

## **I. Call to Order**

The KIPP Delta Board of Directors met on **Tuesday, June 10, 2025**, at **KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School** in Blytheville, Arkansas. Chairman George Cotton Sr. called the meeting to order at **5:45 p.m.**

A roll call confirmed the presence of Board Directors **Vince Billingsley, Von Daniels** (virtual), **Chairman George Cotton Sr.**, and **Judge Chalk S. Mitchell**.

Leadership present included Erika Hubbard (Principal at KIPP Blytheville Schools), Linda Murdock (Chief Operations Officer), Jennifer Ellis (Chief Academic Officer), Martha Madden (District Finance Director), Beronica Wilder (District HR Director), Danyell Rattler (District Special Education Manager), S. Alex Dooley (District Executive Support Manager), and Rebecca Worsham (Board Attorney). Other staff and community members observed in person and via Zoom.

---

## **II. Revision of Meeting Agenda**

Chairman Cotton requested that the original agenda be revised to open the meeting to alumni and public comments. Director Billingsley moved to approve the revision, seconded by Director Daniels, and **unanimously approved**. The floor was opened, with **no alumni or public comments** offered.

---

## **III. Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Cotton presented the meeting minutes from **May 13, 2025**. Director Billingsley moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Director Mitchell, and the motion was **unanimously approved**.

---

## **IV. Executive Director's Report**

**Academics.** Jennifer Ellis (CAO) stated that DESE now requires districts to file an **Assurances & GEPA Statement** by June 30, 2025, certifying that inclusive practices and personnel are in place for federally funded programs serving students with disabilities. Ellis outlined a series of professional-development sessions on Universal Design for Learning, inclusive practices, and RTI/MTSS scheduled throughout SY 2025-26. Director Billingsley moved to approve the document for submission with the AR App, seconded by Director Mitchell. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

**Hiring Updates.** Executive Director Smith noted that candidates have been identified for several teaching positions, including the principal position at KIPP Delta Collegiate High School. Attorney Worsham described work on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Dr. McCullough to recruit licensed teachers for Special Education positions from the Philippines. A draft MOU will be presented at the July meeting.

**Special Education.** Danyell Rattler (District SPED Manager) provided an update on compensatory services and revisions to the SPED policy manual, which require teachers to document classroom interventions before referring a student for special education evaluation. Kevin Smith (ED) presented the attorney-approved **Cynergy contract** for related services to the board for approval. Director Billingsley moved to approve, seconded by Director Mitchell, and the motion was **unanimously approved**. The remaining contracts will be reviewed by Attorney Worsham and presented at the July meeting.

**Finance.** Martha Madden (District Finance Director) reviewed the current cash flow and noted the outstanding \$607,000 ESSER roof invoice. Preliminary FY 2025-26 budget work continues, and a budget will be presented at the July meeting. Kevin Smith (ED) confirmed the district remains on track to meet the milestones of the FY 2022-23 Corrective Action Plan (CAP) by the June 30 deadline. Smith presented the **Financial Policy Manual FY 2025-26** (CAP action item) for approval. Director Billingsley moved to adopt the policies as drafted, seconded by Director Daniels, and the motion was **unanimously approved**.

**Operations.** Linda Murdock (COO) provided an update on the school merger in Helena and the audit of the district's asset inventory (CAP action item); both are underway and are expected to be completed this summer. Murdock presented a request on behalf of Virginia Morris (District Nutrition & Wellness Director) for the board to approve re-election into the **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** for the 2025-26 school year; this could allow for a higher reimbursement rate to the district for student meals served. Director Daniels moved to approve the request, seconded by Director Billingsley, and it was **unanimously approved**.

---

## **V. Old Business**

An official notice from the Legislative Joint Audit Committee (LJAC) was delivered, confirming that the LJAC will perform the district's 2024-25 financial audit.

---

## **VI. New Business**

**Board Member & Officer Elections.** Chairman Cotton confirmed the process for re-electing board members and officers with Attorney Worsham. A slate of members and officers was presented for the 2025-26 term, with **George Cotton, Sr. as Chairman, Director Vince Billingsley as Vice Chairman, and Director Chalk Mitchell as Secretary/Treasurer**. Director Daniels moved to approve, seconded by Director Mitchell, and the motion was **unanimously approved**.

Chairman Cotton noted that the board has at least one additional seat to fill and welcomed public nominations by July 15, 2025.

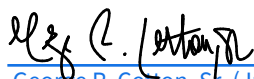
---

## **VII. Adjournment**

With no further business, Director Billingsley moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Director Mitchell and **unanimously approved**. The meeting adjourned at **7:11 p.m.**

---

Minutes prepared by S. Alex Dooley, Executive Support Manager.



George R. Cotton, Sr. (Jul 22, 2025 09:15 CDT)

**George Cotton, Sr.**

Chairman, KIPP Delta Board of Directors



Chalk Mitchell (Jul 22, 2025 14:50 CDT)

**Hon. Chalk Mitchell**

Secretary/Treasurer, KIPP Delta Board of Directors