



**Board Meeting Minutes  
March 25, 2021**

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, March 25, 2021. Board members present and participating in the meeting were Zaid Alsikafi, Suzanne Campion, Bernetta Cannon, 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 Pouba (Superintendent), Milton Rodriguez (VP of Growth Strategy & Development), Candace Rogers (Senior Director of Academic Growth), 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 3:06pm 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.

Mr. Rodriguez announced that the organization had secured a five-year 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant for academic support, STEAM programming, mental health supports, summer programming, enrichment programming, adult education, and family wellness workshops.

Mr. Alsikafi asked about the requirements of the grant and Mr. Rodriguez explained that some technical requirements included amount and duration of programming throughout the school year, as well as program attendance.

**Review of Minutes**

Mr. Chereskin directed the Board to the previously circulated minutes for the December 17, 2020 meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

**KIPP Chicago Update**

Ms. Goble expressed gratitude to the Senior Team for their work throughout this pandemic year and previewed the agenda, particularly the model for a return to on-site instruction and the fact that families’ voices were centered during that planning process.

Ms. Pouba announced that the on-site instruction return date would be Monday, April 19, with 55-60% of students expected to return to buildings.

She reviewed the guiding principles that have guided our decisions around reopening, highlighting the principles of “safety” and “support social emotional needs.” She noted that it would be possible to meet students’ SEL needs to an even higher degree due to the 21st Century Grant.

Ms. Pouba presented the process that was used to form the on-site reopening plan, including a parent survey, evaluating the extent to which guiding principles would be impacted by different models, and balancing the need to make things work well on site while maintaining high quality remote instruction.

The final decision was an on-site model that includes Zoom team teaching in classrooms plus robust enrichment opportunities, with general education students attending in person on either Mon-Tue or Thu-Fri, students with special education or English learning needs having the option to attend all four of those days, and all students being remote on Wednesday. In addition, all schools’ on-site staffing will include a full-time nurse as well as multiple mentors, with the mentor roles being filled primarily by KIPP Chicago alumni and parents.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the reopening plan.

Mr. Alsikafi complimented Ms. Pouba and the team on the thought process used to create the plan, and asked about plans for the fall. Ms. Pouba responded that we are starting to plan for fall scenarios.

Ms. Cannon then asked if a building entry screener program would be in place for on-site learning. Mr. Salmonowicz replied that an online program, Ruvna, would be used. Parents will be able to answer the screener questions online prior to arriving on campus each day.

Mr. Salmonowicz reviewed student attendance data, noting that attendance rates have been stable throughout the year.

Mr. Rodriguez provided a development update, explaining that annual fundraising was on track and reiterating the news about the 21st Century Grant.

He also expressed that progress was being made in communication/engagement with partners, community members, and others around focus areas of social justice, SEL, and wellness.

Ms. Hodges provided a Whole Child update, noting an increase in weekly parent workshops on topics including nutrition education, mental health, financial literacy, legal rights, and highest self; progress on efforts to address food insecurity via food pantries in partnership with Rush University Medical Center; and partnerships involving KIPP Chicago’s Children’s Museum of Art and Social Justice.

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

### **Finance Update**

Mr. Salmonowicz explained that enrollment numbers were strong at all campuses through both the fall and winter, and were anticipated to remain strong in the spring.

Mr. Salmonowicz provided a funding update, including news on federal stimulus funding, the expected release of FY22 budgets in April, and the expected presentation of an FY22 budget to the Board in June.

Mr. Egger reviewed Q2 financials.

Mr. Egger reviewed the 2019 Form 990, which had been approved by the Finance Committee during its March call. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2019 Form 990.

Mr. Salmonowicz reviewed a technical change to the organization's 403(b) plan – removal from the group plan former staff members with under \$5,000 in assets, with funds transferred to individual accounts for those former staff members – and requested Board approval of the change.

Ms. Campion asked if this would apply only to people who leave the organization in the future, or if it would apply to people who already had left. Mr. Salmonowicz replied that it would apply both to people who already had left, and to people who leave in the future.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the change to the 403(b) plan.

#### **Board Governance**

Ms. Goble nominated Ms. Paris Clark, a KIPP Chicago alumna and former KIPP Chicago staff member, to join the KIPP Chicago Board of Directors beginning in June.

Mr. Gooden told the Board that Ms. Clark graduated from Spelman University and shared some of her strengths and experience, including her work spearheading KIPP Chicago's Alumni Association.

Ms. Goble added that Ms. Clark also was a KIPP Foundation Ambassador while a student at Spelman.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve Ms. Clark as a new Board Member.

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

#### **New Business**

Mr. Chereskin expressed gratitude for the effort, success, and spirit the organization has shown through this tough period, and for coming out of this challenging time stronger than when we went in.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42pm.

*Michael Salmonowicz*  
Michael Salmonowicz, Secretary