

KIPP DELTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Call to Order & Roll Call

The KIPP Delta Board of Directors met virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, February 11, 2025. Chairman George Cotton, Sr. called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

A roll call confirmed the presence of Board members George Cotton, Sr., Chairman; Vince Billingsley; Judge Chalk S. Mitchell; Kevin Smith, Interim Executive Director; and Von Daniels. No board members were absent.

Quorum was not immediately established; therefore, discussion proceeded on non-voting items. Upon the arrival of Director Daniels, quorum was established, allowing for official voting actions.

Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes

No minutes were presented for approval.

Interim Executive Director's Report

Chairman Cotton yielded his time to Interim Executive Director Kevin Smith, who provided several updates on school operations, financials, and policy matters.

ESSR Project Update

The roof renovation project at the Blytheville campus has been completed. We are currently awaiting reimbursement from federal ESSER funds, which is expected in February. All work has been fully covered by ESSR funds, with no impact on general operating revenue.

Policy & Handbook Revisions

The administration is working on updating the policy manual and handbooks, which have not been revised in several years. Final approval is anticipated at the March meeting.

Academic Updates

Student performance has improved significantly, with 65% achieving average or above-average growth. KIPP Delta ranked #1 in middle-of-year performance among all 228 KIPP regions. Due to improved student outcomes, the school has been released from direct literacy support under Act 1082. Efforts continue to meet compliance in special education services, with significant progress made in occupational and physical therapy make-up hours. Speech therapy services remain a challenge, with ongoing efforts to address compensatory hours.

Financial Report

Various cost-saving measures have identified projected savings of \$524,000. The primary goal is to avoid borrowing funds for payroll in May. The school is making strides in financial recovery but still has a long way to go.

Special Education Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Update

The school has made improvements to meet state compliance requirements. A CAP meeting is scheduled with the state to review progress. New Individualized Education Plan (IEP) procedures have been implemented to ensure accurate placement and services.

Other Business

Hiring of Permanent Executive Director

A discussion was initiated on the need to begin the hiring process. Directors emphasized the importance of community engagement in the search process. No formal actions taken, but the topic will be revisited in future meetings.

Policy Updates - Cell Phone Use

A discussion was initiated on adopting a new policy to align with upcoming state legislation. Legal counsel and administration will draft a proposal for board review.

Action Items

Approval of 2025-26 Academic Calendar

Vince Billingsley moved to approve as presented, seconded by Von Daniels. The motion was unanimously approved.

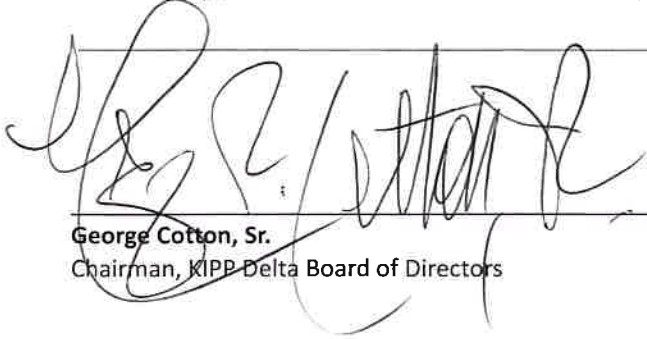
Public Comment

Kevin Martin raised concerns about teacher staffing levels and the need for a deliberate hiring process for the new Executive Director. The board assured that any hiring process would be thoughtful and community-focused.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Chalk Mitchell, seconded by Von Daniels. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Sydney A. Dooley, Executive Support Manager.



George Cotton, Sr.
Chairman, KIPP Delta Board of Directors



Kevin A. Smith
Interim Executive Director, KIPP Delta Public Schools