



**Board Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Directors for KIPP Chicago Schools (collectively, the “Board” or “Directors,” and individually each a “Director”) was held at 2007 S. Halsted, Chicago, IL on Thursday, March 14, 2024. Board members present and participating in the meeting were Zaid Alsikafi, Maria Anderson, Bernetta Cannon, Ben Chereskin, Paris Clark, and April Montgomery Goble.

Also present for the meeting by invitation of the Board were: Rashid Bell (Senior Head of Schools), Peter Gooden (VP for Equity & Inclusion), Jennifer Hodges (VP of Whole Child Initiative & Community Impact), Milton Rodriguez (Senior VP of Growth Strategy & Development), and Michael Salmonowicz (VP of Finance & Operations). Shanan Egger (Accountant) joined via phone.

The meeting commenced at 10:03am CT. Ms. Montgomery Goble 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. Ms. Montgomery Goble also noted that a quorum was present at the meeting for purposes of conducting business of the School, that the meeting of the Board was advertised to the public both online and at school sites in accordance with OMA regulations, and that no members of the public were in attendance.

Ms. Cannon made a motion for approval of the December 14, 2023 minutes. Mr. Chereskin seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Cannon, Mr. Chereskin, Ms. Clark, and Ms. Montgomery Goble all voting to approve.

KIPP Chicago Update

An upcoming bright spot was discussed: KIPP Chicago’s Model United Nations (Model UN) Team was preparing for its annual trip to New York City to take part in the national Model UN conference. This year, students from all four middle schools will attend. KIPP Chicago will be the only team in attendance from the City of Chicago.

Ms. Pouba highlighted that three of KIPP Chicago’s School Leaders will receive awards from the KIPP Foundation in the fall for holding the role of School Leader for six years. In addition, another KIPP Chicago alum was just selected for the role of Principal-In-Residence in the 24-25 school year.

Ms. Pouba began the academic update by noting that the work done during the charter renewal process and renewal follow-up has been integrated into the priorities of KIPP Chicago’s long-term academic plan.

Ms. Pouba reviewed mCLASS literacy results, which showed significant gains for Kindergartners and 1st graders, and the Board engaged in discussion.

Ms. Cannon asked how kindergarten students are tested.

Mr. Bell replied that testing involves letter recognition, letter sounds, reading from left to right, and other foundational skills. By the end of kindergarten, this involves identification of sight words, and the number of words per minute a student is able to read, among other things.

Mr. Alsikafi asked if students are starting in a better academic position due to the use of CKLA in literacy instruction.

Mr. Bell replied that this is the first year of CKLA implementation, so we expect to see an impact in fall 2024 when kindergarten students start 1st grade and 1st graders start 2nd grade.

Ms. Pouba replied that we soon will be able to provide year-over-year data to the Board.

Mr. Chereskin expressed that he would like to see how summer loss factors in, as well as a cohort analysis to see how returning 1st graders performed.

Ms. Pouba replied that we can do that analysis.

Mr. Alsikafi expressed that he would like to know how beginning-of-year results for 1st grade are impacted by new students and summer loss.

Ms. Pouba agreed, and said that we also will conduct an analysis of the performance of new-to-country students.

Ms. Anderson asked if the data can be compared to a previous assessment or data point.

Ms. Montgomery Goble replied that we were assessing STEP data previously, but STEP was measuring different skills.

Ms. Pouba reviewed the ISBE summative designations for KIPP Chicago's schools. Mr. Salmonowicz explained the ISBE business rule around the designation for diverse learners.

Ms. Anderson asked about students exiting the special education program.

Ms. Pouba replied that in some cases supports are able to be scaled back over time, and in other cases students make a full exit from the program.

Ms. Pouba reviewed 22-23 suspension data.

Mr. Salmonowicz explained the new metric for suspensions.

Mr. Chereskin inquired about the decreased suspension rate.

Ms. Pouba replied that incidents have been handled differently in order to reduce suspensions.

Ms. Pouba provided context around upcoming testing.

Mr. Salmonowicz provided an update on the Continuous Improvement Work Plans (CIWPs) for KIPP Academy, KIPP Ascend, and KIPP Bloom.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Cannon and seconded by Ms. Clark, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the CIWP for KIPP Academy, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Cannon, Ms. Clark, Mr. Chereskin, and Ms. Montgomery Goble all voting to approve.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Cannon and seconded by Ms. Clark, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the CIWP for KIPP Ascend, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Cannon, Ms. Clark, Mr. Chereskin, and Ms. Montgomery Goble all voting to approve.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Cannon and seconded by Ms. Clark, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the CIWP for KIPP Bloom, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Cannon, Ms. Clark, Mr. Chereskin, and Ms. Montgomery Goble all voting to approve.

Mr. Salmonowicz reviewed enrollment numbers.

Mr. Salmonowicz reviewed chronic absenteeism numbers. A discussion followed, with Board members and KIPP Chicago leaders commenting on the root causes of increased chronic absenteeism locally and nationally. Data will continue to be discussed at future meetings.

Finance Update

Mr. Egger reviewed the 2022 Form 990, which had been approved by the Finance Committee during its March call. Upon motion duly made by Ms. Cannon and seconded by Ms. Clark, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the 2022 Form 990, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Cannon, Ms. Clark, Mr. Chereskin, and Ms. Montgomery Goble all voting to approve.

Mr. Egger reviewed Q2 financials.

Governance

An overview of the upcoming Conflict of Interest Form compliance item was provided.

Public Comment

The floor was opened for public comments, but there were no comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

The next meeting will be held on June 20, 2024 at the KIPP Chicago regional office.

Michael Salmonowicz
Michael Salmonowicz, Secretary