



**Board Meeting Minutes  
June 24, 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, June 24, 2021. Board members present and participating in the meeting were Zaid Alsikafi, Bernetta Cannon, Benjamin Chereskin, Paris Clark, and April Montgomery Goble.

Also present for all or portions of the meeting by invitation of the Board were: Shanan Egger (Accountant), Jennifer Hodges (Director of Whole Child Fund), Windy Indie (KIPP Chicago Alumna), Amy Pouba (Superintendent), Milton Rodriguez (VP of Growth Strategy & Development), Michael Salmonowicz (VP of Operations), and Mariah Schroeder (VP of Impact & Innovation).

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

The meeting commenced at 1:04pm 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.

Ms. Goble introduced Windy Indie, an alumna from KIPP Chicago’s founding class of 5th graders, who now is a professional violinist. Windy played a short piece to begin the meeting and then shared a little bit about herself.

**Review of Minutes**

Mr. Chereskin directed the Board to the previously circulated minutes for the March 25, 2021 meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Ms. Goble welcomed Paris Clark, KIPP Chicago’s newest Board member, and Mariah Schroeder, KIPP Chicago’s new Vice President of Impact & Innovation.

Ms. Goble expressed pride at how the organization responded to a very difficult year. She sadly noted that the KIPP Chicago family grieved the loss of seven KIPP Chicago alumni over the past year.

Mr. Chereskin commended the organization for its performance in such a challenging context.

**KIPP Chicago Update**

Ms. Pouba recognized some bright spots from the past year: School-based teams held 15 promotion ceremonies, both on-site outdoors and virtually, to close out the school year; student participation goals for enrichment programming were surpassed; teacher retention was higher than ever; and KIPP Chicago was in the top quartile of all domains on the KIPP network’s annual TNTIP survey.

Ms. Pouba then outlined plans for the 21-22 school year, including a full return to on-site learning with the exception of a few students who have serious medical conditions. In addition, schools will offer 12 hours of enrichment programming per week outside of regular school hours. To accelerate student academic growth in 21-22 due to the impact of the pandemic in 20-21, yearlong PD for School Leaders & Assistant Principals on using classroom data to close achievement gaps will be implemented. Also, family engagement / student attendance will be a focus – specifically encouraging attendance in ways that feel trusting and safe to families, given that some people may still be reticent to send their children back to school in the fall.

Ms. Cannon asked about the scope of enrichment programming, and who will have access to it. Ms. Pouba replied that all children will have access, and programming will include academics & tutoring, as well as programs geared toward student interests (the arts, sports, etc.).

Mr. Alsikafi asked how we will measure student growth given the new landscape. Ms. Pouba responded that measures used prior to the pandemic would be used. Mr. Alsikafi then asked what the expectation should be for student growth. Ms. Pouba projected that an initial dip may be seen, potentially followed by gains later in the year – but that she would be able to answer that question more precisely after all students participate in fall MAP testing.

Mr. Salmonowicz discussed student attendance prior to the pandemic and over the past year, and projected that the coming year will be more difficult given continuing health/safety guidelines and concerns.

Ms. Cannon asked about the presence of Care Rooms in schools. Mr. Salmonowicz confirmed that all KIPP Chicago schools have dedicated Care Rooms.

Mr. Rodriguez provided a development update, explaining that annual fundraising was on track and previewing engagement ideas for FY22.

Ms. Hodges provided a Whole Child update. She specifically highlighted a recent event that KIPP Chicago conducted in partnership with One Sight (an organization that provides vision screening and free glasses to people who lack access), Oakley, and players from the WNBA's Chicago Sky. The one-day event was held at KIPP Bloom in Englewood, and was open to students, parents, and community members. Nearly 200 people received vision services at the event, surpassing the goal of 150.

Ms. Goble recognized Ms. Hodges for being chosen by her colleagues as a Team & Family Award recipient at KIPP Chicago's end-of-year virtual event.

Mr. Salmonowicz explained that the pre-K partnership with CRCL continues to go well, and that CRCL may expand to a third classroom in the near future.

Mr. Salmonowicz provided an update on the KIPP Academy Chicago Primary facility.

### **Finance Update**

Mr. Salmonowicz provided an update on federal stimulus funding.

Mr. Egger reviewed Q3 financials.

Mr. Salmonowicz provided an FY22 funding update.

Mr. Alsikafi asked about the areas stimulus dollars are meant to address. Mr. Salmonowicz responded that the funds are meant to support reopening priorities such as additional academic and SEL support for students.

Mr. Chereskin inquired as to the restricted nature of the funds. Mr. Salmonowicz replied that full guidelines will not be available until at least July 1.

Mr. Salmonowicz presented the proposed FY22 budget to the Board for approval. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve KIPP Chicago's FY22 budget.

Mr. Salmonowicz discussed the PPP loan. He first reviewed the dire fiscal conditions at the national, state, and local levels at the time a decision was made to pursue a PPP loan in 2020; then, he reviewed the improved fiscal conditions that followed. He explained that the deadline for pursuing loan forgiveness was coming up, and presented the recommendation of KIPP Chicago's leadership on a course of action: repaying the loan in full and not pursuing forgiveness.

Mr. Chereskin expressed that in his opinion, this course of action was the ethical & right thing to do.

Ms. Goble and Ms. Cannon concurred with Mr. Chereskin's sentiments.

#### **Board Governance**

Mr. Chereskin presented a motion to renew the two-year term of Mr. Alsikafi. Upon motion duly made and seconded (and with Mr. Alsikafi recusing himself), the Board voted unanimously to approve the term renewal.

Mr. Salmonowicz presented the slate of officer candidates for the 2021-2022 school year: President - Ben Chereskin, Vice President - April Montgomery Goble, Treasurer - Zaid Alsikafi, Secretary - Michael Salmonowicz. Upon motions duly made and seconded (with Board members recusing themselves from votes on their own positions), the Board voted unanimously to approve the officers.

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

#### **New Business**

Ms. Goble noted that information about the KIPP Foundation's rebranding would be covered at a different time.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08pm.

The next meeting will take place in the fall, exact date and location TBD.

*Michael Salmonowicz*  
Michael Salmonowicz, Secretary