



Board Meeting Minutes September 22, 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 Wednesday, September 22, 2021. Board members present and participating in the meeting were Zaid Alsikafi, Suzanne Campion, Bernetta Cannon, Benjamin Chereskin, Paris Clark, April Montgomery 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 (VP of Whole Child Fund & Community Impact), Amy Poubas (Superintendent), Milton Rodriguez (Senior VP of Growth Strategy & Development), and Michael Salmonowicz (VP of Operations).

The meeting commenced at 10:02am 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. Salmonowicz noted that the meeting of the Board was advertised to the public both online and at school sites in accordance with OMA regulations. No members of the public attended.

Mr. Salmonowicz highlighted Carla Crespo, a teacher at KIPP One, who was a recent recipient of the KIPP Foundation’s Harriett Ball Excellence in Teaching Award. He explained that over the past five years, four KIPP Chicago teachers have won this award – and that based on its size KIPP Chicago is outperforming expectations in this area by 3x. Ms. Poubas provided additional context regarding Carla’s position and performance in supporting students who are both English Learners and Diverse Learners.

Review of Minutes

Mr. Chereskin directed the Board to the previously circulated minutes for the June 24, 2021 meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

KIPP Chicago Update

Ms. Montgomery Goble expressed gratitude to the Board and KIPP Chicago’s leadership for all of the work that was done to ensure a strong start to the school year in the context of COVID-related challenges, and noted that an important priority was to sustain that energy and performance as the year continued.

Ms. Poubas reviewed the beginning of the school year, with nearly 3,300 students attending in person. She stressed that a primary focus is ensuring everyone is wearing masks and wearing them properly. Another important focus is having accurate, documented seating charts so we understand where all

students are throughout the day. She also explained that nurses are on site, Rapid tests have been secured and distributed to schools, and daily screening procedures are in place. In addition, a partnership with SHIELD Illinois for weekly testing of staff & students is in place, vaccination clinics are about to launch, and a dashboard has been built to track positive cases and close contacts. Also, staff members have been hired to focus specifically on COVID challenges, both in the instructional and operational realms.

Mr. Salmonowicz reviewed current vaccination numbers and explained that the region is on pace for 90% of staff members to be fully vaccinated within the next 1-2 months.

Ms. Pouba explained that all students would take the NWEA MAP test in the fall, and that the baseline data would provide a picture of students' academics needs coming out of the mostly remote 20-21 school year. One support that already has been implemented in classrooms is an adjustment of scope and sequence to scaffold for real-time interventions amidst the teaching of grade level standards. Additionally, small group reading is fully up-and-running for all primary and middle school students, while small group math will begin soon.

Ms. Pouba explained that engagement & belonging activities such as recess, class celebrations, and parent events would take place outside and in a safe manner.

Ms. Pouba also described the operational impact of COVID – which cuts across areas such as busing, food service, and staffing – and noted that a high level of teamwork was present across the region in addressing these challenges.

Ms. Montgomery Goble and Mr. Salmonowicz provided city & national context on these operational challenges, specifically food service.

Ms. Champion asked if it was possible to have volunteers support with food service. In response, Mr. Salmonowicz explained what was possible given requirements around volunteers and background checks.

Ms. Cannon asked if support in the form of funding was available to families during COVID. In response, Mr. Salmonowicz described various types of support: the P-EBT, STLS, and special education transportation programs.

Mr. Salmonowicz confirmed that attendance, as expected, has been a challenge. Schools have seen additional absences due to positive COVID cases and close contacts, as well as other health and economic challenges families face due to the pandemic.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that 21st Century Grant funding has resulted in additional programming for students and families. He also provided fundraising and engagement updates.

Ms. Hodges described various partnerships, programming, and other activities that are being implemented via the Whole Child Initiative. This includes a family wellbeing survey, an expansion of the Penn Foster high school diploma program for parents, and a partnership with Rush for joint food pantries.

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. Egger reviewed Q4 financials.

Mr. Salmonowicz provided an FY22 funding update.

Mr. Chereskin introduced a resolution to document and confirm the Board's actions regarding the PPP loan, in particular the decision to not engage in the loan forgiveness process and instead to fully repay the loan. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Board Governance

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

New Business

Mr. Salmonowicz presented KIPP Chicago's Personally Identifiable Information (PII) policy, which details steps that are taken to ensure proper use & security when it comes to the personal information of staff members and students. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Michael Salmonowicz
Michael Salmonowicz, Secretary