



KIPP DELTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Date: April 20, 2010
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: KIPP Delta Public Schools
210 Cherry Street, Helena, AR 72342
Attendance: Chalk Mitchell, Chris Allen, Brent Black, and Scott Shirey were present. Randy Zook, Andre' Valley, Ginny Blankenship attended via conference call. Amanda Johnson, Jemar Tisby, Luke VanDeWalle, 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 March Meeting

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

III. School Reports

A. Elementary Literacy Academy

Mrs. Amanda Johnson reported that there are now 99 students at ELA. Two foster students moved out of the district. There are 50 kindergarten students and 49 first grade students. There has been steady enrollment of around 100 students this year.

The first week of Standardized Testing has been completed. Kindergarteners took the Metropolitan 8 which consisted of five (5) days of sounds, math and print. It was about 15 to 20 minutes every day.

First graders took the Stanford 10 which consisted of testing mathematics, reading comprehension and problem solving. They tested for 2 days for 45 to 50 minutes each day. There was 99.6% attendance on these days. There was one makeup test to do.

Fifty-two students were signed up to participate in the lottery. Most of these are kindergarten spots. There are some signed up for first and second grade next year. There will be a push for student recruitment soon.

Teacher recruitment is a priority right now. There is one Teach for America alum who has applied. Mrs. Johnson will follow-up on this application next week. She will also be following up on other regional applications from prospects. There will be possibly three to four teachers hired for next year.

There will be professional development matters with Dr. Kathy Fosnot, Professor of Childhood Education at the City College in New York. Dr. Fosnot will be helping to improve the ELA mathematics program.

Kathy Richardson has a consultant in Wynne, Arkansas and Mrs. Johnson has contacted her regarding working with ELA. She has been used for upcoming professional development. There will be a full day's workshop on an upcoming Saturday. Mrs. Johnson will decide which weekend soon.

Mrs. Johnson is also looking into the DreamBox Learning tool. This is an online mathematics program for primary grade students. The first graders have been using it since November. The school has been using the program on a trial basis this year and will look at the impact the program has had on student achievement. They will decide if this will be implemented at ELA for use next year.

Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Baltimore are currently working on the 2010-2011 school budget. The budget is based on 150 students.

Linda Farrell and Sue Grisko, reading specialists, will be visiting the school April 21st through April 23. They will lead

professional development sessions, observe teachers, and model reading instruction and provide professional development.

Mrs. Johnson is working on next year with the current team and trying to make the transition smoothly into a new grade. She is looking into the best ways to bring in new team members with the founding teachers.

The report was accepted from the Board.

B. KIPP Delta College Preparatory

Mr. Jemar Tisby reported that there are 260 students enrolled at the Middle School. Ms. Felicity Smith has been hired as the front office manager/receptionist. There has been the final Saturday School for this school year.

Report Card Night was on March 31st. They are using the state reporting system for report cards. This allows for better record keeping and alignment with the state and the high school. The last practice Benchmark test was held. They also made up a “snow day” on April 2nd, Good Friday.

The students are currently taking the Benchmark 2010 exams. The biggest challenge during this week is to foster a culture of “I Can” with all of the students. The qualitative characteristics of focus and effort will largely determine the quantitative outcomes of this assessment. There are 23 Middle School students taking Geometry. There are approximately 60 students taking Algebra.

Moving from the Benchmark, the challenge is to treat the last weeks of this school year as if they are the first weeks of the school year. The seeds of what culture and academics will look like next year are being planted now, and we must be mindful and proactive in the actions. The budget is being worked on with the Finance Department.

The upcoming activities include Benchmark Testing April 12 through 16; Geometry End of Course Testing April 20 and 21; Algebra End of Course Testing April 22 and 23; and Progress Reports and Picture Day April 23rd.

Mr. Tisby directed everyone to the next page, which showed the results of the 2009-2010 practice Benchmark results. Science and Mathematics showed some of the highest results. Fifth and Seventh grades Literacy showed well. The passing grade from Science last year was at 13%. They are trying to get the numbers up from last year. All students are tested.

Two extra homerooms at 5th grade and 8th grade were added this year. This was about 20 students in each grade. The addition of the ELA resulted in changes to Middle School in terms of lunch room and dismissal.

They would like to have about 50 to 60 students at each grade level for next year. There is also a consideration limiting the number of teachers for the purpose of development. This would mean two teachers splitting core subjects. This would also impact the budget and finding where to make cuts. This would enable the aspect of quality over quantity.

There was the question of adhering to the Charter School Growth Fund principle. If KIPP services 70-80% of students, the school would receive funding for these students. This process could take about 2 months to work through and finalize.

There was considerable discussion regarding implementing ways of making sure of quality teachers and how to successfully engage them into the KIPP world. This will be discussed more at the Board Retreat scheduled for Saturday, May 22nd in Little Rock.

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

C. KIPP Delta Collegiate

Mr. Todd Dixon reported for the High School. He reported that the number of students is at 149. There have been more school acceptances. 96% of the senior class has been accepted into four year colleges and universities. There is ongoing work for the last student. One student received a full scholarship to University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. There have also been

acceptances to Arkansas Tech and the University of Central Arkansas, University of Arkansas, Clark-Atlanta, Emory and Notre Dame.

On March 17 and March 18, student advisory leaders visited Christian Brothers High and St. Mary's in Memphis. They observed and participated in classes.

On April 1st and 2nd, teachers from Great Hearts Academy visited to observe classes. Also on April 1st, recruiters from the UofA and Colby visited with students. On April 8th, the Albright essay winners attended a state dinner in Little Rock at the Governor's Mansion. Ninth graders took the SAT 10 state test on April 13th.

On April 17th, engineering students competed in an electric car race in Pensacola, Florida and won. There were many different participants in high school and college level. Also on April 17th, a group of students competed in the state chess tournament. Whitney Honeycutt placed third in a journalism writing workshop recently.

The Geometry End of Course exam started today and will end tomorrow. Algebra End of Course exam will be April 22nd and 23rd and the Biology End of Course exam will be April 27th and 28th. The AP tests will be administered May 3-14.

One of the challenges is for the students to work harder and be nicer. There is work on planning a ninth grade Academy and summer program for next year. This will provide academics and school culture for the incoming ninth graders.

The 1st Quarter and 3rd Quarter GPAs for the high schools are also noted. The senior class has the highest GPA.

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

D. KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory

Ms. Maisie Wright gave her report. There are more than 50 students signed up for KBPS. Ms. Wright would like more students on the list and they are making progress. The most

exciting development in terms of student recruitment is that they have received their first applicants from Osceola. There are currently nine Osceola students signed up. Most of the people have heard about the school in one way or another.

Ms. Linda Smith was offered a teaching position at KIPP Blytheville on March 17th. She accepted the position that evening. Ms. Crystal Felima has also accepted a teaching position. There have also been offers made for the Office Manager position and another teacher.

The biggest challenge facing the school right now is food service. There are several options that Ms. Wright is looking into. One would be using the relationship with Nucor to get food through the same cafeteria provider that they use.

The second option would be getting food through the college. There is a restaurant called "The Outback" that might be able to accommodate service. The third option would be working with several of the local restaurants like Grecian Steak House, Perkins, Blazing Q, and the Sharecropper. There is also the possibility of working with an individual caterer. Conversations have begun with members of the Development Council who have connections to these options.

Transportation is another challenge facing the school. Ms. Wright is in the process of finding bus drivers and making bus routes once she has received the students. She is advertising the positions and working with the Central Office to make sure they are prepared on July 12th.

Teacher recruitment still remains a challenge. She looks to hire one or two more teachers in order to open with 60 to 75 students. There is also the need to offer Special Education Services.

She is looking for individuals within the community with whom she can contract SPED. She has spoken to a SPED teacher at Gosnell who may be willing to commit or could put her in touch with someone to service SPED. This may be part-time or a few hours a day.

Ms. Wright is currently creating the 2010-2011 school year budget.

Upcoming activities include the Student Recruiting Event on April 24th. This will include staff and students from Helena, as well as Board members. Over forty students and staff will board a bus and travel to Blytheville to help with recruitment. There will student recruitment every weekend for the next month or so.

On May 8th, there will be Mayfest. This is a street fair and recruiting opportunity. On May 22nd, there will be the Osceola Music Festival and the Grand Opening will be on June 24th.

Ms. Wright is continuing to work on the KIPP Delta Standards for Middle School, especially for 5th grade. She is also reviewing different curriculums and resources that can be used as resources for classes.

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

IV. Finance Committee Report

A. Expenditure Summary & Cash Flow Analysis-March

Ms. Baltimore started the report with Changes in Fund Balances. The Operating Fund is down this month from last month. We received the \$150,000.00 Federal start-up funds for Blytheville.

The balance sheet shows the operating cash is at \$1.6 million. Some of the changes to the balance sheet reflect that the busses were capitalized and they have now been depreciated. They are now part of the furniture and fixtures. This was decided on in a previous Finance meeting. The current net earnings are \$275,000.00.

The total income for the month was \$520,000.00. The total expenditures were \$513,000.00 and there was a net income of \$6,446.00. There was also a list of the variances for the month.

Pages 22-26 shows that the cash flow is still about 8% above the budget revenue projection and the school is 1% above on

expenditures. Expected upcoming cash flows items are the end-of-year class trips in May and the completion of the Middle School Modular campus. They are reflected in the cash flow. The current end-of-year balance is under \$1.5 million. The budget is being worked on now and should be ready for reviewing during the Board Retreat in May and for approval in June. This includes the Fiscal Policies, as well.

Mr. Zook had a question of whether or not the busses could be moved from Furniture and Fixtures. It would show better in the future when those became assets for the school. Ms. Baltimore said that this could be done.

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 \$9650.00 for the month. \$7000.00 from the Demoret Trust was not included in the report. The check was received in March.

KIPP did receive \$100,000.00 from the Implementation Grant for Blytheville and \$2,500.00 from the Bleacher campaign.

She presented Grant updates. Arkansas Communities Foundation did not award KIPP any monies for the Delta Endowment. Mrs. Blankenship will be attending the conference in Northwest Arkansas next week and will explore more options.

Also, KIPP was turned down by the Phillips County Community Foundation. They have supported the school several times in the past. These would have been funds for the tenth grade trip to Mexico.

The USDA grant will be awarded as soon as the matching funds portion is shown. There are plans to meet with representatives from Helena Health Foundation for monies to help finish the gym.

Mrs. Blankenship received a call from Donna Rice and the HHF would like to take pictures of the gym and some of the students next Wednesday.

She also submitted an application to the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame through the State Community Foundation. She hasn't yet submitted to the Black History Commission. These will be for the same amount of money. There will also be a submission to Entergy for their Community Grant, as well as any other donations for the electric car program.

Mrs. Blankenship will also submit an application to Southwest Power Pool and she has been mapping out the Annual Campaign for 2010-2011. She will email it to Board Members by the end of the month.

Also, invitations to the Graduation have gone out to everyone. Graduation is Thursday, May 20th at Phillips College. She will be reaching out to past donors and inviting them to the Graduation. There are currently 152 Facebook fans and about 75 Twitters followers.

There was an End-of-Year Board Challenge for them to contact as many people as possible who could be added to the database and be sent material on KIPP. Mrs. Blankenship also has a telephone interview with a candidate for the Development Associate position.

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

B. Facilities Update

Mr. Matt Colburn reported that the Middle School project was coming along nicely. The trailers will be delivered this week.

The timeline shows that the completion date has been pushed out to June 18th. This will still allow teachers and staff several weeks to set up classrooms before Summer School begins on July 12th.

Between May 28 and June 18, lots of finishing programs will be going on including a large, multi-school move. The Middle

School will be moving to the High School, the ELA will be moving to the Middle School and the High School will be moving to the Depot.

The final project budget is at \$1.265 million dollars. This is about \$35,000.00 below the project budget and \$135,000.00 less than the total available credit.

Mr. Colburn is ready to close on the financing with Southern Financial. He is waiting on approval from the USDA and Department of Education to incur the additional debt. A portion of these funds will be used for completion of the school but these plans have not been planned out yet.

Mr. Shirey will send an email to the Board when he receives approval from the Board of Education.

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

VI. Other Topics of Discussion

Mr. Shirey spoke on the next Board meeting which is May 22nd in Little Rock or Helena. May 18th should be a live video stream in Little Rock, hosted by Ginny Blankenship. Blytheville will be added soon. There will also be people flying in from KIPP National.

Mr. Black made a motion to move the May 18th Board meeting to May 22nd. This was seconded by Ms. Allen. Unanimous. The Retreat will be held at Mr. Zook's office and his office will take care of the food.

After the report, Mr. Valley made a motion to accept the Executive Director's report. This was seconded by Mr. Black. Unanimous.

Mr. Mitchell directed everyone to the Grant Resolution from the USDA Rural Grant included in the packet. It is for \$50,000.00.

Mr. Zook made a motion to approve the Resolution from the USDA. This was seconded by Ms. Allen. Mr. Mitchell did a roll call vote. Mr. Zook, Mr. Valley, Mr. Black, Ms. Allen, and Mr.

Mitchell voted yes. Mr. Nurnberg and Mr. Nichols were absent. There were no “nay” votes.

The video board conference will be moved to June.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Black made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Valley. The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.

Chalk Mitchell,
Board President

Scott Shirey,
Executive Director