

MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting

Date: May 19, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid – 11 Resnik Rd. Plymouth & Zoom Virtual

Attendees:

Liza Veto, (Board Member), Zoom

Rachel Babcock, (Board Member), at Map Academy

Mindy Savage (Board Member), Zoom

Shaun Adamec (Guest), Zoom

Adam Earle (Board Member), Zoom

Josh Charpentier (Board Member), In-person

Mike Balaschi (Assistant Director), In-person

Steve Sell (Assistant Director) – Zoom

1. Call to Order/Attendance

Liza Veto called the meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves. Liza Veto acknowledged guest Shaun Adamec and attendees introduced themselves.

a. Public Comment

Rachel Babcock confirmed that there were no public commenters present.

2. Consent Agenda

a. Finance Reports

Josh Charpentier confirmed there was nothing out of the ordinary in the financial statements for March and February.

b. Co-directors Report

Rachel Babcock highlighted new partnerships, including one with Harvard Medical School's Medical Science program, which provides hands-on biomedical classes that have already begun, with positive results. She also noted grant applications linked to STEM programming, including the Mass Life Sciences and Toshiba Foundation grants. She described continued success with Bridgewater State University, with seven dual enrollment course completions in the spring, up from three in the fall, and noted further STEM engagement, including a recent on-site watershed lab.

Liza Veto noted the significance of such partnerships for a smaller school and said it was exciting to see these experiential learning opportunities. She also highlighted staffing stability, noting no resignations and the hiring of a second post-secondary pathways specialist. Rachel Babcock acknowledged Steve Sell for his leadership in many of these initiatives. Steve Sell added that such programs were not only educational but

helped students explore career pathways and were often initiated by positive impressions that Map students made on external partners.

i. Enrollment Update

Josh Charpentier noted that enrollment remained full and noted that Map Academy will pass 250 graduates after the June graduations. Rachel Babcock added that they anticipated a large graduating class and were actively enrolling new students for fall. This would be the first year without planned growth as the school reached its maximum enrollment per its charter during year 7 of operations (24-25), but due to the number of graduates, many new students were still expected, keeping Mike Balaschi busy with enrollment logistics.

Josh Charpentier moved to approve the consent agenda. Adam Earle seconded.

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

The consent agenda was unanimously approved.

3. New Business

a. June 17, 2025 – 2nd Graduation Ceremony

Rachel Babcock stated that this would be the second year of holding two June graduation ceremonies due to a graduating class of approximately 30-35 students, which exceeded capacity for a single event under the school's personalized graduation ceremony format. She noted that the second ceremony had been scheduled for Tuesday, June 17th, 2025 at 6:00 PM at Hotel 1620, in addition to the previously scheduled ceremony on Wednesday, June 18th, 2025 at 4:00 PM at the same venue. Rachel Babcock stated that the structure of both events would remain identical and confirmed that this update was for board awareness, especially since many members typically attend.

b. Current Capital Plan amendment (facility) and establishment of new Capital Plan (software infrastructure)

Liza Veto stated that the next agenda item regarding the Capital Plan amendment would be postponed to the July meeting as the school was still awaiting essential information.

c. 25-26 Calendar & change of March 2026 graduation date

Rachel Babcock explained that the school would hold its first-ever April graduation on April 1st, 2026 due to a conflict with the state's MCAS testing schedule. Graduation had initially been planned for March 25th, 2026, but this was an MCAS administration day. She stated that the change required approval because it would alter the master school calendar by designating April 1st, 2026 as a no-school day for students.

Mindy Savage proposed the motion to approve the revised 2025-26 calendar. Adam Earle seconded.

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

d. Catchment Area Analysis Data Presentation

Liza Veto introduced the next agenda item, a data review aligned with one of the board’s annual goals – conducting quarterly reviews of Map Academy data. She explained the presentation would focus on the school’s catchment area and student geography, the first such review since the school’s charter renewal and catchment area expansion in 2023. Rachel Babcock added that the review was particularly relevant due to the legal requirement that no more than 20% of the student body come from outside the approved charter region catchment area. She noted that while Map remained fully enrolled, more students were joining from outside the designated region, making this review timely as the school may eventually need to expand the catchment area again.

Josh Charpentier reported that Map had served 361 unique students in the current school year as of March 3rd, 2025, including current enrollees, transfers, graduates, and withdrawals. He noted that students came from 40 different cities and towns, with the furthest being Milton (north), Falmouth (south), Chatham (east), and Fall River (west). He clarified that the blue-shaded region on the map represented the current catchment area, including Plymouth, Wareham, Middleborough, Pembroke, Kingston, Halifax, Plympton, Carver, Bourne, and Marshfield. Josh Charpentier confirmed Plymouth remained the highest source of students (125), followed by Wareham, with Middleborough, Pembroke, and Kingston also growing steadily.

Rachel Babcock clarified for the record that the inclusion of Plympton and Halifax was due to the expansion to the Silver Lake district, which includes those towns along with Kingston.

Josh Charpentier stated that students from non-catchment areas were grouped into three categories: those from communities with over five students, between two to four students, and single-student communities. He noted that New Bedford, Falmouth, and Brockton each had more than five students attending Map Academy. Josh Charpentier reiterated that Map is an open lottery school with only two eligibility criteria: completion or attempted completion of eighth grade, and Massachusetts residency. While the school prioritizes students from within the catchment area and siblings of current students, Josh Charpentier emphasized Map’s mission to avoid long waitlists and to serve at-risk students promptly. He highlighted that Map had reached 78% enrollment from within the catchment area, just under the statutory 80% requirement, and stated that further catchment expansion was under consideration.

Rachel Babcock explained that expanding the catchment area promoted equitable access to Map’s lottery, as only catchment-area residents qualify for preference after siblings. She noted that many of the newly added towns were contiguous and that offering transportation improved students’ chances of attending. Rachel Babcock emphasized that this system helped shorten the time students spent on waitlists. She pointed out that Falmouth, Fall River, and Brockton – towns not contiguous to Map – were disproportionately represented among non-catchment students, unlike nearby towns, which might draw

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fewer students due to socioeconomic factors. Josh Charpentier added that the current percentage reflected progress, as it had been between 72% and 74% when the catchment area was first expanded.

Mindy Savage asked for confirmation that transportation was provided to catchment-area students. Rachel Babcock confirmed this, and Josh Charpentier elaborated that while some schools may list many towns without offering transport, Map provided it deliberately and thoughtfully. Josh Charpentier noted that although Map was not legally required to provide transport, Plymouth Public Schools handled transport for Plymouth residents, and Map chose to extend regional transportation to other areas.

Rachel Babcock stated that Map had voluntarily offered regional transportation since its founding, starting with Wareham and Carver. She added that this was the second year of regional transport for the expanded catchment, which had been going well. She explained that the current analysis would guide future expansion decisions by identifying logical areas to extend transportation. Rachel Babcock confirmed that the current transportation provider was on a three-year contract which would continue through the following year.

Mike Balaschi noted that students were traveling significant distances to access Map transportation, citing examples of students from the Cape boarding buses in Bourne, and others from Taunton and Brockton boarding in Pembroke, Middleborough, or Carver, including students from Rochester boarding in Wareham.

Liza Veto asked whether students from the Cape were using Cape Transit to reach the Bourne bus stop. Mike Balaschi clarified that most students were driven by parents to the Bourne Bridge. Josh Charpentier noted that despite this support, the commute from Bourne remained lengthy given Map Academy's northern Plymouth location. Mike Balaschi added that families were typically relieved to only have to travel to Bourne rather than further north to north Plymouth.

Rachel Babcock commented that this situation underscored both the lack of other educational options and the strength of Map Academy's model, highlighting how students and families who did not find success in their traditional school were now willing to travel significant distances. Josh Charpentier proposed the possibility of running a new bus from the Cape to meet an existing route in Bourne, explaining that 89% of transportation costs were reimbursed by the state. Rachel Babcock supported this idea and suggested a similar approach for the western region near New Bedford, citing high student need.

Josh Charpentier clarified that the transportation plan could include transfers rather than direct routes, which would not be unusual. Mindy Savage asked whether expanding transportation to non-catchment areas would affect the required 80% in-region enrollment ratio. Rachel Babcock confirmed that transportation expansion would be coupled with a formal amendment to the charter, ensuring alignment. She explained that such amendments would be discussed during Map's charter renewal process in about a year, during which the school would work with the charter office, notify relevant towns, and undergo public hearing processes if necessary. Rachel Babcock recalled that no towns objected during the previous expansion and expressed confidence in continued local support.

Liza Veto asked if there were additional questions. Josh Charpentier confirmed that the discussion was for information only and did not require a vote. Liza Veto and Josh Charpentier reflected on the notable distances students traveled, with Liza Veto observing that many passed multiple schools en route. Rachel Babcock agreed and remarked that some students waited long periods for enrollment, reinforcing Map's unique appeal. Josh Charpentier clarified that some distant placements were due to DCF-involved students being housed in areas like Fall River or New Bedford, with a legal right to remain enrolled at Map. Rachel Babcock added that many of these students had previously lived in closer areas like Wareham but were displaced by housing challenges. She emphasized that Map's charter structure allowed these families to maintain continuity of education despite relocating.

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Mindy Savage asked whether priority for enrollment was based on catchment, confirming her understanding that siblings received priority, followed by catchment-area students, and then others. Rachel Babcock confirmed that the lottery prioritized siblings of currently enrolled students regardless of residence, then catchment-area residents, followed by non-residents as space allowed. She added that the waitlist could include catchment-area students depending on availability and time of year, noting that there were currently about 40 students on the waitlist, with nearly half from within the catchment. She clarified that once enrolled, students could remain at Map Academy even if they moved outside the catchment unless they were unenrolled, in which case they had to re-enter the lottery process.

e. New board member candidates

Liza Veto stated that there were two candidates, one of whom, Shaun Adamec, was present. She noted that Derek Paiva, Josh Charpentier, and Rachel Babcock, had already met with both candidates. Liza Veto invited Josh Charpentier and Rachel Babcock to formally introduce them.

Josh Charpentier stated that Shaun Adamec had supported Map Academy since before it was chartered, having assisted in drafting the original application in 2016. He stated that Shaun had remained connected throughout the years and praised his professional background in communications and policy. Rachel Babcock added that Shaun also brought nonprofit and political experience. Josh Charpentier invited Shaun to introduce himself.

Shaun Adamec stated that he was the owner of Adamec Communications, working entirely in the social sector with nonprofits, foundations, and advocacy groups. He stated that he helped clients craft messages to engage audiences in actions such as supporting policies, donating, or volunteering. He noted that he previously worked in campaigns but now focused on causes, although he was being drawn back into political work. He said that he lived and worked in Ashland, Massachusetts, and spent part of the year in Wareham, where he had a campsite. He added that he was a father of three boys and coached soccer.

Liza Veto welcomed Shaun, stating that she had worked with him in a previous role and valued his ability to help communicate complex ideas effectively. She noted his political experience and its relevance to Map's goals, such as expanding the catchment area.

Rachel Babcock then introduced the second candidate, Aja Isaacson. She stated that Aja was a Map Academy alumna and would be the first alumni board member if approved. Rachel Babcock recalled meeting Aja during her time in her former high school district, noting that her early school experience had been challenging until she joined Map's founding cohort. Rachel Babcock stated that Aja graduated in 2019, earned her associate's degrees in Natural Science and then Nursing, and had just started a new nursing job. Rachel Babcock noted that Aja had long advocated for others, beginning with a wellness project at Map that involved training as a victim witness advocate. She added that Aja had continued in that role, eventually becoming a supervisor and trainer. Rachel Babcock expressed pride in Aja's accomplishments and confidence in the value she would bring to the board. She noted that Aja would watch the recording and receive a shout-out from the team.

Liza Veto stated that, echoing Steve Sell's earlier comments, Aja Isaacson would bring a unique perspective by connecting her learning at Map Academy to her career path, which most people had not experienced in such a direct way. She emphasized her excitement for the insight Aja would contribute. Rachel Babcock agreed. Rachel Babcock moved that Map Academy pursue the appointment of both candidates to the board of trustees, and Mindy Savage seconded the motion.

For	Against
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Liza Veto Adam Earle Mindy Savage Rachel Babcock Josh Charpentier	
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Liza Veto welcomed Shaun and Aja and thanked them for their willingness to serve.

Rachel Babcock noted that she would follow up with the procedural steps, explaining that the board vote was only the first stage. She would submit a letter to the commissioner, who officially approves board appointments, and that the process would begin in the upcoming week.

f. Preview of July 28, 2025 meeting

Josh Charpentier added that the July meeting would include a vote on the student handbook, noting that the legal updates in the handbook were typically recommended by the school's attorney. He stated the meeting would also cover the co-directors' mid-cycle evaluation and the capital plan discussion and vote.

i. Annual Report

Josh Charpentier noted the importance of the July meeting due to the required board vote on the annual report. He asked members to notify Liza Veto and himself of any conflicts with that date to ensure a quorum.

1. Board Service Planning

Josh Charpentier noted that Liza Veto would be reaching out to members about service planning. Liza Veto confirmed that she would contact board members between Memorial Day and early July to discuss officer roles or committee involvement, and that the timing of the July meeting could be adjusted to maximize participation.

ii. FY26 Board meeting calendar

Josh Charpentier noted that the July board meeting would also discuss the 2026 board meeting calendar.

iii. Student Handbook vote

Josh Charpentier said that the July board meeting would also discuss the student handbook vote. He noted that this is usually related to legal items recommended for addition to the handbook by the school's attorney.

iv. Co-director Mid-cycle Evaluation

Josh Charpentier noted that the co-director mid-cycle evaluation was coming up.

4. Old Business

a. Final DESE Site Visit Report

Liza Veto provided an update on the DESE site visit, stating that the visit had taken place in January, and she, Adam Earle, and Mindy Savage had participated in a board focus group. She reported that the school had received 'meets expectations' ratings in areas including Mission and Key Design Elements, Access and Equity and Governance. She noted that the only area rated as 'partially meets' was Program Delivery, specifically Instruction. Liza Veto stated that she, Josh Charpentier, and Rachel Babcock had been frustrated by that rating as the feedback reflected a misunderstanding of Map's model. She explained that

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observers had viewed studios as separate from classrooms and seemingly did not fully capture the nuances of the flexible instructional schedule.

Liza Veto noted that Josh Charpentier and Rachel Babcock had submitted a thoughtful written response to the department clarifying these points. The department declined to revise the rating but did include the response in the final report. She stated that the team decided not to escalate the matter with DESE for now but planned to engage in more proactive education with the Department ahead of the next charter renewal.

Rachel Babcock affirmed this plan and stated that past site visits involving DESE-contracted consultants had shown similar misunderstandings, unlike visits with Department staff. She stated that though the visit itself was pleasant, the final report revealed assumptions based on limited observations that did not accurately or fully reflect Map's instructional model. She concluded that this was a key area for improvement to ensure future evaluations were grounded in a full understanding of the school's approach.

Josh Charpentier agreed with the previous points and highlighted that several criteria had been intentionally excluded from the report's evaluation, including dissemination, school climate and culture, school leadership capacity, and finance, all of which had already been assessed and validated in earlier reviews. He noted that criterion 6 also contained two sub-bullets that were not rated. Josh Charpentier encouraged members to read the three-page written response to DESE that he, Rachel Babcock, and Liza Veto had prepared. Liza Veto pointed out that the board received a 'meets expectations' score for Governance, which represented progress from previous assessments. She acknowledged the collective contributions of board members, including the formation of the finance committee, and thanked Adam Earle and Mindy Savage for their participation in the focus group. Josh Charpentier and Rachel Babcock agreed.

b. Building update

Rachel Babcock provided brief updates on two ongoing projects. Regarding the building expansion, she stated that work remained in the landlord's hands, with current efforts focused on adjusting the expanded building footprint relative to zoning setbacks and wetlands within the industrial park. While the wetland alignment seemed acceptable, the setback facing the residential area needed further review. She expected that the updated plans would go before the town in the summer and reiterated that Map would not incur lease charges until the space was ready for use. She noted that an updated lease would be presented for board approval as soon as possible, potentially in July.

c. LMS contract update

Rachel Babcock reported on the Learning Management System (LMS) project. She stated that Map's legal team and the vendors' attorneys had been exchanging drafts of the contract and that she and Josh Charpentier remained hopeful it would be finalized by the end of May. She added that the board had previously authorized them to negotiate the terms, allocated a budget for \$1.3mil, and that recent discussions had focused on intellectual property. Rachel Babcock expressed confidence in the agreement's strength and clarity and anticipated presenting it to the board in July.

5. Upcoming meeting dates

a. Monday, July 28, 2025

Liza Veto said that the July 28 meeting had already been mentioned. She commented that the meeting would be open and that Shaun and Aja were welcome to attend.

b. Finance Subcommittee Meeting: June 3, 2025 @ 9 am

Liza Veto mentioned the finance subcommittee meeting on June 3. She commented that the meeting would be open and that Shaun and Aja were welcome to attend.

c. Graduation – Tuesday, June 17, 2025 @ 6 pm (Hotel 1620)

Liza Veto said that she would probably attend the Tuesday, June 17 graduation.

d. Graduation – Wednesday, June 18, 2025 @ 4 pm (Hotel 1620)

Liza Veto reminded members of the second option for graduation on Wednesday, June 18.

6. Comments & Announcements

a. New Commissioner

Liza Veto announced that Pedro Martinez, formerly of Chicago Public Schools, had been appointed as the new Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education and would begin on July 1.

7. Adjournment

Josh Charpentier moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mindy Savage seconded.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 5:00 p.m.

Document List:

- May 19, 2025 Agenda
- May 19, 2025 Co-Directors Report
- March 11, 2025 Financial Committee Minutes
- March 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- Charter School Capital Plan Law
- FY25 Enrollment and Catchment Area Analysis Presentation
- MACS Y7 Site Visit Final Report
- February 2025 Financial Statements
- March 2025 Financial Statements

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- Updated 25-26 School Calendar