



KIPP DELTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

415 Ohio Street
Helena-West Helena
Arkansas, 72342
Phone: 870.753.9035
Fax: 870.753.9440
www.kippdelta.org

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

Date: March 16, 2010
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: KIPP Delta Public Schools
210 Cherry Street, Helena, AR 72342
Attendance: Chalk Mitchell, Brent Black, Scott Shirey and Randy Zook were present. Chris Allen, Ron Nurnberg, and Mark Nichols attended via conference call. Amanda Johnson, Jemar Tisby, Luke VanDeWalle, Ginny Blankenship, Anika Baltimore, Matthew Colburn, and Maisie Wright were also present. Princess Burnside took notes.

I. Introduction

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

II. Minutes from the February Meeting

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

III. School Reports

A. Elementary Literacy Academy

Mrs. Amanda Johnson reported that there are now 101 students at ELA. The school gained three (3) new students. There has been steady enrollment of around 100 students this year.

On March 4th Mrs. Johnson met with Stephen Epstein, who is the CAO for KIPP Austin. There has been positive feedback. He has been offering advice on leadership in their bimonthly meetings. This has been a help during this first year of ELA.

One of the areas that Mrs. Johnson is focusing on is math instruction. This area needs to increase as the numbers are basically steady and it does not measure up to the Literacy results. Mr. Epstein commented that there needs to be improvement in this area.

Mrs. Johnson is still planning for next year while continuing to improve this year. So far, there have been 33 students signed up for next year. Most of them are kindergarten students. There have been no new teachers hired for next year.

There was a Hearts & History concert on March 6th. It was videotaped by a parent and Mrs. Johnson hopes to have copies for all those interested in one. There was good parent turnout. She is also interested in trying to get the local cable channel to air the concert. There will also be better advertising for the next event.

Mrs. Johnson is also trying to hold more literacy nights. Report card night is March 31st. There is no new data to report. The Standardized Test will be given in April. There will another round of testing in May.

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

B. KIPP Delta College Preparatory

Mr. Jemar Tisby reported that there are 258 students enrolled at the Middle School. Benchmark Madness went well. Over 160 students attended. There was a lot of help from teachers and adults. There was also a survey done for more suggestions and information on next year.

The Middle School completed their fifth practice Benchmark. The next practice will be before Spring Break and the Benchmark will be April 12th and 16th. The last round of testing came with the highest results so far. The goal is for the scores to increase as the test approaches.

The school also offered the SSAT (Secondary Schools Admission Test) to 15 students free of charge. This is the test for admission to boarding and prep schools. Jukurious Davis

has been accepted in the St. Paul school. This is a private boarding school in New Hampshire. He also received a four year scholarship to pay for fees.

Benchmark Test is the biggest challenge. It is thirteen days away. The end of the third quarter is Friday. There will be a District Staff meeting on tomorrow and Spring Break begins on Friday.

The Benchmark results practice results showed the highest level yet for fifth grade Math and Science. There has been intense work done in all areas in preparation for the test.

There are a lot of new teachers this year. Mr. Tisby anticipates a solid showing even if the numbers are not as high as they have been in the past.

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

C. KIPP Delta Collegiate

Mr. Luke VanDeWalle reported that the number of students is now at 152. There were two sisters who left and three new students came in. There have not been a lot of ninth graders lost this year.

There have been some college acceptances at UCA, ASU, and Hendrix College. There was also a student accepted at Henderson State University. There were about 10 students who attended a conference attended by former Secretary of State Madeline Albright.

There were about 41 to 44 people who attended the Academy Day. Grades seven through 11 attended the Academy. Richard Harris went to Vanderbilt and performed his experiment. There were some technical glitches but the experiment was successful.

There was also a KIPP Leadership day held at the High School. There were School Leaders and a CAO from KIPP schools around the country. It went well.

There has been one new teacher hired for next year, Kori Mansfield. One of the biggest challenges for next year is finding and hiring great teachers.

Forty students went to Little Rock for a comedy show, hiking and touring. There were also students who attended Diversity Day at UCA. Some engineering students are also getting ready to race their Electric car in Florida. They hope to get the car up to 60 miles per hour.

Ole Miss and Colby College will also be visiting soon. The Graduation will be May 20th. The speakers will be Governor Mike Beebe and Mike Feinberg. The school has also turned in an application for President Obama to speak. There has not been any word yet.

The academic numbers are low. This is material for the High School to focus on what standards are not being done well and the ability work on them.

The Biology End of Course exam is upcoming. The 11th grade Literacy test has been completed. Mr. VanDeWalle anticipates the proficiency should be above 70%.

There is a cut score from the state that is considered proficient. However, KIPP's cut score is higher than the state's.

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

D. KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory

Ms. Wright gave her report. There are 23 students signed up for KBPS. They are still getting the word out to students. Recruitment is going strong.

There are events being planned for additional recruitment. There will be public recruitment events held at Wal-Mart, Hays Grocery, and local churches. She is also working with the Ministerial Alliance and Southern in Blytheville.

Renovations have started on the building. Work crews are currently working on the electrical, fire alarms and the flooring.

The goal is to recruit approximately 135 students for the first year. Ms. Wright would like to have 5-10 students added each week in April and increase that to 15-20 per week in May.

There are about 225 fourth graders at Central School in Blytheville. So far, all students have come from Central but Ms. Wright does anticipate getting more students from other schools.

The biggest challenge right now is recruiting new teachers. She has spoken to TFA alum and will be traveling to St. Louis to speak with TFA members there, also.

The bulk of the budget and other revenue has been spent on recruiting teachers and students.

The next meeting of Mississippi Development Council is March 29th. On May 8th, there will be Springtime on the Mall in Blytheville. Ms. Wright will use this time for recruitment, also.

She is also working on standards and choosing the curriculum for next year. There may be some Helena students and parents going to Blytheville to help with recruitment.

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-February

Ms. Baltimore started the report with Changes in Fund Balances. The major changes included a \$217,000.00 matching transportation funds check from the Walton Family Foundation. There was also \$100,000.00 received from Charter School Growth Fund.

KIPP received \$24,000.00 from our Federal Earmark funds and \$32,000.00 from the Pathwise Funding for the year. There is a \$410,000.00 cash increase and \$75,000.00 of this was deposited into the money market account from the regular savings account.

There is outgoing money due to the beginning of the Middle School campus construction. The earnings to date amount are \$268,673.00. The February revenue was \$783,852.00. The February expenses were 442,277.00. The total net income for the month of February was \$341,575.00.

The school is 8% above the year to date budget. The year to date revenue is \$4,099,422.00. The year to date expenditures over revenue is about .04% over budget. The projected ending balance is \$1,536,191.00 and the projected ending balance for June is \$1,367,053.00.

Ms. Baltimore is working on the 2010-2011 budget and expects to get this to the Board members in May for final approval in June. Any projected revisions will be due in time for the June approval.

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

V. Executive Team Update and Actions

A. Fundraising Updates

Mrs. Ginny Blankenship presented a plaque for the Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science to the High School. KIPP is now a member of this cooperative. KIPP is one of 8 new schools that will be part of this.

Individual donations are down but grant awards are up. KIPP received \$150,000.00 Implementation Grant from the State for new Blytheville start-up.

There has been some gain in the capital funds campaign for the bleachers in the gym. The bulk of the \$12,000.00 came from the covered walkway at the high school. There was also a \$5,000.00 pledge from the Hargraves family.

It was decided to put plaques on the gym bleachers for families and individuals who donated a certain amount for the bleachers. The school did not receive a \$2,000.00 Women's Fund grant for Girl Scout assistance. There was a \$150,000.00 request to Congressional Appropriations.

Ms. Blankenship has not received any information on the previous grants submitted to the Helena Health Foundation, Arkansas Community Foundation and Phillips County Community Foundation.

The Arkansas Department of Education has agreed to allow some NSLA money to be used for field lessons. Ms. Blankenship has received budgets from all classes except 6, 7, 8 and 9th grades.

KIPP has launched on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn pages. There will also be a newsletter soon. The school will be cutting back on school tours during testing, concerning the interruptions. There may be a monthly open house implemented. The time for tours may also be limited.

There was good feedback from last Tuesday's visit from the Fisher and Walton families. There is a plan for a big fundraiser in Blytheville on June 24th after the grand opening.

The Blytheville year one fundraising goal is \$112,500.00. The school is in good shape without taking on any debt for facilities.

B. Facilities Update

Mr. Matt Colburn reported that there was no facilities update. He did show a photo of the students on groundbreaking day for the new Middle School and High School campus.

The new campus is scheduled to be completed on time and under budget.

VI. Other Topics of Discussion

Mr. Mitchell gave a report on the Board Leadership meeting he had recently attended in Chicago. The meeting was informative and KIPP Delta received good recognition. Richard

Barth spoke during the conference. This is Mr. Mitchell's second time going and he highly recommends other members attending.

There was also a question on the move to add more Board members. Mr. Shirey will be in contact with Mr. Sam Commella. Mr. Mitchell also spoke on the need for a Board Retreat. Mr. Shirey will send an email to Board members and schedule this.

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 6:15 p.m.

Chalk Mitchell,
Board President

Scott Shirey,
Executive Director