

I. Call to Order

Board Chairman George Cotton, Sr. called the meeting to order at **5:31 p.m.** A roll call was conducted with Directors Billingsley, Cotton, and Mitchell in attendance; Director Daniels was unable to attend due to professional obligations.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the March 11, March 18, and April 8, 2025, board meetings were presented for approval. Director Billingsley motioned to approve, seconded by Director Mitchell, and the motion was **unanimously carried**.

III. Executive Director Updates and Announcements

Executive Director Kevin Smith shared that federal approval had been granted for ESSR projects, including a \$607,000 invoice for the completed Blytheville roof project.

Early positive results from ATLAS testing were noted and recognition given for Teacher Appreciation Week, Principal Appreciation Day, and Operations Appreciation Week. Chairman Cotton thanked all staff members, from custodial staff to senior leadership, for their dedication.

All offer letters had been issued, and hiring was underway. Key hiring needs were identified, including a high school principal, assistant principal, and special education teachers, with a focus on math, science, and state-mandated roles.

The commencement ceremonies were well-attended in Helena and Blytheville. The board emphasized the need to leverage this momentum for ongoing school priorities.

IV. New Business

E.D. Smith presented the FY2024 audit report, noting a significant improvement in financial standing with the variance reduced from \$4 million to \$200,000 and the “going financial concern” notation removed.

Chairman Cotton commended the finance team for their performance, noting the importance of clean audits for grant eligibility. The board acknowledged the presentation of the official audit report. A budget draft will be presented for review at the June meeting.

Chairman Cotton emphasized the need to recruit additional board members, particularly from the Blytheville area, with expertise in finance, accounting, and education. Director Billingsley noted the current noncompliance with the required minimum of five members per the SY 2025-26 policy manual.

V. Action Items


- The board reviewed the renewal of the **food service contract with K12 Food Services (Year 5)**. Director Billingsley motioned to approve, seconded by Director Mitchell, and the motion was **carried unanimously**.
- Kevin Smith presented the **Policy and Procedures Manual for SY 2025-26**. The board acknowledged the importance of ongoing, state-required updates to maintain compliance. Director Billingsley motioned to approve, seconded by Director Mitchell, and the motion was **unanimously carried**.

VI. Closing and Adjournment


E.D. Smith noted upcoming in-person parent and community meetings, as well as the next in-person board meeting in Blytheville. Final encouragement was given to focus on board growth and continued transparency.

Director Billingsley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Mitchell, and the motion was **unanimously approved at 6:17 p.m.**

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



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



Vince Billingsley
Secretary/Treasurer, KIPP Delta Board of Directors