

KIPP CHARLOTTE BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 2020

The scheduled meeting of the KIPP Charlotte Board of Directors was held on February 14, 2020, at 500 E. Morehead Street, Charlotte, NC 28202.

Board members in attendance: Michelle Connley-Gore, Kevin Zhao, Becky Winkler, Adam Smith, Emily Phillips, Dinesh Chopra, Lisa McMillan

Board members in attendance via phone: Steve Willen, Karin McGinnis, Alice Schulte, LaTanya Bowman, DeAnthony Hill

Board members absent: Matthew Bohlen, Meka Turner, Jon Morris, Zach Manis

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

Welcome: Becky Winkler welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Inspiration: Anokhi Saraiya started the meeting sharing photos from our KIPP Through College service project which took place on Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 20th. KTC is starting a Food Pantry to support our community, and as a first step, they created donation bags for our college students to help combat food insecurity that often takes place on college campuses. Together with volunteers from Queens University, over 100 bags of food were created and delivered.

Approval of agenda: Becky Winkler clarified that Michelle Connley-Gore will be reporting for the development committee today in place of Jon Morris, who is absent. Dinesh Chopra moved to approve the agenda. Michelle Connley-Gore seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of minutes: The board reviewed the minutes from the January meeting and found one typo to be corrected. Becky Winkler moved to approve the minutes with this correction, and Adam Smith seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Board Chair Report: Becky Winkler showed appreciation for the regional leadership team members of KIPP Charlotte. Ms. Winkler also highlighted three upcoming events for board members: 1) Lunch with Tim Saintsing during his visit to KIPP Charlotte on Friday, February 21 at 12:00 at Dish, 2) Profound Gentlemen core session luncheon March 13 from 10-2:30, and 3) The KIPP Charlotte 8th Grade College Fair on March 19 from 8:30-10:30 AM. Ms. Winkler encouraged board members to reach out to her if they were able to attend any of the events.

Schools Report: Anokhi Saraiya began the report by sharing the Regional Dashboard, highlighting new academic data from Interim Assessment #2. Highlights from the data include NC Check-In growth in ELA in grades 5, 6, and 7, ELA IA #2 growth in grades 3, 4, 6, and 8, and science growth in grades 6, 7, and 8. In addition, our 8th graders are tracking to meet both their ELA and science EOG goals. The greatest areas of challenge is math across all grade levels. Ms. Saraiya identified the primary reasons for this as a combination of gaps in student knowledge as well as ensuring math teachers are prepared to deliver the highest quality instruction. Ms. Saraiya is working with school leaders to utilize technology, small groups, remediation classes, and teacher content coaching to combat these challenges.

Finance Report: Christian Drake provided an overview of the financials, detailing the budget versus actual spending through January, the projected cash flow, and the bank account balances. At this point, KIPP Charlotte has received higher than budgeted payments from CMS but lower than budgeted payments from the state due to the lack of a budget. The currently projected loss for the year as a result of the absence of a state budget is \$90,000. Two private fundraising events remain this year to also potentially close some of the gap. Mr. Drake shared the results of our audit, which produced no findings or material weaknesses. The finance committee recommends approving the audit and the 990. Becky Winkler moved to approve both, and Alice Schulte seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Drake also recommended that we continue to use the same auditor and accept their engagement letter for the 2020 audit. Steve Willen moved to approve this suggestion, and Adam Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Governance Report: Becky Winkler asked Kimberly Green, prospective board member, to leave the room to allow members to conduct a vote to officially add her to the board. Kevin Zhao moved to add Kimberly Green to the KIPP Charlotte Board of Directors. Karin McGinnis seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Alice Schulte called for a vote to re-elect Matthew Bohlen and Jon Morris to the board. Lisa McMillan moved to re-elect Matthew Bohlen and Jon Morris to the KIPP Charlotte Board of Directors. Michelle Connley-Gore seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Becky Winkler also acknowledged that Tom Duncan's term on the board is now finished. In other business, the Governance committee updated the board on their continuing work on revising and updating board policies as well as gathering all board documents into the electronic manual.

Development Report: Michelle Connley-Gore shared the details of the spring fundraiser with the board. We will be hosting a college-themed Trivia Night at Sugar Creek Brewing Company on Thursday, May 7, from 5:30 PM-8:00 PM. Tickets cost \$50 per person or \$300 for a team of 6 people. Board members should inform Heather Moeller if they are unable to attend. A sponsorship packet has been shared with all board members, and there is an immediate need for 6-8 host committee members to join the two we have so far. Ms. Connley-Gore encouraged board members to think of who amongst their contacts would be able to serve as host committee members and secure sponsorships, and to please send those names to Heather by next week. The Development Committee is also requesting donations of gift cards to be used as raffle prizes during the event. The event will also feature the awarding of a scholarship to one KIPP student. The attire and atmosphere of the event is casual. Guests are encouraged to wear college attire and jeans. Board members requested a text be sent that can easily be forwarded. Ms. Connley-Gore also highlighted that since we will be curating the trivia questions ourselves, there is flexibility in customizing the questions to fit the theme of college, share some history of KIPP, and represent our sponsors. Adam Smith questioned the ticket amounts and suggested that there be a clear economic advantage to encourage purchasing a team rather than an individual ticket, and it was decided that the individual ticket price would be \$55 dollars and the team of 6 would remain \$300. Heather Moeller promised to send updated invitations as soon as possible.

Strategic Planning Report: Becky Winkler updated the board on the Executive Director Search. Finalist Tim Saintsing will be visiting from February 20-21, and Becky will be conducting her deep-dive assessment the following Monday.

New Business: Stacy Johnson reviewed the new KIPP mission and vision statement proposed at the last meeting. Board members discussed aspects of the new mission and vision that they liked, including the

inclusion of families, the focus on social justice, and the inclusion of career. Concerns expressed included the lack of a Charlotte-specific focus. Becky Winkler moved to adopt the new KIPP national mission and vision. Emily Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed with 9 in favor, 2 against, and 2 abstentions. Adam Smith and Steve Willen voted against the motion. Dinesh Chopra and Kimberly Green abstained.

Becky Winkler shared a revised Board Commitment to Excellence to be rolled out next year in the fall retreat and requested feedback from board members. The primary change is the elimination of the “save” option in the “get/give/save” ask in favor of focusing more on the “give” and “get” components. Some board members suggested that rather than eliminate the save element, instead amending the language to ensure that the savings only applied to items that were already in the budget and thus the savings were directly and immediately translated into increased revenue. Another suggestion was to include an attendance requirement for board members in regards to KIPP Charlotte events. Ms. Winkler invited more discussion and feedback in the coming months before finalizing the Commitment to Excellence this summer.

Ms. Winkler then transitioned to the deep-dive problem solving portion of the meeting examining the financial and philosophical pros and cons of busing. Stacy Johnson reviewed the current rationale for spending money to provide free busing to all students regardless of distance, including the belief in providing equal access for all children as well as a need to appeal to families to increase enrollment in a competitive charter climate. Ms. Johnson summarized the data provided to assist in the conversation, including the total amount and percentage of the current budget spent on busing, the comparative busing costs to other regions, the school report cards for past years, and the geographic profile of how many students ride the bus and where they live. Ms. Winkler split the board into three small groups to examine the possibilities and implications of eliminating all or some busing as a way to save money. All groups agreed that eliminating buses completely was not an option as it was exclusionary, would reduce enrollment too much, and would create genuine hardship for our current families. Alternative ideas generated from the groups included conducting a parent impact survey to determine how many of our students would still be able to attend school if busing were reduced, busing within a 10-mile radius only with the option to meet the bus at the furthest stop to still support students with longer commutes, to explore sharing buses and routes with other similar charters in the area, to attempt to reduce the number of buses by one or two to enable the hiring of more teachers, creating cluster stops for pickups and exploring the use of vans or carpooling strategically.

Adjournment: Becky Winkler moved to adjourn the meeting, and Kevin Zhao seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and Becky Winkler adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.