

## KIPP CHARLOTTE BOARD MEETING – JANUARY 2020

The scheduled meeting of the KIPP Charlotte Board of Directors was held on January 10, 2020, at 500 E. Morehead Street, Charlotte, NC 28202.

**Board members in attendance:** Matthew Bohlen, Steve Willen, Kevin Zhao, Becky Winkler, Jon Morris, LaTanya Bowman, Adam Smith, Emily Phillips, Dinesh Chopra

**Board members in attendance via phone:** Michelle Connley-Gore, Lisa McMillan, Karin McGinnis, Zach Manis, Alice Schulte

**Board members absent:** Tom Duncan, DeAnthony Hill, Meka Turner

**Others in attendance:** Anokhi Saraiya (Head of Schools), Stacy Johnson (Chief of Staff), Heather Moeller (Director of Development via phone), Christian Drake (Director of Finance and Operations), John Kalafatas (KIPP Foundation Relationship Manager via phone), Jamie McCarthy (Director of Talent), Kimberly Green (Prospective Board Member)

**Welcome:** Becky Winkler welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

**Inspiration:** Anokhi Saraiya started the meeting sharing a story representing the KIPP Charlotte value of Ubuntu: I am what I am because of what we all are. She showed photos from the recent Girls on the Run event in which our elementary school runners competed. Those who finished the fastest as well as their teacher repeatedly went back to support each and every runner in crossing the finish line, truly demonstrating the internalization of our belief in team and family.

**Approval of agenda:** Becky Winkler clarified that conducting a deep dive into a specific topic would be moved to later in the year. Dinesh Chopra moved to approve the agenda. Steve Willen seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

**Approval of minutes:** The board reviewed the minutes from the November meeting and found no errors or changes. Matthew Bohlen moved to approve the minutes, and Karin McGinnis seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Board Chair Report:** Becky Winkler welcomed Kimberly Green, a prospective new board member invited to observe today's meeting. Ms. Green is a parent of a KIPP Charlotte alumnus. Ms. Winkler and Stacy Johnson explained the photo contest we are entering for a \$20,000 prize and encouraged those present to pose for pictures depicting volunteerism. Ms. Winkler declared the fundraising event "An Evening with Steve Smith" a success and sent SHINE to Heather Moeller, Director of Development. Finally, Ms. Winkler shared the highlights of her breakfast conversation with David Adams, our contact at Stifel.

**Schools Report:** Anokhi Saraiya began the report by sharing the Regional Dashboard, highlighting the addition of parent satisfaction data. Ms. Saraiya also shared that KIPP Charlotte won a State Grant for Mental Health and School Security that will allow for the addition of a school resource officer at the middle school as well as pay for additional counseling services. Adam Smith requested data regarding historical test results to determine if/when we were achieving higher results with less resources. An additional data request was made to determine the impact that busing has had on both our finances and our school results. Ms. Sariaya went on to share highlights from the Principals' Reports, including

improved attendance, outstanding TNTP survey results at the middle school, the Winter Showcase at the elementary school, and our undefeated boys basketball team at the middle school. Both principals also articulated the challenges they are currently working on, including remaining fully staffed and utilizing substitutes, implementing schedule changes to allow for increased small group instruction, and beginning to plan ahead for next year.

**Finance Report:** Christian Drake provided an overview of the financials, detailing the budget versus actual spending through November, the projected cash flow, and the bank account balances. Mr. Drake informed the Board that a state budget has still not been passed, leaving KIPP Charlotte uncertain as to the per-pupil funding to be received. Mr. Drake clarified that an initial payment has been received from the state, but it indicated a 1.8% increase over last year's amount, which is less than the 2% originally budgeted for. It is unclear at this time if that number will move or not. The worst case scenario if that number does not move is \$200,000-\$300,000 gap, minus the \$100,000 already budgeted for contingencies. Additionally, the Evening with Steve Smith fundraising event brought in more revenue than expected, and receiving the Safety Grant will provide some budget relief. There are also several other outstanding grants that could help close the potential gap. Dinesh Chopra asked clarifying questions regarding the long term financial goals for KIPP Charlotte. Mr. Drake explained that the work we are engaged in with Stifel and Level Field involve creation of a detailed five-year plan. Mr. Drake reviewed the budget cycle, which starts now and ends with final board approval of next year's budget in June. Matthew Bohlen updated the board on the progress with the bond financing as well as the potential merger. Mr. Bohlen reviewed the highlights from the recent December meeting with ENC and Charlotte finance committees and Level Field. The next steps will be to identify due diligence questions and procedures to bring to both boards in February. Finally, Mr. Drake asked for board approval to renew the BBVA line of credit as of January 25. Matthew Bohlen moved to approve, and Jon Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Governance Report:** Christian Drake began by reviewing the Student Safety report Card, updating the board that one of the few remaining areas of growth related to visitor screening will be rectified in the coming weeks with the addition of Raptor Visitor Screening equipment to provide background checks on visitors at both campuses. Mr. Drake also reviewed the progress made in determining a reunification plan. Alice Schulte recognized the progress that has been made in a short time in getting this report card to green. Next, Kevin Zhao explained the engagement letter submitted from W&S. Karin McGinnis advised the board that she had reviewed the letter and did not have any concerns with approving it. Michelle Connley-Gore suggested approving the engagement letter with the language change from referring to KIPP to more specifically referring to KIPP Charlotte, Inc. Matthew Bohlen moved to approve letter with the changes noted. Dinesh Chopra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Finally, Alice Schulte and Lisa McMillan shared with the board that they are in the process of working with Stacy Johnson, Chief of Staff, to create an electronic Board Governance Manual to house all the relevant board documents and make them available to the board, staff, and the public, as appropriate. The Manual will be ready for use during the new board member onboarding session taking place on January 31 at 10:00 AM at KIPP Change Academy.

**Development Report:** Jon Morris began by sharing a list of organizations for board members to review with the intention of identifying connections KIPP Charlotte can leverage. Next, Mr. Morris shared a flyer with suggested donations for KTC. Zach Manis provided an update on the progress of the community partnerships initiatives. Mr. Morris recognized Dinesh Chopra and his co-workers for

volunteering and donating to Thanksgiving with the Pride and Adam Smith for donating plants to both campuses and the fundraising event. Mr. Morris summarized the total earnings from the Steve Smith event. With a goal of raising \$150K, the event brought in \$231K: \$104K from sponsors, \$14K in tickets, and \$113K in donations. Total expenses were \$20K. For the spring, the investment speaker series will be taking place in April and will not be an exclusively KIPP Charlotte event. The Development Committee is currently brainstorming ideas for the Spring Event and asks the board to begin thinking of sponsors and host committee members who would be interested. The Spring event will be less formal and focused on college in some way. Mr. Morris finished by reminding the board that 100% of board members must meet their get-give-save goal by June 30.

**Strategic Planning Report:** Becky Winkler shared that the search for an Executive Director is moving forward with two candidates emerging as frontrunners.

**New Business:** Stacy Johnson shared with the board the new KIPP national vision and mission statements, encouraging questions and feedback before a vote will be asked for in February. The board expressed some concern that the new vision and mission are generic and less specific to KIPP Charlotte and suggested ideas for some of the missing ideas to be captured in KIPP Charlotte belief statements that show who our region is and what we believe in more specifically.

Jamie McCarthy shared with the board the proposal for a Young Professionals KIPP Charlotte Academy Council to increase brand awareness amongst donors, talent, and families, to help reverse the negative narrative of charter schools that exists in North Carolina, to engage new companies and corporations, and to support the development committee events. The asks of the board include providing feedback, offering volunteer opportunities, and offering access to resume building activities for the members. Several board members expressed excitement about this new initiative. Matthew Bohlen moved to approve the initiative, and Adam Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Becky Winker encouraged board members to check in on their personal goals for the year and to touch base with their accountability buddies as we are halfway through the school year. New board members will have the opportunity to set goals at the onboarding session on January 31.

**Adjournment:** Matthew Bohlen moved to adjourn the meeting, and Jon Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and Becky Winker adjourned the meeting at 12:03 PM.