

# MEETING MINUTES

## Board of Trustees Meeting

Date: May 20, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.

### **Attendees:**

Josh Charpentier (Board Member), In-person  
Mike Balaschi (Assistant Director), In-person  
Anre Dowell (Board Member), In-person  
Mindy Savage (Board Member), In-person  
Adam Earle (Board Member), Zoom  
Rachel Babcock (Board Member), Zoom  
Liza Veto (Board Member), Zoom  
Steve Sell (Assistant Director), Zoom  
Ryan McLaughlin (Special Education Coordinator), Zoom

### **Absent:**

Kerin McGue  
Derek Paiva

#### **1. Call to Order/Attendance**

##### **a. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

#### **2. Consent Agenda**

##### **a. March 18, 2024 Board Minutes**

Liza Veto instructed that minutes should identify Board Members for future meetings.

##### **b. Finance Reports**

Josh Charpentier reported that the financial status had remained as had been expected in February and March.

**c. Co-directors Report**

**i. Enrollment Update – Fall 2024 & Pre-Enrollment/Waitlist Report**

Rachel Babcock informed attendees that the school is fully enrolled and had a healthy waitlist. Every staff member who had been invited back for 2025 had decided to stay. She also expressed her admiration for the new hires. Rachel Babcock commented that the hiring process was in progress as they continue to recruit for additional potential hires. She also expressed her enthusiasm as they had a World Language (Spanish) teacher for the first time.

Liza Veto announced that a student had been awarded the O-STEAM fellowship to be at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution for a weeklong program in Summer 2024. She complimented the support provided by Map in these types of pursuits.

Josh Charpentier reported they had had a very positive visit by Deputy Commissioner Regina Robinson and two other staff members of the MA DESE Charter School Office the previous week. It had been a non-evaluative visit and she had expressed being quite impressed with the work of Map Academy.

Liza Veto called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Adam Earle moved to approve and Rachel Babcock seconded the motion.

For	Against
Adam Earle	
Rachel Babcock	
Josh Charpentier	
Anre Dowell	
Mindy Savage	
Liza Veto	

The motion was unanimously approved.

## **New Business**

### **a. Discussion: June 2024 Graduations**

Rachel Babcock informed the meeting that they had added a second June Graduation due to the cohort size. She explained that the potential cohort was close to 40 and that June was historically the largest. Going forward, if the cohort exceeded 25, another ceremony would be scheduled for the evening of the next or previous day.

### **b. Discussion & Vote: 2023-2028 Accountability Plan**

Josh Charpentier explained that, as a Commonwealth Charter School, the school had the ability to create their own Accountability Plan. While the traditional metrics for everything that the state used to score and rate schools were still being put into account, they were allowed to create their own plan to show what type of school Map Academy is.

He added that in 2018 Map Academy had created a new mechanism for accountability purposes for alternative schools where, instead of rating students based on their grade level, students were grouped in terms of their corresponding engagement phase for accountability purposes. The Co-founders had created the rubric which was based on students' attendance, engagement behaviors, academic skill, and outside barriers to success along with other metrics to determine a student's engagement phase.

In 2018, Map Academy was the only alternative school using this type of accountability metric. In 2023, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts determined that every alternative charter school in the state would need to begin to use this kind of accountability reporting.

The categories were "minimally connected", "partially connected", and "connected". The accountability for the school was based on goals that were tied to the student's phase. Map Academy Co-founders were happy to report that almost all of the data reporting for the accountability plan could be conducted within FileMaker, the data system they created from the ground up.

Liza Veto commended that Map Academy was leading the way in terms of accountability. She highlighted the synchronicity between Rachel Babcock's and Josh Charpentier's professional goals with which the Board evaluated them. She also indicated that they could use the tools they already had to evaluate their performance as leaders.

Liza Veto explained that this plan and how Map performed on this plan was a key data point in the charter renewal process. Therefore, an added benefit of making sure that the measures were representative of Map's hard work. Rachel Babcock acknowledged that the plan was the result of six years' work.

Josh Charpentier highlighted that DESE had been very involved in the creation of the Accountability Plan and had already provisionally approved it, so the plan already had preliminary departmental approval.

Liza Veto called for a motion to approve the 2023-2028 Accountability Plan. Adam Earle moved to approve and Josh Charpentier seconded it.

For	Against
Mindy Savage Anre Dowell Josh Charpentier Rachel Babcock Adam Earle Liza Veto	

The motion was unanimously approved.

**c. Discussion: Student Data Board Reporting Update**

Josh Charpentier explained that for the last few meetings they had presented a new item on the Board Data Report. The new item for this report was a students' performance item related to credits earned. He pointed out that the peaks coincided with the elective courses and the data would continue to be disaggregated on future additions to this report.

Rachel Babcock reminded the meeting that the core academics at Map were self-paced. In addition, they had quarterly options for students to engage in wellness, elective, and other career-based opportunities which allowed them to gain credits. She added that the chronic absentee rate had decreased by about 7% and daily attendance had commensurately increased. Josh Charpentier highlighted the effect staff outreach had had in improving these figures.

**d. Discussion: Preview of July 29, 2024 Meeting**

- i. Annual Report Vote**
- ii. Student Handbook Vote**
- iii. Potential Lease Amendment**

Rachel Babcock indicated that the Co-directors would present the Annual Report to the Board at the upcoming July 29, 2024 meeting. Additionally, the revised Student Handbook would be submitted for a vote, in accordance with new regulations – particularly Title 9.

Liza Veto requested that Board Members inform the Co-directors or herself if they were unable to attend the meeting either virtually or in-person due to the importance of the meeting.

**3. Old Business**

**a. Discussion: Potential Expansion**

Rachel Babcock provided an update indicating that conversations regarding the plans to acquire additional space via expansion of the building were currently in progress. The landlord has expressed a strong commitment to expanding the space to accommodate an increased student body and additional staff members to cater to their needs. The Co-directors are hopeful for a lease amendment to be voted on at an upcoming meeting with a more concrete timeline for the expansion.

**b. Discussion: Comments & Announcements**

Josh Charpentier announced that they had submitted two proposals to present at the National Charter Schools Conference, both of which had been rejected.

**4. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

- a. Monday, July 29, 2024
- b. Monday, September 16, 2024
- c. Monday, October 21, 2024
- d. Graduation – Monday, June 17, 2024, at 6 p.m.
- e. Graduation – Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 4 p.m.
- f. Graduation – Wednesday, October 30, 2024

**5. Adjournment**

Rachel Babcock moved to adjourn the meeting and Josh Charpentier seconded it.

For	Against
Mindy Savage Anre Dowell Adam Earle Rachel Babcock Josh Charpentier Liza Veto	

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 pm.