



KIPP DELTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CENTRAL OFFICE

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www.kippdelta.org

KIPP Delta, Inc.

Minutes of the Board of Director's Meeting

Date: January 19, 2010
Time: 5:01 p.m.
Place: KIPP Delta Public Schools
210 Cherry Street, Helena, AR 72342
Attendance: Chris Allen, Chalk Mitchell, Ron Nurnberg, and Brent Black were present. Mark Nichols attended via conference call. Amanda Johnson, Jemar Tisby, Luke VanDeWalle, Ginny Blankenship, Maisie Wright, Anika Baltimore, Matthew Colburn, and Emily Cook were also present. Rhonda St. Columbia was in attendance to present the Great Rivers Promise program from Phillips College to the Board members. Princess Burnside took notes.

I. Introduction

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

II. Minutes from the December Meeting

Mr. Mitchell asked that the minutes from the December meeting be reviewed. After this, Ms. Allen made a motion that the December 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 99 students at ELA. Two students moved from the region and two new students enrolled. There are 50 kindergarteners and 49 first graders.

There was one teacher who tendered resignation. Mrs. Johnson has been in touch with another former teacher, Nick Malinowski, and has offered him the position. He

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will begin on February 1st and he is interested in starting a boys' choir at the school.

There have been more schedule changes. All first grade students are in group time for 1 ½ hours in the afternoon. There are 45 minutes of math instruction and 45 minutes of phonics instruction. There are no more than eight (8) students in a group. Those students reading below grade level are in groups of four and six students.

Linda Farrell met with the teachers before the last week of school at Winter break. They are using her suggestions to help plan the small group time for the students. ELA is in the process of contracting with Ms. Farrell to establish standards for kindergarten and first grade on literacy.

She will also observe teachers to give feedback to them for more effectiveness. She hopes to have the first draft by February 5, with follow-up revisions on March 12.

MAP assessment testing has not been completed. These reports should be ready at the next meeting.

Six (6) ELA students went to the state Capitol and helped lead the Pledge of Allegiance in Little Rock.

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

B. KIPP Delta College Preparatory

Mr. Jemar Tisby reported that enrollment at the Middle School is at 260 students. The Christmas break brought expected number changes. There were six (6) students gained. They are still at or around the number of students budgeted. There were about twelve (12) students who didn't return.

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There were phone calls made to get a reason on the moves. Some moved out of the region. Some did not accept the dress code and the homework assignments.

There was a KIPP Science Retreat held in Denver this past December. Several teachers did attend. There is also a Science Fair planned this Spring between the Elementary and Middle Schools.

The school store has also reopened. There is a teacher who is over this and who is responsible for hiring students to work in the store. This is also giving the students a chance to spend their Delta dollars.

Mr. Tisby and Mr. Morrison have met about having an Activities Fair at the beginning of the school year. This resulted in over 100 students signing up for various activities on Saturdays.

Lots of students are staying for activities after the four o'clock dismissal. There are also lots of bulletin boards around the school. The field lessons are being highlighted. This includes both monthly and end of year trips. The sixth grade is looking to go on a camping trip in either Northwest Arkansas or Oklahoma.

The seventh grade will possibly go to New Orleans or Louisiana and the eighth grade will go on the Southern Civil Rights tour.

The biggest challenge facing the school is preparing for the Benchmark exam. The school is really gearing up and preparing even harder for the upcoming testing. More focus is put on making sure the students are in attendance and understanding their lessons and assignments. Parents are being contacted to let them know what is expected and Report Card night was last week.

Teachers are observing each other and helping others. There are several school visits coming up. Several of

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the staff members will be visiting Great Hearts Academy in Phoenix, Arizona on tomorrow. Mr. Tisby and others are scheduled to visit Sidwell & Friends in Washington, D.C. next week.

MAP testing has begun. Teachers have real-time data with the testing. This information can be used for tutoring and comparison as to how the student did on the test previously.

KIPP is also hosting the county-wide spelling bee on Tuesday, January 26th. There will be a school wide spelling bee next week. The winner from the county spelling bee goes on to the Regional contest.

Benchmark results are attached to the Middle School report. There is room for improvement. There was a switch at fifth grade literacy. There were also high grades in fifth grade math. There was a high score in seventh grade math, also.

The school is pushing hard for better numbers. Mr. Tisby is working on contact and letters along with conferences with parents and guardians. Recruitment is also ongoing. There are letters to parents of students who are in danger of possibility repeating a grade. There is a good team in place for the test and students.

After the report, Mr. Valley 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 the same as before Christmas break, at 156. There have been more college acceptances since the last month. Three (3) students have decided on where they want to go to college. They are now working hard on securing scholarships and other financing. Mr.

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VanDeWalle also included a sheet on the schools of college acceptance.

The journalism class has published its third paper. There have also been representatives from Rhodes College who have met with the students. There are not a lot of college visits coming at this time. AAIMS representatives have visited the school.

The biggest challenge is the same as it has been all year. This is working harder and being nicer. Students are meeting with different grade levels students. Freshmen are meeting with higher level students.

One of the upcoming events is a College Fair with the Helena-West Helena School District. They will be going this coming Friday and Congressman Berry sponsored this event. There is an Academy Day on February 18th. This is sponsored by the United States Military Academies. This has to be sponsored by a US Representative. It will be held in the KIPP gym.

High School Graduation is on Thursday, May 20th. Mr. VanDeWalle is still waiting to hear on the speaker confirmation. The "Alice in Wonderland" play has been moved to the last week in January.

The move to discontinue the grade of "D" is working well. They are seeing progress with students and teachers. There has been a large number of "F's" in the ninth grade. However, the school has not lost any students due to the low grades. Report card night went well.

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

D. KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory

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Ms. Wright gave her report. The grant application has been submitted to the Walton Family Foundation. The \$250,000.00 check was received at the beginning of January.

Ms. Wright has been in Chicago to complete her training with KIPP Foundation. She is also in the process of moving to Blytheville and is there the majority of the time.

She is working on an Implementation Grant with Mrs. Blankenship and Ms. Baltimore. This is for \$450,000.00 that totals \$150,000.00 for the first three (3) years. No teachers have been hired as of yet. However, she is looking at Teach for America prospects, ads in newspapers and people in the community. One candidate will be in town in February. She is speaking to people in Blytheville and Mississippi County for teachers.

There was a Development Council Meeting with leaders in Blytheville about recruitment, facilities, food services and fundraising on yesterday, the 15th. Architect John Mixon was at the meeting and is working closely with representatives from Nucor.

They are working to make renovations to the building and anticipate it being ready on June 24th, the grand opening.

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 \$285,000.00. This includes

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the State payments which have increased after a review from the state on the first quarter ADM-average daily membership.

There was a budget of 500 students but 525 students were submitted. The first quarter average was 533. The payment changed in December to reflect this increase. The change will stay in effect until May 2010. There will be an average payment based on the first three quarterly average numbers.

The restricted revenue balance ended the month at about \$508,000.00. \$79,000.00 of this is from Title 1 funding. These funds will be received monthly. The funds will be reimbursed as they are spent. Reports are being pulled monthly to see expenses and reimbursing from that.

December ended with \$865,000.00 and \$87,000.00 in the Money Market account. The pledges receivable total \$442,000.00. The current liabilities are in a negative position, but they are moving up, to about \$59,000.00. The school took in about \$584,000.00 for December. This includes the change in the State payment of \$78,000.00. There were two (2) Title 1 payments received for Child Nutrition. Donations were approximately \$94,000.00 in December.

There was approximately \$525,000.00 in total expenditures for the month of December. Part of this amount included the interest for a year being paid on the Charter School Growth Fund loan, \$37,500.00. The auditors were paid approximately \$24,000.00. Also, there was incentive pay for the kitchen staff, bus drivers, and other hourly workers over the Christmas break.

On the cash flow, the total revenue was budgeted at \$2,745,866.00. The actual amount has been around \$2,577,523.00. The expenditures were budgeted at \$2,890,645.00. The actual is \$2,858,339.00. This part is doing well. There is a shortfall on the revenue side. The

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year-to-date resulted in a net loss of \$290,000.00. There will be an ending balance of approximately \$865,000.00. After the report, Mr. Black made a motion to accept the report as presented. This was seconded by Mr. Nurnberg. Unanimous.

V. Great Rivers Promise Presentation

Mrs. Rhonda St. Columbia presented information to the Board and free tuition for Phillips County college residents. This is a program through Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas. Students who have attended a Phillips County high school for four (4) years are eligible. The students must have achieved high school attendance and punctuality requirements for their high school, have no drug or DUI offenses and be accepted as a student at PCCUA.

The student must enroll for at least 12 credit hour per semester the first year and 15 credit hours per semester for the second year. They must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA and complete at least 67% of the credit hours attempted each semester. The scholarship is for four (4) semesters during a period not to exceed three (3) calendar years from date of high school graduation. The student must also exhaust all other scholarship and financial aid programs first.

Phillips College is asking for support in surveying the teachers about the Great Promise. The college also asked the Board for a Resolution to support and encourage the college in its endeavor of the program. The college has already raised \$750,000.00 through the Title 3 program and a matching funds grant.

After the presentation, Andre' Valley made a motion that the Board President be given the authority to adopt and sign the Great Promise as presented by Mrs. St. Columbia. This was seconded by Chris Allen. Unanimous.

VI. Executive Team Update and Actions

A. Fundraising Updates

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Mrs. Ginny Blankenship reported that KIPP exceeded the fundraising goal for December. There was a fifty thousand (\$50,000.00) donation from the Faust Foundation. This foundation is based in Massachusetts. This money is being used to help leverage funding for local foundations. This includes projects such as the gym. She directed everyone to the handout in the Board packet.

The Walton Family Foundation funds of \$250,000.00 are not included in the fundraising report.

There was communication from Representative Marion Berry for KIPP to submit a Congressional Appropriations Proposal again this year. She will be working on this for the next several weeks.

There are plans for events and other community events for this year. Mrs. Cunningham and Ms. Allen are helping with these projects. The Spring Gala will be held in Helena sometime in April. No specific date has been set but the speaker will be Mike Feinberg.

The graduation speaker is still waiting to be confirmed. Graduation is May 20th. The opening in Blytheville is June 24. Mrs. Blankenship issued invitations to all present and to meet new team and family members.

The Fall Gala will be held in Little Rock, possibly in November at the Governor's Mansion. No date has been set.

B. Facilities Update

Mr. Matt Colburn reported that there are two (2) design options for the modulars and the Middle School campus. The school is ready to start construction. Construction will still be available for future work.

There will be bathrooms and storage closets linked to every classroom through interior hallways. The original

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construction design is more expensive than the present copy presented in the packet. This leaves little room for improvements down the road and would allow for a more open campus.

This would leave money for landscaping and other amenities for the Middle School. It will be more expensive to heat and cool the modulares than a permanent building. The longevity of the MS school campus is projected at possibly at five to ten years. There would be better lighting and fixtures and the repairs would be less expensive.

The original plans were financed by Stimulus money only. The modified plans would call for shifting \$400,000.00 from the ELA expansion plan to fund for the Middle School. Mr. Colburn is asking for approval to move this money from ELA to the Middle School construction project. The cost of a new campus would be 1.3 million. Some of the costs include disguising the modular part of the building and making them look more permanent.

Using only funds from the Stimulus money would not have a school up to KIPP standards. Shifting money from the ELA project would bring the budget for the MS campus to around \$1.3 million dollars. There would be a longer period of time for raising the money for the \$400,000.00 shift. This would benefit the ELA permanent structure. Expansion is set to begin on the ELA in the Fall of 2011.

The manufacturer is in Texas. It would take about one month to fully install the modulares. Nabholz Construction Company would also be working with the Texas construction team.

There would not be any financing in Blytheville for the campus. The community will be raising these funds. There would also be no financing for the ELA expansion. After further discussion, Mr. Black made a motion that the Executive Director have the authority to move

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\$400,000.00 from the ELA expansion project to cover the costs of the modified plans for the Middle School expansion. This would require \$400,000.00 would need to be financed for the difference at the Elementary school. This is in keeping with the five (5) year growth plan.

There are also plans to move a water line at a cost of between \$50-\$70 thousand dollars. This is something that needs to be done anyway and not just for the expansion of the High School campus.

At this time, Ms. Allen made a motion to accept the report from the Executive Director. This was seconded by Mr. Zook. Unanimous.

C. Board Resolution to join AAIMS

Mr. VanDeWalle explained that this is a resolution asking that KIPP join this effort to pay students to get good grades and teachers to join in this effort.

Mr. Zook made a motion to join. This was seconded by Mr. Black. Unanimous.

D. Race to the Top MOU

The Board passed a Resolution that KIPP Delta Public Schools join the state sponsored Race to the Top. It is already in place and it would allow KIPP to get state money to help in this effort.

Mr. Nurnberg made a motion for the President to sign the Resolution. This was seconded by Ms. Allen. Unanimous.

VI. Other Topics of Discussion

There were no other topics for discussion.

VII. Adjournment

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There being no further business, Ms. Allen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mr.

Nurnberg. The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.

Chalk Mitchell,
Board President

Scott Shirey,
Executive Director

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