

MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting

Date: July 27, 2026 – 3:30 p.m.

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

Attendees:

Liza Veto, (Chair), Zoom

Rachel Babcock, (Co-Director & Board Member), In-person at Map Academy

Mindy Savage (Board Member), Zoom

Adam Earle (Treasurer), Zoom

Josh Charpentier (Co-Director & Board Member), In-person at Map Academy

Mike Balaschi (Assistant Director), In-person at Map Academy

Steve Sell (Assistant Director), In-person at Map Academy

Anre Dowell (Board Member), not present at roll call, joined later

Shaun Adamec (Board Member), not present at roll call, joined later

Absent

Aja Isaacson

Kerin McGue

1. Call to Order/Attendance

Liza Veto called the meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves. She advised that additional board Members would join later. She welcomed Assistant Directors Mike Balaschi and Steve Sell as non-board members, and called the meeting to order at **3:34 PM**.

a. Public Comment

Josh Charpentier confirmed that there were no public comments.

2. Consent Agenda 1

a. FY27 Contract & MOU Approvals

Liza Veto explained that all vendors except the auditor were returning vendors with substantially similar scopes of work, that Map had been pleased with their performance, and that the new auditor had already been discussed at the May board and finance committee meetings. Josh Charpentier confirmed this. Liza Veto asked whether anyone had questions. Adam Earle moved approval, Rachel Babcock seconded, and the board approved the consent agenda unanimously.

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

Consent Agenda 1 was unanimously approved.

3. Consent Agenda 2

a. April, May and June 2026 Finance Reports

Liza Veto presented the second consent agenda containing the April, May and June finance reports, May 4th finance committee meeting minutes, May 18th board meeting minutes, June 2nd finance committee meeting minutes, and the board meeting calendar for the upcoming year. She stated that Josh Charpentier would later provide a highlighted update on the end-of-year finances and that the Executive Session would cover the finance committee matters. She noted that no significant concerns had been raised about the proposed meeting dates for the board meeting calendar. While individual members could not attend every meeting, overall there were no issues with the dates. Liza Veto asked whether anyone had questions and Josh Charpentier replied that there were none. Adam Earle moved approval, Mindy Savage seconded, and the board approved the Consent Agenda 2 unanimously.

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

4. Old Business

a. None

5. New Business

a. Discussion & Vote: 26-27 Student Handbook

Liza Veto introduced the discussion and vote on the 2026–2027 Student and Family Handbook and stated that legal counsel had reviewed it and that only legally required updates had been made. Rachel Babcock confirmed this, explained that the handbook had been reorganized, formatting had been improved, the wellness policy had been moved to the website, and updates to separate policies on medication, restraint and CORI would be presented at future meetings. She added that the

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bullying plan had received the greatest revisions and reminded the board that the handbook had to be distributed to new and returning families with a digital signature page at the beginning of the school year. Liza Veto asked whether anyone had questions. Adam Earle moved approval, Mindy Savage seconded, and the board approved the handbook unanimously.

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

b. Discussion & Vote: Annual Report

Liza Veto introduced the annual report and explained that all charter schools submitted it annually to DESE to report academic, financial and governance performance and that it formed part of the charter renewal process as a progress measure used by DESE. Josh Charpentier stated that instead of reviewing the full 39-page report, he and Rachel Babcock had prepared a highlights presentation containing the most important and relevant information for the board.

Rachel Babcock stated that the annual report was the most important board document because it provided a one-stop overview of the school's yearly status. Josh Charpentier stated that the report contained good news and explained that he and Rachel Babcock would present the highlights. Rachel Babcock explained that DESE provided the annual report template and that the presentation focused on the new developments and data rather than the full report. She stated that Map had opened a fourth learning studio in year eight while remaining within the 300-student cap because it had a strong team and enough teachers. She explained that the new studio had been created for the oldest students who were furthest from graduation, many of whom were over 20, parenting and/or working, so they could receive immediate support when they are able to be in the building. She stressed the importance for these students to meet somebody immediately as they were most likely to leave again due to anxiety or the extent of pressures on their time. She reported that the new studio had been successful and would continue next year.

Rachel Babcock stated that student retention had reached its highest level at 93.4%, compared with 91.7% previously and above the charter goal of 80%. She explained that additional bilingual staff, Cartwheel for individual counselling and Reads Collaborative family case management had supported student engagement. Liza Veto observed that this achievement was particularly commendable because Map served students with a history of leaving other schools. If they left Map, they would likely not move onto another school but leave education entirely because they needed to and not because they wanted to. Rachel Babcock agreed and explained that keeping students connected gave them a better chance of succeeding and that the fourth learning studio had strengthened retention. She added that Mike Balaschi had led the work successfully.

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Rachel Babcock reported that BSU dual enrolment had more than doubled from nine to 20 course completions with an increase in transportation to campus from two to four days a week. She stated that career pathways had expanded, with 25 students completing the first tier of YouthWorks, 18 completing internships and the Wayfinding Team returning to full capacity after maternity leave. She noted that the school's accountability classification remained Focused/Targeted Support because of low graduation and low MCAS participation rates for certain subgroups, although these traditional measures reflected the nature of an alternative school. She added that MCAS scores dipped overall across the state after the November 2024 vote, which removed MCAS as a graduation requirement. The Grade 9 passing rate remained 100%, the dropout rate had fallen from 7.6% to 4.3%, course completion had a lot of work invested and had increased from 76.4% to 85%, all career and graduate measures had improved and were met, and school climate remained in the 99th percentile amongst student, staff and parent surveys. Rachel Babcock stated that the only measure not achieved was NWEA math, which improved from 66% to 70% but remained below the 80% target although a lot of work had gone into it. She explained that math gaps were the most difficult for students returning after long periods away from school as it was most difficult to catch up. This will be discussed in more detail at another meeting in the future.

Josh Charpentier reported that the FY27 budget included an additional \$300,000 in unbudgeted revenue because conservative budgeting had continued. He explained that the capital plan had been updated to reflect a more imminent building purchase within two to three years with approximately \$430,000 already set aside, and noted that the current annual lease cost was approximately \$574,000, which was relevant for the discussion on purchasing the building. He added that DESE independently assessed the school's financial health and that Map continued to receive strong financial ratings.

Josh Charpentier explained that DESE's financial indicators showed almost all green ratings, with the moderate-risk years reflecting the impact of COVID funding before finances stabilized in FY23, FY24 and FY25. He stated that the indicators confirmed the school's strong financial position. Josh Charpentier noted that Anre Dowell had joined the meeting. He reported that FY26 had been another year of conservative budgeting, producing additional unexpected income and a projected net income of approximately \$842,000. He explained that about \$250,000 was expected to be transferred to the capital account in December, increasing it to approximately \$685,000. He added that the school held approximately \$3.6 million in cash and investments and total assets of approximately \$6.8 million. He explained that GradPath appeared on the balance sheet as a capitalized asset because it would eventually become a revenue source.

Rachel Babcock clarified that GradPath expenditures would end after one more year while the asset would remain capitalized. Josh Charpentier agreed that the expense would stop but explained that the asset would remain on the balance sheet and be depreciated. He added that \$7.5 million tuition made up 88% of the revenue and personnel costs remained at approximately 64% as budgeted and concluded that FY26 had ended with a healthy surplus and net income while FY27 would begin with approximately \$300,000 more revenue than budgeted. Rachel Babcock announced that Shaun Adamec had joined the meeting. Josh Charpentier reported that personnel costs held at 64%, which was as they had budgeted and that overall, FY26 had ended with a healthy surplus and net income and that they were going into FY27 with approximately \$300,000 more than budgeted. He further reported that the board had completed its eighth consecutive year without any complaints reaching the board and explained that the school worked hard to resolve issues at school level before they reached the board.

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Rachel Babcock added that the school had no conditions on its charter, had never been required by DESE to report on charter conditions and concluded that the annual report reflected another strong year. Liza Veto thanked Josh Charpentier and Rachel Babcock for the overview, encouraged board members to read the report and highlighted that Map continued leading alternative education by holding itself accountable through measures appropriate to its environment. Liza Veto asked whether any board members had questions. Josh Charpentier explained that the vote was to approve submission of the annual report to DESE. As no questions were raised, Adam Earle moved approval, Mindy Savage and Shaun Adamec seconded, and the board unanimously approved submission of the annual report.

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

6. Executive Session

a. Building Purchase

Rachel Babcock informed the board that three guests, Bill Kingdon, Mike Sweet and Andrew Loin, had joined the meeting. Liza Veto invited the guests to introduce themselves. Bill Kingdon stated that he was Director of Commercial Brokerage at Ellis Realty Advisors. Mike Sweet stated that he was a lawyer with Bulkey, Richardson, and Gelinas, based in Springfield who had worked with Map from the beginning and introduced his colleague Andrew Loin, who confirmed that he had been assisting with the project. Rachel Babcock informed the meeting that they would vote to enter the Executive Session and advised that the purpose of the Executive Session should be recorded in the minutes. Rachel Babcock explained that separate confidential minutes would be taken and released two years after completion of the project because the discussion concerned the acquisition of real estate. Liza Veto stated that it was to discuss a real estate project, requested a motion to enter Executive Session, and following a motion moved by Adam Earle, seconded by Rachel Babcock, and a roll-call vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

For	Against

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Liza Veto	
Adam Earle	
Mindy Savage	
Rachel Babcock	
Shaun Adamec	
Josh Charpentier	
Anre Dowell	

7. Upcoming meeting dates.

- a. **Monday, September 14, 2026 @ 4:00**
- b. **Monday, October 19, 2026 @ 4:00**

8. Comments & Announcements

9. Adjournment

The Board returned from Executive Session and Liza Veto thanked everyone for the work completed during the summer meeting and invited a motion to adjourn. Adam Earle moved the motion, Mindy Savage seconded it, and all members voted in favor. Rachel Babcock thanked Mike Sweet, Andrew Loin and Bill Kingdon in his absence for their support, Mike Sweet thanked the board and stated that he looked forward to seeing everyone again.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting closed at **5:10 p.m.**

Document List:

- July 27, 2026 Agenda
- Consent Agenda #1: FY27 Contract & MOU Approvals
- April - June Finance Reports
- May 4 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
- May 18 Board Meeting Minutes
- June 2 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

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- FY27 Board Meeting Calendar
- 26-27 Map Academy Student Handbook
- 25-26 Annual Report
- 25-26 Annual Report Highlights Presentation
- Executive Session Materials