

I. Call to Order

The KIPP Delta Board of Directors met on **Tuesday, July 8, 2025, virtually** via Zoom. Chairman George Cotton Sr. called the meeting to order at **5:31 p.m.**

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

District leadership present included Kevin Smith (Executive Director), 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), Shunwolisa Green (District Payroll & Finance Manager). Rebecca Worsham (Board Attorney), KIPP Delta staff, and community members were also present.

II. Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Cotton presented the meeting minutes from **June 10, 2025.** Director Billingsley moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Director Mitchell, and the motion was **unanimously approved.**

III. Executive Director's Report

Academics & Special Education

Kevin Smith shared updates on the hiring of two special education teachers from the Philippines through the J-1 visa process. Offer letters will be sent to begin the process. Due to a delay in visa availability, the teachers may start the school year virtually. Chair Cotton raised concerns about immigration risks, which staff acknowledged and are monitoring.

Jennifer Ellis introduced Ms. Autumn Peterson as the new principal for grades 7-12 in Helena. Ms. Peterson brings 20 years of experience with a focus on competency-based education. Ms. Ellis and Ms. Rattler shared that the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) has cleared KIPP Delta's special education Corrective Action Plan. Ms. Rattler reported that compensatory services are underway, with speech therapy expected to continue into the fall.

A new contract with Long Therapy was proposed to help meet service needs in Helena. The board approved the Long Therapy contract. The motion was made by Vince Billingsley, seconded by Chalk S. Mitchell, and **passed unanimously.**

Finance

Martha Madden reported that the FY23 audit is complete and the FY24 process is underway. The preliminary FY26 budget will be presented in August, with final submission due September 30. The board requested budget workshops in advance. Ms. Madden agreed to schedule those and provide regular financial reports going forward. Mr. Smith and Ms. Madden explained that KIPP is now transitioning to eFinance and more accurate financial reporting practices, aiming for consistent monthly updates.

Operations

Mr. Smith shared that operations staff currently report directly to him while leadership evaluates long-term structural options. No immediate changes were made.

Miscellaneous

The board was informed of upcoming state announcements regarding federal funding and test results. Mr. Smith highlighted the positive working relationship with the state's charter-authorization office and praised the staff for meeting critical deadlines. Mr. Cotton echoed the appreciation, noting the significance of meeting commitments made to ADE.

IV. New Business

The board appointed Judge Chalk S. Mitchell as the district's official dispersing officer, as required by state law. The motion was made by Director Daniels, seconded by Director Billingsley, and **approved unanimously**.

V. Public Comments

The floor was opened for public comment, but no one chose to speak.

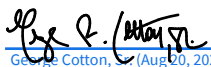
VI. Executive Session

The board entered executive session at **6:18 p.m.** to discuss a legal matter. Director Daniels made the motion, seconded by Chalk S. Mitchell, and **approved unanimously**. The board returned to public session without taking any action.

VII. Adjournment

Upon the board's conclusion of business, Director Billingsley motioned to adjourn, seconded by Director Daniels. The meeting adjourned at **6:41 p.m.**

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



George Cotton, Sr. (Aug 20, 2025 09:24:34 CDT)

George Cotton, Sr.

Chairman, KIPP Delta Board of Directors



Hon. Chalk Mitchell (Aug 20, 2025 11:08:32 CDT)

Hon. Chalk Mitchell

Secretary/Treasurer, KIPP Delta Board of Directors