



Minutes: March 25, 2024 Board Meeting

Consent Agenda

- The minutes from the January 23, 2024 board meeting were introduced for approval as they were presented.
 - I move that we accept the minutes as presented (Vince Billingsly). I will second the motion (Chalk Mitchell).
 - All in favor. Motion carries.

Action Agenda

1. New member introductions
 - a. Kevin Smith introduced himself to the board.
 - b. Vonn Daniels introduced himself to the board.
2. Purchase approvals
 - a. Ms. Teresa Thornton, Managing Director of Finance, was unable to attend the meeting so we will move this agenda item to the next board meeting.
3. Resignation of Ms. Kristen Wright from the KIPP Delta board
 - a. This item was carried forward from our previous meeting as we did not have a quorum during the January meeting to vote on this item.
 - b. I move that we accept the resignation of Ms. Kristen Wright as presented (Vince Billingsly). I will second the motion (Chalk Mitchell).
 - i. All in favor. Motion carries.
4. One KIPP orientation and briefing
 - a. Executive Director, James Boyd Jr., shared slides related to the One KIPP initiatives which highlight the KIPP Foundation's organizational shifts to create more uniformity among KIPP schools across the country. KIPP is looking to establish more alignment among its schools to ensure outcomes for students are improved. The initiatives that KIPP is focusing on include:
 - i. K-8 Literacy
 - ii. K-8 Math
 1. The literacy and math initiatives will help KIPP Delta in creating alignment of curriculum used among schools, use data to inform teacher practices, and collaboration among professional learning communities. Additionally, these initiatives will utilize common assessments which will allow us to see how our students are performing in comparison to other KIPP schools across the country. Finally, the literacy and math initiatives will give us access

to shared resources from the KIPP Foundation including coaching from experts at the Foundation.

- iii. High School Design
 - 1. This initiative will help us focus on creating successful high school programs for our students. It will highlight three elements that research has proven to increase outcomes for high school students including attendance, above a 2.0 grade point average & decreasing behavior problems.
- iv. Leadership Development
 - 1. This initiative will be very important to KIPP Delta as it helps us prepare a bench of talent for leadership positions throughout the organization. This will incorporate some of the best practices from some of the highest performing regions within the KIPP network. This initiative will strategically help develop the members of our team.
 - 2. A question was asked about how this initiative works in concert with the partnership KIPP Delta has had with TNTP. Mr. Boyd highlighted that the TNTP team worked with principals once they were in their leadership roles and that this initiative will focus on leadership development as prerequisites work prior to assuming principal leadership. We will be looking to hire a Director of Leadership Development who will lead and curate the leadership development at KIPP Delta as an internal member of our team.
- v. Match College Counseling
 - 1. This is known as KIPP Forward for us. The new elements of this will allow us to move beyond the persistence work we do with our post-graduate population and the focus will include working with younger students to do some foundational work to prepare them earlier than high school.
- vi. Along with the initiatives, the KIPP Foundation is conducting a viability study to assess and test KIPP schools' ability to be successful in the KIPP network. This will include a study of external conditions and the impact those have on a KIPP region (i.e., public funding, facilities access, etc.) as well as region-specific conditions like enrollment. This process will take place over the next 12-18 months.
 - 1. Board members shared that they would want to have a lot of consideration about future expansion based on the efforts and subsequent issues related to opening a campus in Forrest City that was then closed.
 - 2. There are certainly lessons to be learned from the experience of opening the school in Forrest City.
 - a. There will be KIPP Foundation metrics to be met in order to be considered viable so we will be continuing to consider this with a lot of research.

- vii. All of the slides from the KIPP Foundation will be shared with the board.
5. Organizational Health Report
- a. [Charter Authorizing Panel](#)
 - i. Last week we went to the charter authorizing panel to discuss why the elementary school in Blytheville has been underperforming and share our plans to increase student achievement.
 - 1. We shared a presentation (linked above) to show current student data highlighting the achievement we are seeing in the lower grades particularly on the DIBELS assessment, the increases we are seeing in daily attendance, and the reductions we are seeing in our chronic absenteeism.
 - 2. There was no formal decision from the committee, rather they wanted to see the goals we have set to improve the school and the data to support those goals.
 - b. [SY24-25](#) calendar based on ADE waiver
 - i. Mr. Boyd reminded the board that we made some adjustments to the school year calendar based on the inclement weather days we endured.
 - ii. We are proposing to use the state's option to create an alternative calendar which requires a minimum of 1,068 total hours of instruction during the school year. In our version of the alternative calendar, we will offer 1,386 instructional hours which exceeds the minimum requirement. This is very similar to the number of hours we have traditionally offered.
 - c. SY25 Student Recruitment briefing
 - i. The enrollment lottery date is scheduled for April 2, 2024.
 - ii. The enrollment target is 1,409 students which is 100 students more than we currently have and will help with any attrition we have at the start of the year.
 - 1. 1,409 does not include Pre-K students as that comes from a separate funding source. We would like to consider adding a Pre-K program in Blytheville and look forward to more discussions about it.
 - iii. Canvassing will begin on April 8, 2024 along with a social media campaign. We are also considering student and staff incentive programs for additional support in recruiting new students.
 - 1. We will be focusing on recruiting higher numbers of students in the lower grades to build our enrollment pipeline over time for middle and high school.

- d. A financial report will be shared at our May board meeting when Ms. Thornton can join us. We may need to have an emergency April meeting to discuss financial topics.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned
 - I move that we adjourn the meeting (Chalk Mitchell). I will second the motion (Vince Billingsly).
 - All in favor. Motion carries.