



Board Meeting Minutes April 1, 2025

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 Tuesday, April 1, 2025. Board members present and participating in the meeting were Zaid Alsikafi, Maria Anderson, Ben Chereskin, Paris Clark, and Craig Huffman.

Also present for the meeting by invitation of the Board were: Rashid Bell (Executive Director), Shanan Egger (Accountant), Becky Fussner (Head of Academics), April Montgomery Goble (Senior Advisor), Peter Gooden (VP of 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).

The meeting commenced at 10:09am 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. One member of the public was in attendance.

Mr. Huffman made a motion for approval of the December 17, 2024 open session minutes. Mr. Alsikafi seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Clark, Mr. Chereskin, and Mr. Huffman all voting to approve.

Mr. Huffman made a motion for approval of the December 17, 2024 closed session minutes. Mr. Alsikafi seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Clark, Mr. Chereskin, and Mr. Huffman all voting to approve.

Ms. Anderson made a motion for closed session minutes from prior meetings to remain confidential. Mr. Alsikafi seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Clark, Mr. Chereskin, and Mr. Huffman all voting to approve.

KIPP Chicago Update

Ms. Hodges provided a “bright spot” update: Students from KIPP Chicago’s Model United Nations program visited City Hall recently, receiving a tour and meeting with elected officials.

Mr. Bell and Ms. Fussner provided an academic update. This included a review of priorities such as student attendance, strengthening Tier 1 & Tier 2 instruction, and curriculum pacing; an overview of common assessments (i-Ready, DIBELS, & DESSA); and mid-year data around reading and math performance.

Mr. Alsikafi asked if curriculum implementation across schools or pacing across schools was the bigger challenge – and how progress in both areas was being monitored.

Mr. Bell replied that instructional quality and curriculum pacing are intertwined challenges, and they are considered simultaneously as we work to ensure the experience at every school is similar. He explained that BOY, MOY, & EOY administration of i-Ready, DIBELS, and DESSA provides data points that allow for progress monitoring of both challenges – and course corrections where needed.

Ms. Anderson asked how we assist students who are behind when they first enter our schools.

Mr. Bell replied that common assessments are used to immediately assess students' skills so individualized plans can be created and interventions can be implemented.

Ms. Fussner described how teachers balance grade level instruction with intervention.

Mr. Bell reviewed the various interventions that are used in reading, math, social studies, & science.

Ms. Fussner stated that mid-year reading results showed year-over-year growth in 8 of 9 grade levels.

Ms. Clark asked how schools balance technology (e.g., Chromebooks) with non-technology items (e.g., texts).

Mr. Bell replied that students still have access to texts. He stated that we need to help students develop a love of reading, and we value students having books in hand.

Mr. Bell introduced KIPP Chicago's Frederick Douglass Initiative, which is a literacy program that aims to ensure all students develop strong reading skills and a deep appreciation for literature.

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

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Huffman and seconded by Mr. Alsikafi, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the CIWP for KIPP Academy, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Chereskin, Ms. Clark, and Mr. Huffman all voting to approve.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Huffman and seconded by Mr. Alsikafi, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the CIWP for KIPP Ascend, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Chereskin, Ms. Clark, and Mr. Huffman all voting to approve.

Mr. Salmonowicz provided an update on attendance & enrollment.

Mr. Rodriguez provided a development update.

Ms. Hodges provided an overview of recent Whole Child Initiative activities, including a winter coat drive, a violence prevention program, and an adult education program via Penn Foster and Malcolm X College.

Finance Update

Mr. Egger reviewed the 2023 Form 990, which had been approved by the Finance Committee during its March call. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Alsikafi and seconded by Ms. Clark, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the 2023 Form 990, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Clark, Mr. Chereskin, and Mr. Huffman all voting to approve.

Mr. Egger reviewed FY25 Q2 financials.

Mr. Salmonowicz previewed FY26 funding.

Closed Session

Mr. Chereskin moved that the Board go into closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. Mr. Alsikafi seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Chereskin, Ms. Clark, and Mr. Huffman all voting to approve.

After the closed session concluded, Mr. Chereskin moved that the Board return to open session.

Public Comment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54am.

The next meeting will be held in June 2025, location TBD.

Michael Salmonowicz
Michael Salmonowicz, Secretary