

MEETING MINUTES

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date: July 29, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Josh Charpentier (Board Member), In-person

Mindy Savage (Board Member), In-person

Mike Balaschi (Assistant Director), In-person

Derek Paiva (Board Member), Zoom

Rachel Babcock (Board Member), Zoom at Map Academy

Liza Veto (Board Member), Zoom

Adam Earle (Board Member), Zoom

Absent:

- 1. Call to Order/Attendance**
 - a. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

- 2. Consent Agenda**
 - a. May 20, 2024 Board Minutes**
 - b. Finance Reports**

Josh Charpentier reported that there was nothing out of the ordinary to report and the finance reports for April and May and that he and AAF CPAs were working hard to get June closed for the EOY audit prep. He added that he did not anticipate any accrual issues with the end-of-year matters as he and AAF CPA have already cross referenced the accruals.

Adam Earle joined the meeting.

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

Josh Charpentier highlighted that they had 219 graduates to date and had set a record this year with the number of graduates in a single year.

Liza Veto mentioned that Map remained fully enrolled with a waitlist. She expressed her enthusiasm about the high number of student participation in Youthworks, even during the summer.

Liza Veto called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Josh Charpentier moved to approve, and Derek Paiva seconded the motion.

For	Against
Mindy Savage	
Josh Charpentier	
Rachel Babcock	
Derek Paiva	
Adam Earle	
Liza Veto	

The motion was unanimously approved.

3. New Business

a. Discussion: Financial Disclosure Form

Liza Veto informed the meeting that all board members for Commonwealth charter schools had to do a financial disclosure every year. She explained that they should have received an email from DESE sent to their Map email. Rachel Babcock reassured them that they would receive an automated email if they were yet to complete the form, until it was completed.

Liza Veto reminded attendees that the form was due by September 1st.

b. Discussion & Vote: SOA Plan

Josh Charpentier explained that the Student Opportunity Act was a piece of legislation that was primarily targeted to traditional school districts when it came to an allocation of funding. However, Map Academy still had to create an SOA Plan, as did every school in Massachusetts.

Josh went on to explain that traditional school districts received an allocation of funds for the Student Opportunity Act, but charter schools did not receive a specific allocation of funds. Therefore, their plan did not have specific funds tied to it. Following DESE's recommendation, they obtained another grant with funds tied to it, linked it back to the SOA, and provided evidence based practices on already established school practices.

As part of their evidence-based program, which aligned with the SOA Plan and was a key commitment for Map, they focused on preparing students for life after high school by creating pathways. They utilized their allocation of funds for innovative career pathways, for the SOA Plan. Josh Charpentier emphasized that this decision was made in accordance with the advice from DESE.

Liza Veto thanked the team for their work on the plan.

Liza Veto called for a motion to approve the SOA Plan for submission to DESE. Rachel Babcock moved to approve. Mindy Savage seconded it.

For	Against
Adam Earle Derek Paiva Rachel Babcock Josh Charpentier Mindy Savage Liza Veto	

The motion was unanimously approved.

c. Discussion & Vote: 2023-2024 Annual Report

Liza Veto reminded the meeting that, among other things, the annual reports signified key pieces of evidence in the charter renewal process.

Map had created alternative accountability measures to more accurately reflect the performance of Map students. Liza Veto highlighted that there were numerous 'mets' on the list, and Rachel Babcock noted that there was only one 'non-met'. This indicated that the school is performing quite well, so she congratulated the team.

Liza Veto added that traditionally, alternative schools had a reputation of setting low accountability measures, but Map Academy's high targets were evident throughout the report. Rachel Babcock added that while the aim for the one missed target was that 90% of partially connected and connected students enrolled for at least 70% of the school year, and would complete at least one career development opportunity, they had already started planning to ensure this would not reoccur.

Mike Balaschi commended the Youthworks students for their active participation and accountability. He emphasized the positive impact of Youthworks on their academic engagement.

Josh Charpentier applauded the staff for their belief that the school climate and the relationship between staff members and their leader were at the 99th percentile. Liza Veto also celebrated the fact that they had received a 100% response rate on the survey.

Rachel Babcock shared that this data directly informed Map Academy's planning for 2025 and the ongoing work to continue improving their outcomes.

Liza Veto called for a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Annual Report for submission to DESE. Derek Paiva moved to approve, and Josh Charpentier seconded it.

For	Against
Adam Earle Derek Paiva Rachel Babcock	

Mindy Savage	
Josh Charpentier	
Liza Veto	

The motion was unanimously approved.

d. Discussion & Vote: Student Handbook Update

Rachel Babcock explained that the student handbook reflected the values of Map Academy as well as the law and DESE regulations. Although the values of Map Academy remain constant from year to year, the laws and regulations change in various ways. Therefore, they would vote on the updated version of the Student & Family Handbook 2024-2025.

She clarified that there were no changes pertaining to its mission alignment with Map Academy. The only changes were in the review of the school attorney as well as changes in language according to the Federal and State laws/regulations.

Rachel Babcock mentioned that Congress had recently passed new legislation on Title 9, which was still being reviewed by the courts. Additionally, the school’s counsel had not finalized its documentation regarding a Title 9 grievance and appeal process. She mentioned that they planned to provide additional information in August/September, but their legal counsel had advised that the current information is sufficient.

Rachel Babcock requested a vote on the updated handbook to facilitate distribution and uploading to the website with further changes being only counsel recommended changes to the Title IX policy. These additions would be voted on separately at a later date once counsel sends them.

Liza Veto moved to approve the updated Student & Family Handbook 2024-2025. Derek Paiva seconded it.

For	Against
Adam Earle	
Mindy Savage	
Josh Charpentier	
Derek Paiva	
Rachel Babcock	
Liza Veto	

The motion was unanimously approved.

e. Discussion: Innovation Career Pathways and Youthworks

Rachel Babcock explained that Youthworks’ funding came from the State legislature through Commonwealth Corporation. Map Academy had a school year Youthworks grant

which allowed for participation from 37 students. These students had received a remuneration of \$17 per hour to do career exploration and job readiness training.

She updated that Map had applied for that funding for the upcoming school year and had been approved, receiving another \$86,000 in Youthworks funding. The Youthworks programming for the school year would continue with a group of students in the fall and spring. Additionally, a second level of programming would be offered to students who had completed the first level. This would involve more targeted career training and exploration, and is currently being developed for a subset of students to further enhance their learning.

Rachel Babcock reported that she had applied for funding for summer 2024 but had not been approved. However, they had decided to self-fund the summer Youthworks to maintain momentum as the program was quite popular. The 48-hour program would cost approximately \$8,000 for the 15 students participating. By the end of the summer, she shared that 52 students would have participated in Youthworks in its first year.

Liza Veto inquired whether a higher budget would lead to increased student participation in the program. Rachel Babcock responded that they did not think the budget was a limiting factor, as they had the appropriate number of participants based on operational, logistical, and staffing considerations. She also mentioned that career partners and internship opportunities were still accessible to students irrespective of their involvement in the Youthworks program.

4. Old Business

a. Discussion: Potential Expansion

Rachel Babcock updated that leadership is actively working on a plan to get more space as the school needs more physical space to accommodate the number of students. Leadership is hopeful to have more information on this at the September meeting.

b. Discussion: LMS Development Update

Josh Charpentier noted that they still aimed to create a new learning management system specific to Map Academy. The Co-directors reached out to a couple of potential funders before they started researching how they could self-fund it.

He reported that the Co-directors had attended an edtech developer conference and met with Compro Technologies. They are working to get a quote from them. Rachel Babcock added that Compro Technologies had a modular system, which could mean they might not need to build the system from scratch.

c. Discussion: Comments & Announcements

Rachel Babcock shared that they had 10 team members at the Charter Conference and had received positive feedback. She announced that they had submitted two proposals to present at the National Charter Schools Conference, both of which had been rejected.

5. Upcoming Meeting Dates

- a. Monday, September 16, 2024
- b. Monday, October 21, 2024
- c. Graduation – Wednesday, October 30, 2024

6. Adjournment

Josh Charpentier moved to adjourn the meeting. Mindy Savage seconded it.

For	Against
Adam Earle	
Derek Paiva	
Rachel Babcock	
Josh Charpentier	
Mindy Savage	
Liza Veto	

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.