



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 4, 2015

**Kira Orange Jones picks up two major endorsements**

Former U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu and New Orleans City Councilmember-At-Large Jason Williams endorse Kira Orange Jones for District 2 seat on Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

“Kira Orange Jones is a great education leader for our region and state because she keeps her focus on what is best for each and every child,” said Former U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu. “As a former teacher and current non-profit leader she brings an important perspective to BESE. Our schools are improving significantly because of her leadership.”

Kira has emphasized academic improvement for all children and her efforts on BESE have been particularly focused on improvements for African Americans. In New Orleans, historically one of the lowest performing districts, African American students have shown steady progress.

“Education is critical for the youth of our city, especially young black men. Providing them with a great education will open new opportunities, changing their lives and our community,” said Councilmember-At-Large Jason Williams. “Kira has worked on BESE to get us moving in the right direction. In New Orleans the black male graduation rate is now above state and national averages and suspensions and expulsions are down, but there is a lot more to be done and we need Kira to continue fighting for us on BESE.”

First elected to BESE in 2011, Kira earned a Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University and a master's degree in education from Harvard. She started with Teach for America as a 4th grade teacher in Baton Rouge and now serves as its Executive Director.

BESE District 2 includes the east and west banks of New Orleans, the West Bank of Jefferson, and St. Charles, St. John, St. James and Assumption parishes. The primary will be Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015.

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