



KIPP DELTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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KIPP Delta, Inc. Minutes of the Board of Director's Meeting

Date: February 16, 2010
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: KIPP Delta Public Schools
210 Cherry Street, Helena, AR 72342
Attendance: Chris Allen, Chalk Mitchell, and Randy Zook were present. Brent Black and Maisie Wright attended via conference call. Amanda Johnson, Jemar Tisby, Luke VanDeWalle, Ginny Blankenship, Anika Baltimore, Matthew Colburn, and Emily Cook were also present. Three (3) visiting superintendents from area schools were also present. They were Dr. Jerry Woods from Forrest City School District No. 7; Dr. David Perry from Wynne School District and Mr. Kevin McGaughey from Brooklyn, which is north of Jonesboro. They are part of the Leadership Academy, as is Mr. Shirey. Princess Burnside took notes.

I. Introduction

Mr. Scott Shirey brought the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

II. Minutes from the January Meeting

Mr. Mitchell asked that the minutes from the January meeting be reviewed. After this, Ms. Allen made a motion that the December minutes be approved as presented. This was seconded by Mr. Zook. Unanimous.

III. School Reports

A. Elementary Literacy Academy

Mrs. Amanda Johnson reported that there are 98 students at ELA and there is a new teacher at the Elementary school. Mr. Nick Malinowski started February 1 and replaced a teacher who had resigned.

All students are now receiving 45 minutes of music everyday and 45 minutes of Spanish twice each week.

The ELA also celebrated one hundred days of school on January 29th. There was a day of learning activities involving the number 100. There was counting of various items including pennies. They were sent to Haiti as a donation to earthquake relief. They also read 100 words and made trail mix using 10 pieces of 10 different food items.

There was a book fair held the first week of February. They exceeded their goal to sell at least \$500 in book sales. They will be using the money to buy books from Scholastic.

The emphasis continues to be on reading. They are continuing to use available resources. The results of the MAP testing are being analyzed and they are planning for the next school year. Mrs. Johnson is recruiting and hiring new teachers, planning for the second grade and recruiting new students.

Mrs. Johnson directed everyone's attention to the graph of winter and spring scores from the MAP results. Math is an area of concern for the school. The MAP data illustrates this is a weak area but it also gives them information to help improve.

Students have made growth. Kindergarten reading grew 2 RIP points. This did not grow as quickly as the National average did. This shows that while the students are growing, they are not growing as fast as students are growing nationally. It appears as though the students are growing further behind the national mean. The students are above the national mean in terms of growth.

The winter growth shows that the students still are growing but not as fast or as much as the national means. Comprehension is growing and the results did improve. This includes the area of phonics, in which the reading consultant Linda Farrell helped. The kindergarten RIP growth was more than the national means average.

The first grade phonics scores did grow significantly. This will also enable the school to see where there is growth and how

the growth is occurring and where there needs to be more focus.

After her report, Ms. Allen made a motion to accept the report of the ELA. This was seconded by Mr. Zook. Unanimous.

B. KIPP Delta College Preparatory

Mr. Jemar Tisby reported that there are 260 students enrolled at the Middle School. One teacher is no longer with the school. There were three (3) homerooms and there are now two (2). Reading and social studies has been made into a two hour block.

The students are taking the practice Benchmark this week. They also have fewer teachers now. This helps with the number of teachers that the students have and this makes better consistency and performance.

There have been several recent field lessons. Fifth graders have gone to the Arkansas Museum of Natural History, the University of Mississippi, and the Clinton Library. There are more trips planned in the next few weeks, including college trips. The drama club performed "Alice in Wonderland" earlier this month. Fifth and sixth graders participated in the first ever "Cup Stacking Tournament". This was held during Saturday school and helped some of the students with their coordination. There was also a teacher vs. student relay and the teachers won.

KIPP DCPS hosted the county-wide spelling bee. The winter MAP testing was completed and they had Report Card night.

Mr. Tisby and several teachers visited Sidwell Friends School in Washington D.C. and observed their curriculum program.

One of the biggest challenges is preparing for the Benchmark and creating an environment that supports learning and preparation for assessment on a daily basis. Teachers have been tracking homework data each day and compiling them into reports. They are making after-school tutoring more consistent and systematic. About 50 or 60 students are staying after school for tutoring.

On February 12th, Spirit Trickey, daughter of Minnie Jean Brown of the Little Rock Nine, visited the school and spoke to the students. The students are having practice Benchmark tests next week. Benchmark Madness will be held on Friday, February 26th.

Mr. Tisby went over the MAP results on line with the National numbers. The general trend has been that KIPP started lower than the National means and has exceeded the National growth, except for fifth grade English. This will be addressed before the Benchmark exams. They are closing the gap and this is the indicator that students are coming to KIPP behind the national average and work is being done to make up for the gap.

Eighth grade shows that the longer students stay at KIPP the more ground they cover and make up. Eighth grade math has exceeded the national means. These students are keeping pace and learning on a faster pace than the national average. Most of these eighth graders have been at KIPP for four years.

These are computerized tests and that is a challenge to some of the students, especially kindergarten. Some of these students haven't been exposed to computers before. There is a question of if the answers were wrong or learning computer skills.

After the report, Mr. Zook made a motion that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Ms. Allen. Unanimous.

C. KIPP Delta Collegiate

Mr. Luke VanDeWalle reported that the number of students is now at 153. Two students moved out of the area and one student went to Central.

Twenty one of the twenty three seniors have been accepted into a college, this makes 91%. There have been AP prep sessions. Another one is scheduled for this Saturday. The students attended a college fair that was organized by the Helena-West Helena School District.

There was a college trip to the UAPB and the students met with a KIPP Houston alum student. Students organized and held a Valentine Dance on February 13th. Also, two students toured Auburn University.

The challenges continue to include working harder and being nicer. Mr. VanDeWalle is meeting with the advisory team and system to implement professional development for students. There are trips planned to college-preparatory schools in Memphis. This will give the student leaders a chance to observe a high performing high school.

A group of people from Wall Street are here this week completing a service project by putting up a canopy over the High School. They are donating their time and money for this project.

Several students will be meeting with Madeline Albright at the Clinton School on February 17th. They won the opportunity in an essay competition. KIPP will host an Academy Day February 18th. The Naval Academy, West Point, Air Force Academy, and the Coast Guard Academy will be present. Congressman Berry will also be in attendance. Loretta Wilburn, an 11th grader, has been selected attend the University of Arkansas Diversity weekend.

Twenty-three students, mainly 10th and 11th graders, will be attending a campus open house at Ouachita Baptist February 19th and 20th. Richard Harris will be conducting an experiment with a NMR machine at Vanderbilt University on February 25th. Also, KIPP High School Leaders from around the country will be meeting and touring our high school on March 5th.

The results on the internal Geometry end of course practice exam was 44% of the students were proficient or advanced. The Biology end of course practice exam results showed that 7% of the students were proficient or advanced. The 11th grade end of course literacy practice exam showed 28% of students were proficient or advanced.

There are adjustments being made in Geometry and another teacher has come in to work with the students. The Geometry teacher suffered a minor stroke and will probably be out the

rest of the school year. They are tracking the standards very closely to get the numbers up in both Geometry and Biology. Another practice test will be this week.

After the report, Mr. Zook made a motion that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Ms. Allen. Unanimous.

D. KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory

Ms. Wright gave her report. On January 27th she submitted the school design to the KIPP Foundation and on February 5th she submitted the Implementation Grant to the Arkansas Department of Education. This could be a total of up to \$450,000.00 over the first three years.

Ms. Wright has offered a teaching position to Ms. Crystal Felima. She is currently completing her Master's Degree at Cornell University. She has not officially accepted. Also, there have been two students who have enrolled for the semester.

Teacher recruitment continues to be the number one challenge. Mr. Morrison will be going to the Rio Grande location to speak to Teach for America corps about opportunities at KIPP Delta.

Ms. Wright is currently designing an ad to go in newspapers in Blytheville, Jonesboro, Dyersburg (TN) and southeast Missouri.

She will also be attending events with City Year at the Clinton School and other colleges and organizations to attract people to KIPP. There are several career fairs, including Arkansas State University and University of Central Arkansas, that she will be attending this spring to attract teachers.

Student recruitment is also a challenge. There are three students enrolled right now, but she needs over ninety students. Over the next several weeks, she will be visiting churches and medical facilities with community leaders to attract more students.

At the last Development meeting Blytheville leaders did raise the needed money for the facilities. This is around

\$120,000.00. They will be setting up an account to process the rest of the money from the community.

February 22nd, students from KIPP Delta will be speaking at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon. At the January luncheon, there were about 150 business owners. At the conclusion of the luncheon on February 22nd, the Development meeting will begin. They will focus on student recruitment.

Ms. Wright is doing a lot of work on academics to get the curriculum up to KIPP standards. This will enable a foundation for both teachers and students.

After the report, Mr. Zook made the motion to accept the report as presented. This was seconded by Ms. Allen. Unanimous.

IV. Finance Committee Report

A. Expenditure Summary & Cash Flow Analysis-December

Ms. Anika Baltimore started the report with Changes in Fund Balances. The unrestricted operating fund balance ended the month with around \$244,679,000.00. The restricted is \$786,135.00. There are some smaller restricted funds that are slowly being depleted. There is still money being received for the gym as well as Stimulus funds that are being tracked.

The regular operating fund is down by about \$40,000.00 for the month. The restricted is up due to receiving \$250,000.00 for the start-up of the Blytheville school from the Walton Family Foundation. There was also \$50,000.00 received from the Federal Earmark grant.

There was also a \$25,000.00 gym pledge received.

There is about \$12,000.00 left in the Money Market account after receiving \$75,000.00 of it this month. The receivable were reduced due to the \$25,000.00 pledge from Michael Morton for the gym. There were more assets acquired. The debts are slowly decreasing.

The year-to-date losses are about \$40,000.00. The monthly revenues were about \$703,000.00. The monthly expenditures

were \$453,000.00 which made a net of under \$250,000.00 for the month. The charter funding was up due to the ADEM numbers. Title 1 and Title 1 Stimulus money is being received.

Expenditures dealing with salaries have balanced. Hiring for the year is about done. Other major expenditures area included cell phone lines. We should see a reduction or reimbursement credit due to E-Rate having kicked in.

Year-to-date revenues are about 1% below budget. We are now receiving Title 1 funding for Special Education on a monthly basis based on the reimbursement system. The paperwork has been a submitted for \$217,000.00 of the Walton Transportation match. The Annual Fundraising campaign should be on target and the \$25,000.00 donation from Michael Morton.

Major cash flow items upcoming include the end-of-year trips. All of the schools are starting to plan for these and the Modular campus bills. A lot of money will be outgoing in the next few months. However, the money from the Stabilization funds will be received to help on these expenses. The ending cash is around \$1.125 million. This is about \$2,500.00 above budget.

After the report, Mr. Zook made a motion to accept the report as presented. This was seconded by Ms. Allen. Unanimous.

V. Executive Team Update and Actions

A. Fundraising Updates

Mrs. Ginny Blankenship reported that she will now start marking the donations as Helena and Blytheville to make it easier to distinguish them.

The Blytheville local council has already come up with the necessary fundraising for this year. It has not been received and an account will be set up for this money.

Mrs. Blankenship reminded the Board of the need for their annual donations.

She has started sending out individualized invitations to donors to help finish the gym and bleachers project. There was \$50,000.00 received from the Faust Foundation in December.

Mrs. Blankenship is also applying for grants from Helena Health Foundation. The overall budget to finish the gym is about \$167,000.00. They will use the competitive bidding process to get the figure down to \$150,000.00. The goal is to try and have the gym completed by graduation on May 20th.

Mrs. Blankenship will submit a grant to the USDA for the expansion of the Elementary school. She is also looking to them for busses at the Blytheville school. She is also working on Congressional Appropriations from Congressman Berry.

She has also submitted a grant to Phillips County Community Foundation to help on the costs of the field lessons. There are also plans to contact the Arkansas Humanities Council and the Black Hall of Fame, Arkansas Black History Commission, and several other places to finish out all field lessons in the works.

There was an application submitted to the Arkansas Community Foundation for \$30,000.00 last week. This is a new grant by the Kellogg Foundation through the Delta Endowment project. This is a program that helps with student and teacher recruitment and advertising, but not salaries or capital campaign.

There is a fundraising being planned for after Graduation. The date and place are being completed. A Commencement speaker has been confirmed and even a possible second speaker.

B. Facilities Update

Mr. Matt Colburn asked the Board for a credit line increase from \$400,000.00 to \$700,000.00 at Southern Bancorp. This is to complete the construction on the Modular facility.

He directed everyone's attention to a letter from the Arkansas Department of Education. The letter asks that school not expend any additional funds above the initial 67% allocated by the Stimulus funds. One third of the funding is on hold for various reasons.

He anticipates that the funds will be released but would like approval for the \$300,000.00 increase to complete the project.

At this time, Mr. Zook made a motion to allow for an additional \$300,000.00 line of credit to finish the Modular campus. This was seconded by Ms. Allen. Unanimous.

VI. Other Topics of Discussion

Dr. Perry and Mr. McGaughey made remarks on their observation of the school. Both were impressed by the school, teachers, and the students.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Zook made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Allen. The meeting ended at 6:20 p.m.

Chalk Mitchell,
Board President

Scott Shirey,
Executive Director