

## **KIPP CHARLOTTE BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 2021**

The scheduled meeting of the KIPP Charlotte Board of Directors was held on February 19, 2021, via video conference.

**Board members in attendance (9):** Michelle Connley-Gore, Kevin Zhao, Emily Phillips, Dinesh Chopra, Lisa McMillan, Karin McGinnis, Jon Morris, Kimberly Green, Meka Turner

**Board members absent (2):** Matthew Bohlen, LaTanya Bowman,

**Others in attendance:** Tim Saintsing (Executive Director), Anokhi Saraiya (Chief Academic Officer), Stacy Johnson (Chief of Staff), John Kalafatas (KIPP Foundation Relationship Manager), Christian Drake (Director of Finance)

**Welcome:** Dinesh Chopra welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Mr. Chopra thanked all who have been working on merger activities and previewed the updates that will be shared regarding the work that has been completed so far and next steps to come.

**Approval of agenda and minutes:** Lisa McMillan moved to approve the agenda for today's meeting as well as the minutes from the January 8 board meeting. Kevin Zhao seconded the motion. The agenda and minutes were approved unanimously.

**Regional Dashboard:** Chief of Staff Stacy Johnson shared with the board the last dashboard data as of February 1, 2021, citing that enrollment is largely holding steady. The current area of focus is addressing chronic absenteeism. Ms. Johnson shared the detail-level documents that school leaders are using to monitor the attendance of individual students and support them in their remote learning as well as example solutions that schools have implemented to support students struggling with attendance.

**Schools Report:** Chief Academic Officer Anokhi Saraiya shared the results from the schools reports prepared by Principal Tiffany Flowers and Principal Malcolm Brooks. Highlights from the reports include the continued strength of the remote instruction program, growth seen in IA testing, the celebration of Ms. Flowers with a national KIPP-6 award for longevity as a school leader, and the student-led Black History Month content created at the elementary school. Ms. Saraiya also discussed plans for addressing unfinished learning next school year, such as the adoption of a new literacy foundational skills curriculum, improved staffing models equipped to support increased small group instruction across all grades K-8, and partnerships with community organizations to assist with tutoring.

Executive Director Tim Saintsing reviewed the current CDC guidance regarding school reopening, explaining that Mecklenberg county is currently in the high transmission category based on the most recent data available. There will be a staff survey as well as a family survey going out shortly to reassess current thoughts and feelings regarding options for the future.

Finally, Karin McGinnis proposed the inclusion of more restorative justice practices to continue to reduce suspensions and disrupt traditional discipline practices in schools. Mr. Saintsing shared with the board the plans created by the steering committee to prioritize equity and anti-racism in the coming

years, such as surveying and assessing the current discipline data and practices across all KIPP school in North Carolina in preparation for the creation of a new vision of discipline that matches our priorities. Mr. Saintsing also cited the planned inclusion of more social workers, school nurses, leadership development and teaching assistants as vital enabling systems that will allow additional alternatives to traditional discipline to be explored.

**Finance Report:** Christian Drake shared the financial reports, including the budget versus actual spending through January, the projected cash flow, and the bank account balances to date. Mr. Drake shared that the application for PPP loan forgiveness has been approved by Truist and is now awaiting a final SBA decision.

**Governance Report:** Lisa McMillan shared the work the governance committee has been doing to continue to revise and organize all policies in preparation for sharing them with the KIPP ENC and KIPP NC boards in the future.

**New Business:** Tim Saintsing updated the Board regarding progress towards the KIPP North Carolina merger, highlighting the selection of a new foundational skills literacy curriculum, the participation of 14 academic leaders in a summer development program, the hiring of a diverse group of central office candidates, and the launching of a new Human Resources Information System.

Mr. Saintsing presented the proposed participants in the new KIPP North Carolina board, including Dinesh Chopra, Jon Morris, and Kimberly Green from the current KIPP Charlotte Board. Kevin Zhao moved to approve the inclusion of current KIPP Charlotte Board Members Dinesh Chopra, Jon Morris, and Kimberly Green on the new KIPP NC Board of Directors. Michelle Connley-Gore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Saintsing presented a contract to engage with MDC marketing in the creation of a new logo and website for KIPP North Carolina. Mr. Saintsing disclosed that current KIPP Charlotte Board Member Michelle Connley-Gore has a financial interest in connection with this contract, naming a potential conflict of interest per the KIPP Charlotte Conflict of Interest Policy. Lisa McMillan moved to accept the contract to employ MDC Marketing. Kimberly Green seconded the motion. The motion passed with 7 affirmative votes and one abstention.

Dinesh Chopra: YES

Lisa McMillan: YES

Michelle Connley-Gore: ABSTAIN

Jon Morris: YES

Kimberly Green: YES

Emily Phillips: YES

Karin McGinnis: YES

Kevin Zhao: YES

**Adjournment:** Lisa McMillan moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 AM. Dinesh Chopra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.