



**KWAME NKURUMAH ACADEMY**

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**Special Call Meeting of the Kwame Nkrumah Board of Directors  
Thursday, August 31, 2018 at Kwame Nkrumah Academy  
10:00AM**

**Present**

Dr. Charlotte Blackman, Dr. Iva Carruthers, Dr. Carol Edwards, Ms. Tobia Thurman, Ms. Sydneey Wilson

**Others Present**

Mr. Alvin Boutte, Jr., Mr. David Ireland from Schoolmates  
Mrs. Zabrina Evans and Mrs. Jennifer Saba from Department of Innovation & Incubation-Chicago Public Schools

**No Public Response**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair.

**Accountability Update**

Mrs. Jennifer Saba presented from the printed distributed report the findings related to the CPS Fiscal Performance and Accountability Report. KNA has submitted a Financial Remediation Plan and is expected to remedy the deficiencies within a five-year period.

Mrs. Zabrina Evans presented from the printed distributed information outlining the Charter School Quality Policy and its implication for KNA's academic standing. The final results for FY17/18 will be available sometime in October. When reports are finalized CPS will conduct a meeting with KNA to discuss final review of data collected for the FY17/18 school year.

These reports are filed with the minutes.

Based on the findings of the preliminary report resulting from the visit to review progress in KNA's implementation of its Academic Remediation Plan, there was a general discussion around how KNA might better share data and information which gives a more accurate statement of what is being done to implement the remediation plan. More specifically, how does KNA show its best face? The Board and principal will work to better develop and refine this process.

## Schoolmates Report

### **David Ireland and Alvin Boutte report:**

Schoolmates continues to focus on increasing student enrollment. It uses various means of social media and application to attract potential students. Flyers have been distributed throughout the community and KNA will have a booth at this year's African Fest to be held in Washington Park August 31 through September 3 in the Children's Pavilion.

Schoolmates has been instrumental in getting 10 computers to begin the process of setting up a computer lab that is not relying the use of Chromebooks. In addition, David has begun creating a framework for developing a 5-year Technology Plan.

In the interim, it is necessary to purchase 5 Mac Books for administrative use. They will be purchased from Title II funds and the lap tops will be identified as KNA property bought with Title II funds.

Moving to identify additional sources of income for KNA, Schoolmates is recommending that KNA lease for 6 months space to **Yes Scholars**, an organization which trains scholars in grades 6-9 to take high stake exams as preparation for applying to Boarding Schools. They will implement the program on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to Noon. The rental for this trial period will be \$1000 per month and also include the cost for security when they are on the premises.

### **Motion**

The Kwame Board of Directors moves to accept the recommendation to lease office space for 6 months to **Yes Scholars** for the purpose of implementing a test taking preparation program. **Yes Scholars** will pay to KNA monthly \$1000 plus the cost of security services.

### **Motion Approved**

## Principal's Report

The Principal submitted a written report which will be filed with the minutes. It summarized the status of building operations and professional development. KNA received a gift of 24 pairs of Michael Jordan gym shoes from Jordan Employee Corbin Thomas. Baba Danridge, the Physical Education Teacher will organize distribution of the shoes. Principal Williams is requesting that KNA charge a student fee for children at KNA. The fee will be \$40.00 for the first child in a family and \$20.00 for each additional child. Waivers would be given for special hardship cases and STLS students. This money would be used to offset the cost of supplies and equipment that students use.

### **Motion**

The Kwame Board of Directors moves to approve the practice of instituting the collection of an Annual Student Fee of \$40.00 for the first student in a family and \$20.00 for each additional student. Waivers may be given to special hardship cases with appropriate proof and STLS students.

### **Motion Approved**

The Principal is implementing a new cell phone policy for students. Each teacher will receive a lock box for storing student phones. Students will turn in their phones each day to the teacher for safe keeping. If there is need for a student to contact a parent, he/she will be given permission to call from the office. Parents will be asked to contact students via the office if that is necessary during school hours.

### **Old Business**

The Chair proposes a change the Kwame Nkrumah By-Laws – Article 3 Section 3.

The current article, section reads that the Kwame Board of Directors will be composed of 15 members.....

The proposed change will read.... The Kwame Board of Directors will be composed of a minimum of 7 members and not to exceed 12 members.

### **Motion**

**On this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August 2018, The Kwame Nkrumah Board of Directors moves to change the composition of the Kwame Nkrumah Board of Directors. The Kwame Nkrumah Board of Directors will be composed of a minimum of 7 members and will not exceed 12 members.**

### **Motion Approved.**

### **New Business**

Given all the variables that exists when serving a student population living in an impoverished community, KNA still must demonstrate improved student achievement. The Board Chair is asking for Schoolmates, our business partner, to identify an evaluator that can develop an evaluation matrix that will allows us to analyze and disaggregate student achievement data in a manner that guides discussions in a manner that better articulates student achievement for the student population we serve.

Move to Adjourn  
12:00 PM

The next Board meeting is October 10, 2018 at 4:00 PM at Kwame Nkrumah Academy in the Media Room.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carol G. Edwards, Ed. D  
Secretary