



**Board Meeting Minutes  
December 17, 2020**

A meeting of the Board of Directors for KIPP Chicago Schools (collectively, the “Board” or “Directors,” and individually each a “Director”) was held via conference call on Thursday, December 17, 2020. Board members present and participating in the meeting were Zaid Alsikafi, Suzanne Campion, Benjamin Chereskin, April Goble, and Craig Huffman.

Also present for all or portions of the meeting by invitation of the Board were: Domonique Battle (A Better Chicago), Shanan Egger (Accountant), Peter Gooden (VP for Equity & Inclusion), Jennifer Hodges (Director of Whole Child Fund), Amy Poubia (Superintendent), Milton Rodriguez (VP of Growth Strategy & Development), and Michael Salmonowicz (VP of Operations).

The meeting of the Board was open to the public; no members of the public attended.

The meeting commenced at 2:35pm CT. Mr. Chereskin stated that the meeting had been called for the purposes stated in the notice of meeting previously given to each Director and confirmed that all members could hear and be heard. Mr. Chereskin also noted that a quorum was present at the meeting for purposes of conducting business of the School, under the adjustment to the Open Meetings Act (due to the COVID-19 situation) that waives the requirement for a physical quorum.

**Review of Minutes**

Mr. Chereskin directed the Board to the previously circulated minutes for the September 3, 2020 and October 28, 2020 meetings. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes. The Board also reviewed closed session minutes from prior meetings and, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously for those minutes to remain confidential.

**KIPP Chicago Update**

Ms. Goble expressed gratitude to the senior team and to the Board for their relentlessness and support during this challenging time. She also acknowledged the recent passing of KIPP Chicago alumni.

Ms. Goble then previewed the agenda, including Ms. Hodges’ presentation to the Board around Whole Child work, positive TNTP results, and positive enrollment data. She also highlighted KIPP Chicago’s 20-21 staff t-shirt and a positive affirmation coloring book.

Mr. Gooden provided an overview of KIPP Through College and noted that college enrollment numbers have declined due to the COVID pandemic putting a financial strain on alumni.

Mr. Chereskin asked if students who had not enrolled in college would be likely to enroll at a later date. Mr. Gooden replied that it was unclear due to the financial impact of the pandemic, but the goal is to focus on students enrolling in fall 2021.

Mr. Gooden stated that the KTC team's goal is to prepare high school seniors for college as they usually would, while continuing to monitor student decision variables such as family income and students' comfort level in going on campus.

Ms. Champion asked when FAFSA applications are due. Mr. Gooden replied that they are due in February 2021.

Mr. Gooden announced that KIPP Chicago will now have an Alumni Board with 6 initial members.

Mr. Alsikafi asked if other regions have Alumni Boards. Mr. Gooden replied that some regions, like DC and Atlanta, do have Alumni Boards, and he will be reaching out to them.

Ms. Pouba provided an update on Academics, beginning with a review of priorities around operating culturally affirming and responsive schools. She then reviewed the TNTP staff survey, explaining that KIPP Chicago's results were strong, and were at or above the KIPP Network average in all domains.

Ms. Champion congratulated the team for the impressive results.

Ms. Pouba explained that the current goal for academics is maintaining remote quality while preparing to flex to on-site learning. She also confirmed that MAP testing in the spring will happen either on-site or remotely.

With regard to on-site learning, Ms. Pouba described three potential models. She explained that the goal is to have accurate city health data two weeks after the holiday break, and that a decision regarding a return to on-site learning in February will be made in mid-January.

Ms. Champion asked about family responses to the on-site survey. Ms. Pouba replied that families of primary school students were more likely to want to return on-site, while families of middle school students were more likely to want to remain remote.

Mr. Rodriguez provided a development update. He explained that good progress is being made toward the annual fundraising goal, and approval was recently secured for an ISBE 21st Century Grant. He also expressed that progress was being made in external communications.

Ms. Hodges provided an update regarding Whole Child Initiative activities, including:

- meeting the needs of families impacted by the pandemic via distribution of food & winter clothing
- meeting staff wellness needs through weekly events
- planning for implementation of the 1619 Curriculum
- engaging in Yale RULER training to support SEL
- launching the McNair Fellowship

Ms. Goble complimented Ms. Hodges on her work in bringing the Whole Child Initiative from concept to reality.

Ms. Campion expressed congratulations and asked if there were any areas where the Board could potentially help.

Ms. Hodges replied that she currently is looking for a parent mentorship program.

Mr. Salmonowicz explained that the pre-K partnership with CRCL will resume when students return to buildings.

### **Finance Update**

Mr. Salmonowicz explained that fall enrollment numbers were strong at all campuses.

Ms. Campion asked about waitlist numbers. Mr. Salmonowicz replied that many students were on waitlists in grades 1-4 and 6-8.

Mr. Salmonowicz provided an overview of the state's financial situation, including recent budget cuts. He emphasized the fact that the proposed federal stimulus bill does not include aid for states, and discussed how that might impact education funding.

Mr. Egger reviewed Q1 financials.

### **Board Governance**

Mr. Salmonowicz reviewed the timeline for completing the Illinois charter training modules.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve Bernetta Cannon as the Board's Parent Representative.

### **New Business**

Mr. Alsikafi expressed appreciation for the team's great work and success.

Mr. Chereskin expressed encouragement to the KIPP Chicago team during this unprecedented time and wished everyone happy holidays.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.

*Michael Salmonowicz*  
Michael Salmonowicz, Secretary