



**KIPP ACADEMY LYNN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AND  
KIPP ACADEMY BOSTON PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
September 25, 2020 | 9:00 a.m.**

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of **KIPP ACADEMY LYNN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL and KIPP ACADEMY BOSTON PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL** (collectively, the “Schools”), a body politic and corporate created and existing under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 89, convened at 9:00 a.m. on September 25, 2020 via Zoom, held remotely in compliance with Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, at which a quorum of the Trustees was present. The following Trustees were noted present by roll call: Amanda Seider, Shenkiat Lim, Michael Kendall, Doug Borchard, Tom Beecher, Luis Gondelles, Ivelisse Gonzalez, Jennifer Davis, David Daniel, Shellina Semexant, Rhonda Nikki Barnes, Stephanie Oliveras, and Matt Fates

The following Trustees were absent: Paul Ketterer

Additional participants: Annabelle Feliz, Laurie Kennedy, Lovette Curry, Stephen Pizzimenti, Coretta Martin, and Meg Smith

Seider called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and presided throughout the meeting. Coretta Martin kept the minutes of the meeting. Seider ascertained that sufficient Trustees were present at the meeting, and that, accordingly, a quorum existed.

After welcoming the Trustees who were present at the meeting, Seider then presented the agenda as follows: (1) Welcome and Introductions; (2) Safe and Strong Start Updates; (3) Board of Trustee Updates; (4) Closing

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Seider welcomed all participants to the meeting. Barnes then acknowledged the KIPP MA staff members joining the board and showed gratitude for all participants in their support of the start of the school year. Martin then led the board in an icebreaker in breakout spaces where participants shared their responses to the prompt, “Who was your favorite teacher and why?”.

**2. Safe and Strong Start: Update**

Barnes updated the board on KIPP MA’s Safe and Strong Start and provided an update on how the launch of the school year throughout the virtual launch. Barnes shared family survey data



naming that 89% of parents said they felt strong communication over the summer. Additionally, at least 85% of students received Chromebooks before the first day of school. Each school met daily attendance goals with over 85% in-seat attendance in the first two weeks of school with attendance improving daily.

Barnes names the highest attendance day as Wednesday, 9/16 and the lowest attendance day as Monday, 9/14 which was an asynchronous learning day. Assignment completion has increased for grades 5-8 as the school year has progressed with grades 5, 6, 7 and 12 having 100% assignment participation. Over 90% of elementary students logged into Epic Books to access an online book library. Over 96% of 3rd and 4th graders logged into Freckle & 90% of K, 1, and 2 logged into ST Math.

Barnes shares that as a region there is a large amount of communication with families. Over 888 family communications were made and tracked in Dean's List, one of the region's student information systems. Additionally, the region set up a family hotline where 156 of calls (17.6%) marked complete, 44 (4.9%) were marked as not reached, and 688 (77.5%) left "unknown". Barnes discusses how the region will react to the data in the coming week to provide status updates on the communications marked as "unknown".

Barnes shares the Guiding Principles and Values that are leading the team as they make decisions for re-opening in October. The Guiding Principles and Values are: (1) Prioritize student and staff safety above everything else; (2) Ensure students have a robust, healing centered learning experience whether they are learning on campus or on Canvas; (3) Lead to a predictable and consistent experience for families and staff so people can plan their lives; (4) Be adaptable and nimble so that we can change as the virus changes; (5) Consider equity, our history and BIPOC, the data on the ground, and the creativity and resilience of our communities

Barnes explains that these Guiding Principles lead the team to the creation of a phased re-entry plan and the school is currently in Phase One. The initial phase (Phase 1) has all students starting remotely on a platform called Canvas. All students have a Chromebook provided with breakfast and lunch available for pickup on a weekly basis.

Barnes explains a Criteria for Hybrid Readiness in Boston and that based on the "Green" indicator the virus spread meets the criteria for re-opening. She names that the operational structures, materials and procedures to safely run a hybrid program will include transportation, meals, safety, HVAC, nurses, and PPE. When these items and structures are in place the region will be prepared to open. Additionally, the staff and structures must be in place to ensure the schools meet the needs of students who return to campus and those who remain remote. She names that in order to open there must also be a sufficient number of families and students who want to experience hybrid.



Barnes explains the Boston current week percent positive is 3.85% which is “green” or less than 4 percent. She explains that KIPP MA takes the neighborhood rate for our top 5 represented communities and develop a weighted average for our school community rate. This data is based on the Boston Public Health Commission data which is significantly different than the MA state health department data which has Boston at a rate of 7.9%. Lynn’s current week percent positive however is 11.3 percent. Based on this information and the need to use the most conservative data, the decision has been made that the Boston and Lynn COVID-19 data does not meet our criteria for hybrid learning and schools will remain remote through October.

Barnes explains that the KIPP Massachusetts team will continue to upgrade and prepare for in-person learning by purchasing thousands of reusable masks for students and staff, purchasing specialty PPE for staff and nurses who may be in close contact with students, desk shields, and upgraded touchless devices such as water fountains, urinals, sinks, toilets, temperature kiosks, and hand sanitizer stations.

Curry explains that transportation has not yet become available for the schools. Transportation may begin on October 1, 2020 through Boston Public Schools however, BPS will not accommodate any schedule changes this school year. Additionally, there will be strict restrictions on mileage and requirements for student safety. Curry names that students must wear masks on the bus and there will only be one student per bench unless students are coming from the same household. There will be a maximum capacity is 23 students on the large bus noting the old maximum was about 60-70 students. Alternative Requests will likely be denied if a parent wants child to be picked up or dropped off at an alternative location and MBTA Waivers will be denied if a parent is asking for student to ride yellow bus instead of the MBTA for older grades.

Curry explained that the Operations Team will verify the mileage for all students and follow up with families who do not meet the updated mileage requirement. Once they have final information from BPS, they will send families all information from BPS on the transportation guidelines. This communication will take place via the family counsel, working groups, letters from the principals, and during the re-entry meetings.

Barnes explains that the mid-point decision date is October 1<sup>st</sup> where the team will decide if they are planning to reopen in November. The final decision day will be October 29<sup>th</sup> with an in-person start date of October 29, 2020.

**3. Board of Trustee Updates**



Seider announces that longtime member Joel Abramson has decided to resign from the KIPP MA Board of Trustees. Seider shares that Joel decided to focus his efforts on other great causes in the Lynn community and that she is thankful for all the work he has done for KIPP MA over the years. Seider names that this resignation leaves an opening for a new secretary and reviews the current roles within the Board and the plan to formally vote on roles in the next meeting. Fates encourages Board members to reach out to him with interest in the Secretary role in addition to the role of Chair for the Teaching & Learning committee.

#### 4. **Closing**

Seider thanks the KIPP MA team and Board of Trustees for their hard work and engagement during an unprecedented reopening. She encourages the team to stay connected and encouraged as they move forward together. Seider reviews the upcoming meeting dates and adjourns the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 am.

List of Documents Used at the Meeting ***(These documents must be retained by the public body, but do not need to be physically stored with the meeting minutes.)***

- 2020.09.25 KIPP MA Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda
- 2020.09.25 Board Retreat PPT

*Amanda Seider*

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[Board Secretary]