



KIPP DELTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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KIPP Delta, Inc. Minutes of the Board of Director's Meeting

Date: January 18, 2011
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: KIPP Delta Public Schools
Helena, AR
Attendance: Chalk Mitchell, Scott Shirey, Chris Allen, Ron Nurnberg, Matt Colburn, Amanda Johnson, Luke VanDeWalle, Jemar Tisby, Brent Black and Anika Baltimore were present. Ginny Blankenship, Sam Commella, Stacy Sells, and Maisie Wright attended via video conference and conference call. Researcher Gary Ritter of University of Arkansas, in Fayetteville and former student, Kameron Chattman were also in attendance. Meg Salta took minutes.

I. Introduction

Mr. Brent Black called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Mr. Scott Shirey introduced researcher Mr. Gary Ritter from University of Arkansas to the board.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes from October Board Meeting

Mr. Chalk Mitchell asked that the minutes from October meeting be reviewed. Mrs. Chris Allen motioned to approve October meeting minutes, Mr. Brent Black seconds. Unanimous.

III. Board Chair Report

No formal report given.

IV. Executive Director Report

No formal report given.

**KIPP DELTA
COMMUNITIES**

HELENA-WEST
HELENA

BLYTHEVILLE

V. School Reports

A. Elementary Literacy Academy

- Mrs. Amanda Johnson gave the report for KIPP Delta ELA.
- New Hires: Ms. Elizabeth Thomas, who will be teaching kindergarten music and a music course in the high school, Ms. Jacqueline Smith, teaching Spanish grades k-2, and Jenn Watson who will be teaching art and stepping into Ms. McMahan's kindergarten class.
- 2011 Focus:
 - o Development of teachers: giving support to new and veteran teachers to create a successful school.
 - o Set up school for success: create atmosphere where teachers are stepping up to more responsibility and able to help others in need.
- Implemented literacy and math programs (phonics blitz and Saxon math)
- Upcoming Dates: MAP Tests start on January 19th and is confident in growth for all students.
- No major finance changes.

B. Delta College Preparatory School

- Mr. Jemar Tisby, school leader reported for DCPS.
- 235 students lost no students over the winter holiday and added eight new students to school in January.
- New hires: Mr. Chintan Desai who is transitioning to teaching fifth grade social students and Ms. Catherine Bahn, who has stepped in to teach P.E. in fifth and 6th grade twice a week.
- Challenges: Reading and reading at or above grade level is still a challenge and focus of DCPS. Created a centralized library for students to also stress reading on students.
 - o Continued intensive reading instruction 50 min. per day, with Linda Farrell's help. Accelerated Reading testing is complete (to determine reading levels).
- Completed second practice Benchmark test. Many grades had much improvement but need to make more progress. 60% of students have met their goals for improvement.

- Implemented Saxon curriculum in all math courses in DCPS and are using this curriculum throughout KIPP Delta. DCPS and BCPS have created their science curriculum together in 5th grade.

C. Delta Collegiate High School

- Mr. Luke VanDeWalle presented the report for DHS.
- Discussed many student college acceptances, about 60% of students have been accepted into a four year university or college.
- Mr. Luke VanDeWalle introduced Kameron Chattmann, who was up for an expulsion hearing but left KIPP after first semester. He asked to return to KIPP Delta and presented his case to the board.
 - o Chatman presented letters from teachers at Central High School and AP at KIPP Delta Collegiate. After much discussion and understanding of the situation, the board has decided to allow Chattmann to return on the condition he has no other issues or problems and will be checked on often. If any problems arise then he will be expelled.

D. Blytheville College Preparatory School

- Ms. Maisie Wright presented the report for BCPS.
- 56 students and continues to have great culture and relationships with parents and students. Made a Christmas float and participated in city parade with students on the float.
- Starting educational savings accounts and meeting with parents in February so students will have at least 1,000 dollars beginning their college career.
- Upcoming dates: Regional Spelling Bee on January 26th, Bus Culture day with Mr. Scott Shirey and Mr. Matt Colburn, and re-aligning phonics blitz classes with Mrs. Linda Farrell.
- Challenges for 2011: Literacy and increasing reading and writing levels. Most students have improved very much but some students are still not there (partly because of lack of homework).

- Working very hard to recruit TFA 2nd year teachers. Mr. Tom Klink and Ms. Maisie Wright have attended many TFA sessions and Professional Saturday's.
- MAP Test 2nd Assessments showed about 50% of students reached their yearend goal for improvement in all tested subjects. Hopeful for more improvement in last practice test.

Mr. Ron Nurnberg motioned to accept the school leader reports, Mr. Brent Black accepted, Mrs. Chris Allen second. Unanimous.

VI. KIPP Delta Study and PowerPoint

- Mr. Scott Shirey introduced Mr. Gary Ritter of University of Arkansas, Fayetteville to present study he and colleagues conducted.
- The motivating question of study was "To what extent is the academic achievement success at KIPP schools due to student 'creaming'. The research study found that 'students who enroll at KIPP Delta come from all points of the student distribution. For all types of students, KIPP nurtures academic gains that are well-above average for the state.
- Other findings showed KIPP Delta students enter performing a bit better than their peers from Helena-West Helena School District but not by very much. (See Graph and notes on page 7, Figure 1)

VII. Financial Committee Reports

- Ms. Anika Baltimore presented the Financial committee report
- We are executing budget and YTD revenue is favorable of \$52K.
- Cash on hand is \$1.6MM, similarly favorable by nearly \$400K to what was budgeted at the end of December.
- Expect to end the fiscal year with cash position of 1.2MM, roughly \$23K unfavorable to budget.
- Seeking approval for revised budget from the board which is reflected in the cash flow, not the income statement.

- Also seeking approval to begin bond financing through ADFA of \$3.5MM to finance the Blytheville campus and Delta ELA campus expansion.
- Facility Financing Needs: \$2MM for BCPS, \$1MM for Blytheville Elementary, and \$500K for ELA expansion.

Mr. Mitchell asked for a motion to accept the financial report. Ms. Chris Allen made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Black. Unanimous.

IX. Development Committee Reports

- Mrs. Ginny Blankenship presented the report to the board.
- Exceeded 2009-2010 fundraising goal but must ramp up efforts in 2010-2011.
- Must raise \$655,000 dollars for Helena's operating budget and \$120,000 for Blytheville's operating budget and approximately \$400,000 dollars for the capital campaign in 2010-2011.
- Three priorities for 2010-2011: personal touches with face-to-face communication and solicitations, creating events through a volunteer chair for board and advocacy with legislators and policy makers about KIPP Delta's need for equitable facilities and transportation funding.

Mrs. Chris Allen asked for a motion to accept the financial report. Mr. Ron Nurnberg made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Chalk Mitchell. Unanimous.

X. Governance and Nomination Committee Reports

- Mrs. Chris Allen presented the report to the board.
- Priorities for 2011:
 - o Identify, cultivate, and nominate outstanding candidates for KIPP Delta board.
 - o Ensure nine board member positions are filled by July 2011.
 - o Create on-boarding plan and nominations process for all board members.
- Mrs. Chris Allen motioned to approve the nominations process for board members. Mr. Brent Black motioned and Mr. Ron Nurnberg seconds. Unanimous.

- Mrs. Chris Allen motioned to approve the on-boarding process with help of KIPP foundation model with expectations of the board and interviewing potential board members. Mr. Ron Nurnberg moved to motion. Mrs. Chris Allen seconds. Unanimous.
- Mr. Ron Nurnberg presented the report on KIPP Delta executive director performance evaluation form through using the KIPP Foundation format. Form includes rating level of personal work, student achievement, and direct reports from board members.
 - o Discussion meeting will occur if board members do not feel the executive director is not fulfilling standards and board will find new executive director.

XI. Action Items

- Mr. Matt Colburn asked for approval of resolution loan with Southern Financial Partners. Mr. Brent Black motioned for approval. Mr. Ron Nurnberg seconds. Unanimous.
- Mr. Matt Colburn asked for approval of \$128K of federal money to be spent on salaries of people who are employed. Mr. Ron Nurnberg motioned for approval. Mr. Black seconds. Unanimous.
- Mrs. Ginny Blankenship asked for approval of the development plan for 2010-2011. Mr. Ron Nurnberg motioned for approval. Mr. Brent Black seconds. Unanimous.

XIV. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mrs. Chris Allen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Ron Nurnberg. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.

Chalk Mitchell,
Board President

Scott Shirey,
Executive Director