



KIPP NEW ORLEANS BOARD VOTES TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS TO RETURN

KIPP RENAISSANCE HIGH SCHOOL TO LOCAL OVERSIGHT

NEW ORLEANS – (Feb. 19, 2016) – Yesterday, the KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS) Board of Directors voted unanimously to begin negotiations with the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) to transfer one of its charter schools, KIPP Renaissance High School, to OPSB oversight beginning in the 2016-17 school year. KNOS joins the New Beginnings Schools Foundation in electing to pursue transfer to local oversight during the 2016 transfer period. Friends of King Schools previously transferred the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School to OPSB oversight in July, 2015.

“We believe that a unified, locally governed system of education will benefit students and the entire New Orleans community. Although this vote does not guarantee return, it affirms our commitment to engage in good faith conversations that would result in OPSB governance of KIPP Renaissance High School. This decision does not diminish the autonomy of KIPP New Orleans Schools or change the day-to-day work of KIPP Renaissance High School’s staff and students. It is, however, an important step toward building a unified system of public education. We look forward to working with the OPSB and RSD leadership during this potential transition,” said Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise, KIPP New Orleans Schools Chief Executive Officer.

OPSB Superintendent Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr., said: “We commend the scholars and staff of KIPP Renaissance High School on their academic success, and we look forward to working in partnership with the KIPP New Orleans Schools governing board and administration in the coming weeks regarding the potential return of the school to local oversight. We are grateful for the KNOS board’s confidence in our efforts to build an exemplary, student-centered district that values school autonomy. We remain committed to working in partnership with all education stakeholders to build a unified, locally-accountable system of autonomous public schools.”

RSD Superintendent Patrick Dobard said: "Congratulations to KIPP Renaissance High School’s students, teachers and leaders on their progress. As KIPP New Orleans Schools and OPSB prepare to enter conversations, I am committed to collaborating closely with their leadership teams to ensure any



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transition is successful for KIPP Renaissance High students and families. As always, I will continue to work with OPSB and our school partners so that all schools city-wide continue to provide excellent service to our children in Orleans Parish."

KIPP Renaissance High School (KRHS) opened in 2010 to offer students a path to and through college. In 2015, KRHS seniors earned over \$4 million in academic scholarships, and the school earned a 'B' letter grade, earning recognition as the state's top gainer in school performance scores. KRHS offers a challenging curriculum, including Honors, Advanced Placement and early college courses, and a full complement of traditional student activities, including boys' and girls' athletics, band, and student clubs. KRHS is one of ten open-enrollment public schools operated by KIPP New Orleans Schools, and as part of the Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP) is committed to preparing students for success in college and in life.

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