KIPP CHICAGO
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Directors for KIPP Chicago Schools was held at 2007 S. Halsted, Chicago, IL on Wednesday, June 10, 2026. Board members present and participating in the meeting were Zaid Alsikafi, Maria Anderson, Ben Chereskin, Bernetta Cannon, and Paul Maurer.

Also present for the meeting by invitation of the Board were: Rashid Bell (Chief Executive Officer), Shanan Egger (Accountant), Becky Fussner (Chief Academic Officer), Lindsey Robinson (Chief Schools Officer), and Michael Salmonowicz (Chief Financial & Operations Officer).

The meeting commenced at 10:00am CT. Mr. Alsikafi 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. Alsikafi 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. No members of the public were in attendance.

Mr. Bell presented a bright spot: KIPP Chicago Schools was #1 in reading growth across the entire national KIPP network, with 77% of students making average, above average, or well above average growth (and 62% of students making above average or well above average growth).

Mr. Salmonowicz presented a second bright spot: KIPP Chicago Schools ended the year with a chronic absenteeism (CA) rate of 21%, which is half the rate of the 20 elementary schools nearest to KIPP campuses (those schools had an average CA rate of 43%. He noted that the continued progress in this area is key to helping students meet ambitious academic goals.

Ms. Cannon made a motion for approval of the April 27, 2026 meeting minutes. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Cannon, Mr. Chereskin, and Mr. Maurer all voting to approve.

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

No members of the public were in attendance, so there were no public comments. Mr. Salmonowicz noted that Marquita Curry, Head of Schools, was in attendance to support with any parent questions or concerns if anyone should arrive later in the meeting.

KIPP Chicago Update
Mr. Bell introduced Chief Schools Officer Lindsey Robinson, who recently began her work with KIPP Chicago Schools, and explained how this new role would positively impact student learning.

Ms. Fussner reviewed academic data from the 25-26 school year. In literacy, as measured by the DIBELS assessment, 57% of students ended the year at or above grade level – compared with 33% at the start of the year. In math, as measured by the i-Ready assessment, 28% of students ended the year at or above grade level – compared with 3% at the start of the year.

Mr. Chereskin asked how the 24 percentage points of growth in literacy compared to the prior year. Ms. Fussner replied that in the 24-25 school year, the percentage of students at or above grade level at the end of the year was 16 percentage points higher than at the start of the year (48% v. 32%).

Ms. Cannon asked if DIBELS is administered across K-8. Ms. Fussner replied that it is.

Ms. Anderson asked if the goal is to have a higher beginning-of-year number to build off. Ms. Fussner confirmed that the goal is to continue students' academic momentum by building off of strong spring results in the fall.

Mr. Egger asked about the impact of summer slide on beginning-of-year results. Ms. Fussner replied that we typically see a summer slide impact of approximately 10%. Mr. Chereskin noted that the national impact is typically in the 10-14% range.

Mr. Bell noted that families would be alerted to the DIBELS growth data, to ensure they are aware not only of what is happening in their child's classroom, but across KIPP Chicago Schools.

Mr. Chereskin asked why the beginning-of-year math performance was only 3% at BOY – and what "plan B" was in place if that number did not begin to change. Ms. Fussner replied that gaps in fact fluency are negatively impacting students, and that intervention structures have been refined to support those gaps – along with continued implementation of the rigorous grade level curriculum.

Mr. Alsikafi noted the high concentration of students who are multiple grade levels behind, particularly at the middle school level.

Mr. Chereskin asked how interventions are being woven into math instruction. Mr. Bell replied that in order to implement math interventions, schools have added 2.5 hours of math instruction per week compared with past years.

Mr. Chereskin asked how much math instruction occurs daily. Ms. Fussner replied that math instruction ranges from 90-120 minutes each day.

Mr. Chereskin asked what math curriculum is used. Ms. Fussner replied that Eureka Math² is used as the primary curriculum, and for intervention lessons are differentiated as needed.

Mr. Chereskin suggested that in the future, it may be helpful to frontload supports within a specific timeline to help eliminate some of the significant gaps.

Ms. Anderson asked how multilingual learners are performing in math. Ms. Fussner replied that students in the ML program are outperforming the overall population of students.

Mr. Bell reviewed KIPP Chicago Schools' 5-year strategic plan, including specific year-by-year targets for student performance in reading and math within different grade bands; student attendance (specifically, chronic absenteeism); and student retention.

Mr. Chereskin made a motion for approval of the strategic plan. Mr. Maurer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Cannon, Mr. Chereskin, and Mr. Maurer all voting to approve.

Mr. Bell presented expectations around the CEO role and how he is evaluated annually. Board members discussed the ways in which the CEO role has changed and is assessed, compared with prior years.

Mr. Salmonowicz reviewed the various ways in which KIPP Chicago Schools staff have been recognized for leadership and excellence within the national KIPP network.

Mr. Salmonowicz reviewed school Principals for the 26-27 school year, noting one departure, one campus shift, and one first-year Principal.

Ms. Anderson made a motion for approval of Principals for the 26-27 school year. Ms. Cannon seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Cannon, Mr. Chereskin, and Mr. Maurer all voting to approve.

Mr. Salmonowicz provided an overview of policies for the 26-27 school year (Attendance, Promotion, Data Protection/Personally Identifiable Information, etc.) for Board approval, which Board members had received previously for review.

Ms. Cannon made a motion for approval of policies for the 26-27 school year. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Cannon, Mr. Chereskin, and Mr. Maurer all voting to approve.

Mr. Salmonowicz provided a brief charter renewal update.

Mr. Salmonowicz reviewed attendance from the 25-26 school year. He noted that KIPP Chicago Schools' chronic absenteeism (CA) rate decreased from 22.7% in 24-25 to 21.2% in 25-26, and reiterated that the CA rate of the 20 elementary schools nearest to KIPP campuses was double that (43%). He also noted that with regard to average daily attendance (ADA), KIPP Chicago Schools students outpaced elementary students across the district by 1.6 percentage points (93.1% v. 91.6%), and outpaced elementary students attending the nearest 20 schools by 4.8 percentage points (93.1% v. 88.3%).

Mr. Salmonowicz provided an enrollment update for the 26-27 school year.

Finance Update

Mr. Salmonowicz provided an FY26 budget update, projecting a 3.0-3.6% deficit (~$2M) that would lead to cash reserves being reduced to 36 days – lower than desired, but meeting the CPS standard for charter schools of 30 days. He noted that the network also experienced a 3.6% deficit in FY17 and was able to bounce back the next year. He expressed a positive outlook for FY27.

Mr. Salmonowicz then presented the draft FY27 budget. Mr. Maurer made a motion for approval of the FY27 budget. Ms. Cannon seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Cannon, Mr. Chereskin, and Mr. Maurer all voting to approve.

Mr. Salmonowicz provided a development update, reinforcing, per the earlier FY26 budget update, that there was a significant shortfall (~$1M) toward the FY26 development goal.

Mr. Bell asked Board members to invite people in their networks to attend KIPP Chicago Schools' upcoming "Free to Read" literacy event at the Chicago Cultural Center, featuring Dr. Alfred Tatum.

Governance Update
The Board voted to renew the terms of three Board members: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Cannon, and Mr. Chereskin.

Ms. Cannon made a motion for the renewal of Ms. Anderson's term. Mr. Maurer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously (4-0) to approve, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Cannon, Mr. Chereskin, and Mr. Maurer all voting to approve.

Ms. Anderson made a motion for the renewal of Ms. Cannon's term. Mr. Maurer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously (4-0) to approve, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Chereskin, and Mr. Maurer all voting to approve.

Ms. Cannon made a motion for the renewal of Mr. Chereskin's term. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously (4-0) to approve, with Mr. Alsikafi, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Cannon, and Mr. Maurer all voting to approve.

Mr. Salmonowicz reminded Board members of the annual charter school Board member training requirement.

Mr. Bell offered closing remarks.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm.

The next meeting will be held in fall 2026, time & location TBD.

Michael Salmonowicz
Michael Salmonowicz, Secretary