



KWAME NKURUMAH ACADEMY

314 West 108th Street, Chicago, IL 60628

Phone: 773.568. 8000/Fax: 773-568-8749

**Minutes for the Kwame Nkrumah Board of Directors held Thursday, March 22, 2018.
2:00 PM**

Present

Dr. Iva Carruthers, Dr. Charlotte Blackman, Dr. Carol Edwards, Ms. Tobia Thurman, Ms. Sydneye Wilson, Principal Ericka Williams, Assistant Principal Mahari Anderson, Accountant Takeisha Strong, David Ireland and Alvin Boutte from Schoolmates, NFP

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Carruthers at 2:02 PM.

Accountant's Report

Sydneye Wilson, Treasurer introduced our new Accountant Ms. Takeisha Strong. She indicated that she had met with our former Accountant and is constant communication with our Treasurer. She has submitted the Financial Remediation Report.

Move to affirm that the Kwame Nkrumah Board of Directors has received the Financial Remediation Report.

Motion received and affirmed.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the December 22, 2017 meeting were approved as presented.

Meeting with Schoolmates, NFP

The Board met with Mr. Alvin Boutte and David Ireland to discuss the possibility of Schoolmates, NFP providing technical assistance as KNA mitigates the issues we face managing the remediation process and the financial crisis that we face. Our conversation centered initially around the following areas:

- What is CPS's role around the school closure process?
- What are the options for KNA to become part of the state's charter school renewal process?
- How does KNA navigate the political landscape of CPS vs. Non-CPS entity?

- Considering our financial situation, how do we conduct conversations with the Loan Funder?
- Are you able to bring clarity around issues related to Special Education funding?
- What happens if benchmarks are not attainable?

Mr. Boutte has reviewed crucial documents giving a snapshot about KNA. It is believed that Schoolmates, NFP can provide the technical assistance needed to facilitate the turn-around process and reverse the financial situation. The process will begin with identifying ways to increase financial streams and developing a marketing program to increase enrollment. KNA does have a “good name” on the street. The Principal will have to do her due diligence in disaggregating the test data and compare it to other schools in the immediate area.

Schoolmates will forward a contract for review to facilitate an immediate start date for Schoolmates to begin work.

KNA Board Expansion

As KNA continues through this “turn-around” process, we must broaden our base of support which includes but is not limited to increasing membership of the Board. Principal Ericka will set up a meeting with Willie Wilson and each Board member is asked to identify one person who may be considered as a candidate to join KNA Board of Directors.

Principal’s Report

The Principal submitted a written report. That report is attached to the minutes. She has asked the Board to grant permission to establish a petty cash fund for the school.

Motion

The Board moves to establish a “Petty Cash Fund” for the school.

Motion Accepted and Approved.

Move to Adjourn, 4:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

**Carol G. Edwards
Secretary**