms Willis asked for a motion to approve the April meeting minutes. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Balascio and seconded by Dr. Vaughn. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

CEO Report

Ms. Kalifey Aluise, along with Mr. Purvis and Ms. Pierre-Floyd, presented highlights from the 2025–26 school year, including 440 graduates and over $102 million in scholarships earned. They also shared positive student performance trends, including strong early literacy outcomes exceeding national benchmarks and continued academic growth across schools. Updates were provided on the new state accountability system and high school performance gains, as well as progress on high school consolidation efforts, with enrollment exceeding projections and strong staff retention. The presentation concluded with an overview of the organization's financial outlook, including ongoing budget pressures and efforts to ensure long-term sustainability.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Green provided a brief summary of Wednesday's Finance Committee meeting and outlined the key topics for Board review. Ms. Walmsley then provided an overview of the organization's current financial position, noting that the past year has been one of the most financially challenging for the organization, though overall performance remains stable. Then she reviewed the FY27 budget, highlighting continued enrollment declines, projected operating pressures, and the potential for changes based on evolving factors, while expressing confidence in the organization's current position. Ms. Walmsley also discussed steps being taken to support long-term sustainability, including cost management efforts and the impact of recent consolidation decisions. She noted that, should there be any significant changes to the FY27 budget, a special meeting will be convened for Board review.

Authorization of First Amendment to Lease Agreement for KIPP Believe

Ms. Walmsley provided a brief summary of the resolution, explaining that the proposed lease amendment is intended to clarify the accounting treatment of the facility agreement by ensuring that payments are recorded as operating expenses rather than deposits. She noted that this adjustment better aligns the lease structure with its economic intent and supports a clearer and more accurate financial presentation.

Ms. Willis then introduced a motion for the Board of Directors to authorize CEO Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise to execute the amended lease agreement for KIPP Believe. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Jackson. After Board discussion and an opportunity for public comment, the motion was unanimously approved.

Approval Contracting John F. Kennedy Capital Project

Ms. Willis introduced a motion to approve the capital project at John F. Kennedy to renovate the interior of the building to accommodate additional students and to authorize the Board Chair to execute all necessary contracts to implement the project. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Green. After board discussion of the proposal, and time for public comment, the motion to adopt the proposed resolution was unanimously adopted.

Governance and Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Balascio noted that he did not have a formal report and will follow up with members whose current terms expire in January 2027 to discuss their intention to renew.

Ms. Willis introduced a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. A motion to approve 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