Reaching for a New Bar

Annual Report 2010

District of Columbia Public Charter School Board
Members of the D.C. Public Charter School Board:
from left: Don Soifer, Sara Mead, Brian Jones (Chair), Skip McKoy (Vice Chair), Emily Bloomfield, Darren Woodruff, Josephine Baker (Ex-officio & Secretary), Will Marshall

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The Board’s **mission** is to provide quality public school options for D.C. students, families and communities through:

- A comprehensive application review process;
- Effective oversight;
- Meaningful support; and,
- Active engagement of its stakeholders.

The Board’s **vision** is to lead the transformation of public education in D.C. and serve as a national role model for charter school authorizing and accountability.
Message from Board Chair
Brian Jones
Reaching for a New Bar

The past year has been an exciting and challenging year of transition for the PCSB and the charter sector generally. For the Board, we bid farewell to two friends and colleagues, and to a legendary leader. Dora Marcus and Chairman Tom Nida both left the Board this year.

For the charter sector at large, we enjoyed the continued encouragement and support of the Obama Administration, working with the Mayor’s Office, OSSE and DCPS to submit a lauded application for federal Race to the Top funds. However, we have also heeded the call to raise the bar on charter school performance, resulting in the closure of some low performing charters. While closing a school—even a low performing one—is difficult for all involved, at the end of the day my colleagues and I on the PCSB are committed to ensuring that District families find high quality educational choices among all of the city’s charter schools.

Our former chair Tom Nida led an era of tremendous charter school growth and innovation, which was the catalyst for the reform efforts in the traditional public school system. Dr. Marcus, the board’s longest-serving member, contributed her considerable insights on school performance and evaluation, and served as the board’s Vice Chair during the latter part of her eight years of service. The two helped establish the board and D.C. as a national model for high quality charter authorizing, school choice and accountability.

With a critical mass of charter schools serving more than 28,000 students, nearly 40% of the city’s public education population, we now turn our attention to ensuring that every charter school is high-performing, all schools are aggressively moving students to proficiency in core subjects and those schools that do not have the capacity to do so are closed. This year, we will use the results of our new Performance Management Framework (PMF) to assist with those determinations. Looking at standardized measures of success across all schools, we will be able to identify which schools are high-performing, mediocre and low-performing. We look forward to sharing our findings, and the appropriate rewards and consequences with our stakeholders.

As we advance our mission to provide high quality public school options for D.C. residents, we look forward to continued service as partners and contributors in the citywide effort to make Washington D.C. a place rich in innovative, diverse, high-quality educational options for all students.

Brian W. Jones, J.D.
BRIAN W. JONES, J.D., CHAIR
President, Latimer Education
Mr. Jones leads Latimer Education Inc., a for-profit education company which is developing an online university for African Americans. Mr. Jones was previously senior counsel in the Postsecondary Education Practice Group at Dow Lohnes PLLC, a Washington, D.C.-based law firm. He has also held the positions of executive vice president and general counsel of College Loan Corporation (CLC) and the U.S. Department of Education’s General Counsel.

JOHN “SKIP” MCKOY, VICE CHAIR
Director of Programmatic Initiatives, Fight for Children
Mr. McKoy works with local stakeholders to develop strategies for improving opportunities for underserved students. Prior to this role, he has held executive positions at the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation, DC Agenda, Lockheed Martin, and in the D.C. Government. Mr. McKoy has served as a board member of the Public Education Partnership Fund, the Humanities Council, and NPower for Greater D.C. Region.

EMILY BLOOMFIELD
Senior Policy Advisor, Stand for Children
Ms. Bloomfield is responsible for continually updating Stand for Children staff and field organizers on effective strategies in education reform and explaining key developments in national and state education policies. Prior to this role, Bloomfield was elected a member of the Board of Education in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) in California, and served as Vice-President and President of the Board.

WILL MARSHALL
President and Founder, Progressive Policy Institute
Mr. Marshall is president of the Progressive Policy Institute (PPI), a center for political innovation in Washington, D.C. He is a founder of the Democratic Leadership Council, and has worked on Capitol Hill, in political campaigns and in journalism. Marshall sits on the boards of the National Endowment for Democracy and Truman Democrats for National Security, and is honorary Vice-President of Policy Network, an international think tank launched by Tony Blair.

SARA MEAD
Senior Research Fellow, New America Foundation
Ms. Mead conducts research and writes about early childhood, elementary and secondary education with a particular focus on state and federal policy issues, including preschool, PreK–3rd education reform, the No Child Left Behind Act, federal education funding, charter schools and public school choice.

DON SOIFER
Co-founder and Executive Vice President, Lexington Institute
Mr. Soifer has published numerous articles and papers on education policy, accountability and assessments, higher education finance, closing achievement gaps for English language learners, and special education, in many of the nation’s most influential publications. His research has been widely cited by education policymakers and scholars. He runs the Virginia Charter School Resource Center.

DARREN WOODRUFF, Ph.D.
Principal Research Analyst, American Institutes for Research
For more than ten years, Dr. Woodruff has worked on issues related to at-risk youth, special education, and school improvement. Among his most recent publications, Dr. Woodruff co-authored a chapter in the Harvard Civil Rights Project report on minority issues in special education. He has taught and counseled students at the elementary through college levels.
Board News

BRIAN JONES ELECTED NEW CHAIR

Brian Jones, formerly the board’s vice chair, was elected chair of the D.C. Public Charter School Board by his fellow board members in February 2010. Mr. Jones was appointed in 2007 by Mayor Adrian Fenty. He has indicated in interviews and public comments that the current board will now focus intensely on ensuring that all charter schools are high quality and those that cannot meet the board’s standards will be closed.

FAREWELL TO THOMAS NIDA

The charter school community bid a fond farewell to outgoing chair Thomas Nida, who served on the board during a time of tremendous growth in D.C.’s charter sector. Mr. Nida was also instrumental in the board’s efforts to strengthen its accountability systems and led the PCSB, school leaders and community members through the difficult closure process of several low-performing schools. Fortunately, Mr. Nida has not gone far. He is now chair of the D.C.-based Charter School Management Research Initiative, a new non-profit established to study best practices of D.C. charter schools and share solutions with school leaders, support organizations, researchers and policy makers throughout the nation.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Emily Bloomfield was appointed as the board’s newest member in March 2010 by Mayor Adrian Fenty. Ms. Bloomfield is a senior policy advisor for Stand for Children, an education advocacy non-profit that organizes communities in six states to advance initiatives promoting improved public education. She is responsible for continually updating Stand for Children staff and field organizers on effective strategies in education reform and explaining key developments in national and state education policies. She was previously the vice president and president of the Santa Monica- Malibu Unified School District’s Board of Education. During her five-year tenure on the School Board, she was instrumental in the overhaul of the school district’s curriculum, teaching methods, student academic support, school leadership and high school structure. Overall student scores in math and reading rose by 33 percent, while achievement scores for African American and Hispanic students in SMMUSD rose by more than 50 percent.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

The D.C. Public Charter School Board began recruiting members for its new Community Advisory Group during National Charter Schools Week in May 2010. The board’s goal for the Community Advisory Group is to gather insights, feedback and community impressions from parents, students and community members about how the board’s work is impacting D.C. communities. The informal, voluntary group will meet monthly or quarterly as needed with PCSB members and staff and serve as a sounding board for the PCSB’s outreach and transparency efforts. Interested community members may contact Nona Mitchell Richardson, director of communications, at nrichardson@dcpubliccharter.com.
2009–2010 Board Actions*

AUGUST 17, 2009
» Accepted the report of reviewed contracts over $25,000
» Approved Academia Bilingue Comunidad (ABC) PCS’s request to relinquish its charter
» Lifted Notice of Concern to Options PCS regarding attendance
» Approved Excel Academy’s request to operate in a new location
» Approved with conditions Capital City PCS’s request to operate in a new location
» Approved Friendship Tech Prep PCS’s request to operate in a new location
» Approved National Collegiate Preparatory PCS’s intent to co-locate

SEPTEMBER 21, 2009
» Accepted the report of reviewed contracts over $25,000
» Approved PCSB Table of Rewards and Consequences Policy
» Issued Notices of Concern to the following schools that demonstrated 70–99% timely submission, accuracy and completion of compliance documents during the initial screen stage of the Compliance Review:
  • Academy for Learning Through the Arts PCS
  • Achievement Preparatory Academy PCS
  • Booker T. Washington Public Charter High School
  • Capital City PCS
  • Cesar Chavez PCS
  • Children’s Studio School PCS
  • Community Academy PCS
  • Early Childhood Academy PCS
  • Hope Community PCS
  • Hospitality PCS
  • Howard Road Academy PCS
  • IDEA PCS
  • Ideal Academy PCS
  • Imagine Southeast PCS
  • KAMIT PCS
  • NIA Community PCS
  • School for the Arts in Learning (SAIL) PCS
  • Two Rivers PCS
  • Washington Math, Science and Technology (WMST) PCS
  • William E. Doar, Jr. PCS
  • Young America Works PCS
» Issued Notices of Deficiency to the following schools due to compliance issues:
  1. Children’s Studio PCS
  2. IDEAL Academy PCS

OCTOBER 26, 2009
» Accepted the report of reviewed contracts over $25,000
» Lifted Notice of Concern issued to Young America Works PCS due to financial reporting
» Lifted Notices of Concern to the following schools due to compliance issues:
  • Capital City PCS
  • Cesar Chavez PCS
  • Community Academy PCS
  • Early Childhood Academy PCS
  • Howard Road Academy PCS
  • IDEA PCS
  • KAMIT PCS
  • NIA Community PCS
  • School for the Arts in Learning (SAIL) PCS
  • Two Rivers PCS
  • Washington Math Science & Technology PCS
  • Youth Build PCS
  • William E Doar, Jr PCS
» Extended Notices of Concern to the following schools due to compliance issues:
  • Achievement Preparatory Academy PCS
  • ALTA PCS
  • Booker T. Washington PCS
  • Cesar Chavez PCS (all campuses)
  • Hospitality PCS
  • Next Step PCS
  • Hope Community PCS
  • Imagine Southeast PCS
  • Mary McLeod Bethune PCS
  • Paul PCS
  • Washington Latin PCS
  • Young America Works PCS
» Issued Notices of Deficiency to the following schools due to compliance issues:
  1. Children’s Studio PCS
  2. IDEAL Academy PCS

DECEMBER 21, 2009
» Accepted the report of reviewed contracts over $25,000
» Approved City Collegiate PCS’s request to relinquish its charter
» Approved continuance of Notice of Probation to Young America Works PCS
» Approved proposal to extend Notice of Concern to Washington Latin PCS for failure to provide detailed inventory
» Lifted Notices of Deficiency to Children’s Studio PCS, Ideal Academy PCS – North Capitol Campus and Howard University PCMS for Mathematics and Science
» Approved Hospitality PCS’s technology plan
» Conditionally approved Cesar Chavez PCS’s technology plan
» Conditionally approved Achievement Preparatory Academy PCS’s technology plan
» Approved proposal to change Approved Charter Applications Opening Timeline policy
» Approved Hyde Leadership PCS’ request to operate in a new location
» Approved Appletree Early Learning PCS’ request to increase enrollment ceiling and operate in new locations

JANUARY 25, 2010
» Accepted the report of reviewed contracts over $25,000
» Approved Next Step PCS’s technology plan
» Approved Washington Latin PCS’s technology plan
» Lifted Notice of Deficiency to Children’s Studio PCS
» Lifted Notice of Deficiency to Ideal Academy PCS
» Lifted Notice of Deficiency to Howard University Middle School for Math & Science PCS
» Issued Notice of Deficiency to National Collegiate Preparatory Academy PCS for compliance issues
» Lifted Notice of Conditional Continuance to Maya Angelou PCS
» Granted full charter continuance status to The Arts and Technology Academy PCS
» Granted full charter continuance status to D. C. Bilingual Public Charter School
» Granted full charter continuance status to E. L. Haynes PCS
» Granted conditional continuance status to Hospitality PCS
» Granted full charter continuance status to Meridian PCS
» Granted full charter continuance status to Two Rivers PCS

FEBRUARY 22, 2010
» Accepted the report of reviewed contracts over $25,000
» Approved PCSB Strategic Plan
» Lifted Conditional continuance for Cesar Chavez PCS
» Issued Charter Warning status to Academy for Learning Through the Arts PCS
» Issued Charter Warning status to Potomac Lighthouse PCS

MARCH 5, 2010
» Approved the proposal to revoke the charter of Young America Works Public Charter School

APRIL 19, 2010
» Accepted the report of reviewed contracts over $25,000
» Approved Friendship PCS’s technology plan
» Approved Paul PCS’s technology plan
» Lifted National Collegiate Preparatory PCS’s Notice of Deficiency regarding compliance review
» Granted conditional charter continuance to William E. Doar Jr. PCS
» Conditionally approved Inspired Teaching Demonstration School’s charter application

APRIL 26, 2010
» Revoked the charter of Young America Works PCS
» Approved LAYC Youthbuild PCS’s request to operate in a new location
» Approved LAYC Youthbuild PCS’s request to increase it enrollment ceiling

MAY 17, 2010
» Accepted the report of reviewed contracts over $25,000
» Issued Notice of Concern regarding attendance and truancy to the following schools
  • Center City PCS - Congress Heights
  • Center City PCS - Shaw
  • Community Academy PCS – Rand
  • Hope Community PCS – Lamond
  • Hospitality PCS
  • Howard Road Academy PCS – Penn. Ave.
  • Howard Road Academy PCS – Howard Rd.
  • Howard Road Academy PCS – MLK
  • IDEAL Academy PCS – Peabody St.
  • KAMIT PCS
  • Maya Angelou PCS – Evans Middle School
  • Maya Angelou PCS – Shaw
» Approved Washington Math Science Technology PCS’s technology plan
» Approved Washington Yu Ying PCS’s request to operate in a new location
» Approved Carlos Rosario PCS’s request to increase its enrollment ceiling
» Approved DC Prep PCS’s request to increase its enrollment ceiling
» Approved Excel Academy PCS’s request to increase its enrollment ceiling
» Approved Next Step PCS’s request to increase its enrollment ceiling

JUNE 21, 2010
» Accepted the report of reviewed contracts over $25,000
» Approved Maya Angelou PCS’s technology plan
» Approved Center City PCS’s technology plan
» Approved St. Coletta PCS’s technology plan
» Approved Arts and Technology Academy PCS’s request to add Pre-School
» Approved Eagle Academy PCS’s request to increase its enrollment ceiling
» Approved E.L. Haynes PCS’s request to increase its enrollment ceiling
» Approved E.L. Haynes PCS’s request to operate in a new location
» Approved KIPP DC PCS’s request to operate in a new location (KIPP DC: GROW PCS)
» Approved Washington Latin PCS’s request to operate in a new location
» Approved the proposal to revoke the charter of KAMIT PCS
» Approved Children’s Studio PCS’s request to relinquish its charter
» Approved ALTA PCS’s request to relinquish its charter

JULY 19, 2010
» Accepted the report of reviewed contracts over $25,000
» Approved Maya Angelou PCS’s amendment request to add an adult education program
» Approved Washington Yu Ying PCS’s previous request to operate in a new location with correct address reflected
» Approved Septima Clark PCS’s request to operate in a new location
» Approved technology plan for EW Stokes PCS
» Approved technology plan for Early Childhood Academy PCS
» Issued Notice of Probation to Nia Community PCS regarding financial reporting and academic issues

*All PCSB meetings take place in the PCSB conference room at 3333 14th Street, NW Washington, D.C., unless otherwise indicated.
Board Operations

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT
Josephine Baker, Executive Director
Directs the PCSB’s operations, including staffing, policy and budget decisions; reports to and consults with board members on authorization and D.C. charter school issues; represents the PCSB with local agency heads, city council members, the deputy mayor for education and the state superintendent of education; contributes to the national discussion on charter school policy and issues, interacting with the U.S. Department of Education and national charter school and authorizer organizations.

Tamara Lumpkin, Deputy Director
Assists in the establishment of policies and procedures and work processes consistent with the PCSB’s mission, vision and strategic priorities; directs the execution of the PCSB’s charter school accountability model; collaborates with the leadership team to establish and maintain relationships between the oversight, support, technology, finance and communications functions.

COMMUNICATIONS
Nona Mitchell Richardson, Director of Communications
Directs the PCSB’s strategic communications goals and initiatives; facilitates PCSB reporting, public access to information and accountability data, and community outreach and input.

Audrey Williams, Public Affairs Manager
Maximizes the PCSB’s relationships with other government agencies and community-based organizations for the benefit of D.C. students and families; Manages media and public relations initiatives.

Shenneth Dove-Morse
Communications Associate
Coordinates communications projects related to community outreach, information management and dissemination, publications, website content management, media relations, and event planning.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS
Jeremy Williams, Director of Business Oversight
Oversees charter school financial accountability and manages the Board’s budget and accountability.

Ino Okawo, Operations Officer
Administers board office operations and human resource functions; oversees charter schools’ October enrollment submission and contracts submission processes for the Board; primary point of contact for questions relating to summer school, SPED, and ELL funding to public charter schools.

Patricia Cisneros, Operations Associate
Administers board office operations and human resource functions; assists with the oversight of charter schools’ October enrollment submission and contracts submission processes for the Board; primary point of contact for questions relating to charter school closures and student record transfers.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Lamont Brittain, Director of Information Technology
Directs the Board’s Information Technology (IT) infrastructure; supports staff members with their trouble-shooting and project-related IT needs.

Ashok Oli, Data Analyst
Supports the Board’s Information Technology (IT) infrastructure, including: analyzing data formats, configuring data applications and maintaining data integrity.

Oliver Williams, Data Specialist
Supports the Board’s Information Technology (IT) infrastructure, including: data formats, data applications and data integrity.

Imhotep Yakub, Network Administrator
Supports the Board’s Information Technology (IT) infrastructure, including: network and IT vendor coordination.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT
Jacqueline Scott-English
Director of School Performance Management
Directs the PCSB’s monitoring and oversight processes, policy development and staff resources; directs the charter application review process.

Susan Miller, Assistant Director of School Performance Management
Supports school effectiveness by providing academic oversight through analyzing and assisting with board review processes. Manages Program Development and Self Study Reviews, and curriculum development activities.

Taishya Adams, Non-Academic Performance Officer
Supports school effectiveness by providing non-academic oversight, and provides guidance on accreditation and enrollment policies.

Sean T. Coleman, Ph.D., Non-Academic Performance Officer
Supports school effectiveness by providing non-academic oversight, and provides guidance on school climate regulations and policies.

Charlotte Cureton, Non-Academic Performance Officer
Supports school effectiveness by providing non-academic oversight, and guidance on high school performance.

Jackie L. Boddie, Ed.D.
Academic Performance Officer
Supports school effectiveness by providing academic oversight through analyzing and assisting with Board review processes.

Marissa Castro Mikoy, Academic Performance Officer
Supports school effectiveness by providing academic oversight through analyzing and assisting with Board review processes.

Monique Miller, Academic Performance Officer
Supports school effectiveness by providing academic oversight through analyzing and assisting with Board review processes.

Tammi Thomas, NCLB Technical Assistance Coordinator
Supports school effectiveness by initiating, monitoring, and maintaining systems to ensure quality technical assistance activities are implemented for D.C. public charter schools identified as “in need of improvement”. Interacts directly with charter school leaders, PCSB staff, and external stakeholders to determine and secure appropriate technical assistance services for schools.

Carolyn Trice, Academic Performance Officer
Supports school effectiveness by providing academic oversight through analyzing and assisting with Board review processes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
Beverly Delk, Board Administrative Coordinator
Coordinates projects in support of Executive Management and board members.

Richard Fowler, School Performance Team Administrative Coordinator
Coordinates projects in support of the School Performance Management team.

Ayanna Mackins, School Performance Team Administrative Coordinator
Coordinates projects in support of the School Performance Management team.
New Staff Members

The board welcomed six new staff members during the 2009–2010 fiscal year.

Charlotte Cureton joined the staff as part of the School Performance Team in October 2009. Mrs. Cureton brings valuable experience as a charter school leader and veteran teacher to the board’s school oversight function as a non-academic performance officer.

Richard Fowler joined the staff in May 2010 to lend his project management skills to the school performance team as an administrative coordinator.

Ayanna Mackins joined the staff in May 2010 as an administrative coordinator, bringing her project coordination and database management skills from her experience working at a high-performing charter school.

Ashok Oli, data analyst, joined the staff in January 2010, to lend his research background and data analysis experience to the IT team’s data management functions.

Tammi Thomas returned to the staff in May 2010, after a four-year hiatus from the school performance team. She now serves as the NCLB technical assistance coordinator, bringing her background in teaching and experience in charter school authorizing in Baltimore, MD.

Oliver Williams, data specialist, joined the staff in October 2009. Mr. Williams contributes his considerable software applications skills to the IT team’s data management functions.

The D.C. Public Charter School Board’s mission defines its four key functions:

1. Comprehensive application review process – ensures that the PCSB only approves charter school applicants with thorough applications, research-based programs, experienced leadership and community support.
2. Effective oversight – holds schools to high standards for results, and makes oversight decisions with the best interests of students in mind.
3. Meaningful support – identifies and addresses problems early, and rewards consistently high-performing schools with more autonomy.
4. Active engagement of its stakeholders – solicits community input, and strives to be responsive and transparent to all who are impacted by and impact the PCSB and public charter schools.
CHARTER APPLICATIONS

THIRTEEN APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
The D.C. Public Charter School Board (PCSB) did not accept or approve any charter applications during the 2008–2009 school year, due to a change in the PCSB’s operational calendar that year.

After re-opening the charter application process for the 2009–2010 fiscal year, the PCSB received 13 applications by its February 2010 deadline. The PCSB’s rigorous application review process included a technical review of each application, interviews with the founding groups and proposed principals, then public hearings in which applicants presented their proposals to the Board and the public, and community members testified in favor of or in opposition to the applications.

FOUR APPLICATIONS APPROVED
The D.C. Public Charter School Board (PCSB) voted April 19, 2010 to conditionally approve four new public charter schools. The proposed charter schools are: Inspired Teaching Demonstration School, Munde Verde Bilingual School, Shining Stars Montessori Academy and Richard Wright School for Journalism and Media Arts. These schools received conditional approval and must satisfactorily address the required conditions outlined by the Board before they can be granted a charter to open in the fall of 2011. Six members of the Board voted on the applications with its newest member, Emily Bloomfield, abstaining. Nine school applications were denied.

The Inspired Teaching Demonstration School, a professional learning community of master teachers and teacher residents, will ensure that a diverse group of students achieve their potential as accomplished learners, thoughtful citizens, and imaginative and inquisitive problem solvers through a demanding, inquiry-based curriculum. The school plans to serve pre-school through 8th grade, but will open with pre-school through 3rd grade.

Mundo Verde Bilingual School aims to foster high levels of academic achievement among a diverse group of students by preparing them to be successful and compassionate global stewards of their communities through an engaging curriculum focused on sustainability and bi-literacy. Mundo Verde will initially offer preschool through 1st grade classes and will add classes each year until it serves students through the 8th grade.

Shining Stars Montessori Academy plans to offer a quality Montessori education infused with culturally inclusive principles to guide children to develop to their fullest potential. In Phase I, the school will have pre-school, pre-K and kindergarten, and Phase II will expand to accommodate 1st grade through 6th grade.

Richard Wright School for Journalism and Media Arts aims to transform students in grades 8–12 into well-versed media contributors by providing a student-centered environment that connects them to the classics and modern languages and a curriculum focused on strong writing skills and vocabulary.

The Board will grant final approval once all conditions are satisfactorily addressed including securing a facility to operate in the 2011–2012 school year.

NEW SCHOOL OPENING TIMELINE
The PCSB adopted a new charter school opening timeline policy in December 2009, which establishes a 15-month timeframe for opening of all newly authorized public charter schools, including the conversion of D.C. public schools or existing private or independent schools to public charter school status. This 15-month window allows schools to be included in the City’s budget and provides schools the necessary time to adequately prepare for opening a new school.

DENIED APPLICATIONS
Bertha B. Williams Academy – Reading, math & other core subjects
Gilchrist Academy – Middle School for Boys
DC Technology Academy – Elem/Middle with an online component
Tribeca – College Prep
Academy for Young Minds – Inclusion and gifted and talented
Naylor Road – Text-based intensive curriculum
University High – College High School with democratic studies theme
The House Academy – College prep middle school
Kuumba – Early childhood with integration of arts and African themes
New School Openings
Fall 2009

**NEW SCHOOL**

**National Collegiate Preparatory Public Charter High School** was the only new public charter school approved during the 2008 application cycle. The school opened in fall 2009, in the Congress Heights neighborhood of Southeast Washington, D.C., serving 125 high school students. The students are encouraged to be critical thinkers and discoverers who actively embrace the school's credo of "Honor, Scholarship, and Leadership."

**EXPANSIONS**

The PCSB approved the following charter schools to expand to additional campuses in fall 2009:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>GRADES SERVED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cesar Chavez PCS</td>
<td>770 Kenyon Street, NW</td>
<td>6th – 8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Prep Campus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendship PCS</td>
<td>620 Milwaukee Pl, SE</td>
<td>6th – 7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tech Prep Campus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Road Academy PCS</td>
<td>2405 MLK, Jr. Ave., SE</td>
<td>7th – 8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Avenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>KIPP DC PCS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promise Academy Campus</td>
<td>4807 Benning Road, SE</td>
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<td>Discover Academy Campus</td>
<td>2600 Douglas Road SE</td>
<td>Pre-K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Preparatory Campus</td>
<td>2600 Douglas Road SE</td>
<td>9th</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Charter School Oversight

The D.C. Public Charter School Board (PCSB), the authorizer of all D.C. public charter schools, is responsible for holding these schools accountable for the academic achievement of students who attend them. To be clear, the PCSB does not operate public charter schools, nor does it operate as a centralized school system. Rather, the PCSB authorizes non-profit boards of trustees to operate these publicly-funded schools, with independent responsibility for every input as well as every outcome. Each school submits academic and operational plans as a part of their charter application. The progress of those plans, in terms of student academic outcomes and management of public funds, is measured through the PCSB’s comprehensive monitoring and system oversight.

During the 2009–2010 school year, the PCSB conducted:

- **67** Program Development Reviews
- **99** Performance Management Framework Compliance Reviews
- **5** Self-Study Reviews
- **57** Governance Reviews
- **17** High School Transcript Reviews
- **165** Financial Statement Reviews
- **57** Audited Financial Statement Reviews
- **27** Financial Management Site-Based Reviews

The PCSB’s monitoring and oversight system includes self-study reviews of schools that have completed one year of operation; program development reviews of schools that have completed two or more years; compliance, governance reviews and financial reviews of all schools; high school transcript reviews; preliminary charter reviews of schools before each high-stakes charter review, which takes place every five years; and charter renewal every 15 years.

The PCSB’s new Performance Management Framework (PMF), launched at the start of the 2009–2010 school year, takes the PCSB’s already comprehensive oversight system one step further.

The PMF evaluates all D.C. public charter schools using common academic and non-academic measures, as well as measures of each school’s unique mission. Each school’s result will be more fairly comparable to other schools, which will enable the PCSB to make decisions about rewards to high-performing schools and consequences and supports to middle, low-performing and at-risk charter schools. The PCSB’s evaluations and decisions will be much more transparent to stakeholders and will empower easier consumer decision-making. Additionally, school leaders will have a clearer understanding of performance expectations and will be able to use the information obtained from the PMF to make necessary adjustments to their programs.

PMF results will be reported publicly in early fall 2010. In addition, the PCSB will share each school’s NCLB and AYP Report Card. All of this information will be made available on the PCSB’s website www.dcpubliccharter.com.

Review Outcomes

**PRELIMINARY CHARter REVIEW**

The PCSB conducts a review of each school’s progress in the year before the high-stakes charter review, to determine if a school is in danger of charter revocation. If a school could possibly face charter revocation, the PCSB places the school in Charter Warning status, and provides specific guidance to avoid revocation.

Eleven schools underwent the preliminary charter review with the following outcomes:

- Academy for Learning Through the Arts (ALTA) PCS – placed in Charter Warning status
- AppleTree PCS
- Bridges PCS
- Capital City PCS
- Early Childhood Academy (ECA) PCS
- Hope Community PCS
- Howard University Math Science (MS)² PCS
- Paul PCS
Potomac Lighthouse PCS – placed in Charter Warning status
Tree of Life Community PCS
YouthBuild PCS

**CHARTER REVIEW**
The PCSB conducts a high-stakes review every five years, which determines whether a charter school has served students well enough to continue another five years.

Seven schools underwent the Charter Review with the following outcomes:

- Arts and Technology PCS – Granted full charter continuance
- E.L. Haynes PCS – Granted full charter continuance
- Two Rivers PCS – Granted full charter continuance
- DC Bilingual PCS – Granted full charter continuance
- Hospitality PCS – Granted conditional charter continuance
- Meridian PCS – Granted full charter continuance
- William E. Doar, Jr. PCS for Performing Arts – Granted conditional charter continuance

School Closings 2009–2010

**CITY COLLEGIATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL**
City Collegiate Public Charter School was authorized by the D.C. Public Charter School Board in 2006 to offer a rigorous standards-based middle/high school program, explored in a collaborative environment with the support of students’ families.

**Closing Action:** City Collegiate PCS voluntarily relinquished its charter effective June 30, 2010, citing financial shortfalls resulting from declining enrollment.

**YOUNG AMERICA WORKS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL**
Young America Works Public Charter School was authorized by the District of Columbia Board of Education to offer high school students a vocational/technical career-based program. The school opened in 2004 and as a result of the Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007, the PCSB assumed oversight authority over the school in June 2007.

**Closing Action:** PCSB revoked Young America Works’ charter effective June 30, 2010, citing the school’s failure to comply with the terms of its charter agreement.

**ACADEMY FOR LEARNING THROUGH THE ARTS (ALTA)**
Academy for Learning through the Arts (ALTA) was authorized by the PCSB in 2005 as a year-round arts integrated school program serving students in grades pre-kindergarten through sixth grade.

**Closing Action:** ALTA voluntarily relinquished its charter effective June 30, 2010.

**CHILDREN’S STUDIO SCHOOL**
Children’s Studio School is a community-based arts organization, studio complex, and a full-day school of the arts and architecture for young children. The School was awarded its charter by the D.C. Board of Education in 1996 and reopened its full-day school in 1997. As a result of the Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007, the PCSB assumed oversight authority over the school in June 2007.

**Closing Action:** Children’s Studio School voluntarily relinquished its charter effective June 30, 2010.

The PCSB’s evaluations and decisions will be much more transparent to stakeholders and will empower easier consumer decision-making.
### DC Public Charter Schools

#### WARD 1

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<th>Education Levels</th>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
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<td>C. CAPITAL CITY PCS (CORNER)</td>
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<td>C. CESAR CHAVEZ PREPARATORY (BILRUD)</td>
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<td>C. DC BIA/MAIAN PCS</td>
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<td>C. EL HAYMOS PCS</td>
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<td>C. H. RINGWALD PCS</td>
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<td>C. HOWARD UNIVERSITY MIDDLE SCHOOL (NI)</td>
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<td>C. NEXT STEP EL PROVISO PASO PCS</td>
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<td>C. YOUTHCALO (PS)</td>
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<td>C. COMMUNITY ACADEMY PCS (TRANSUN)</td>
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<td>C. HOPE COMMUNITY PCS (LAMOSES)</td>
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<td>C. HOSPITALITY PCS (ROOSEVELT H)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C. IDEAL ACADEMY PCS (PEABODY)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. KAMT INSTITUTE FOR MAGNIFICENT ACHIEVERS PCS</td>
<td>1500 Pennsylvania NW</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C. LATIN AMERICAN MONTESSORI JUVENILE ACADEMY PCS</td>
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<td>C. PAGE PCS</td>
<td>5580 8th Street NW</td>
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<td>C. ROOTS PCS (MAN)</td>
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<td>C. COMMUNITY ACADEMY PCS (PARK)</td>
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<td>C. C. PREPARATORY (JEDGWOOD ADJUDICT)</td>
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<td>C. ELSE WHITTON STOKES COMMUNITY FREEDOM PCS</td>
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<td>C. FRIENDSHIP PCS (WOODRIDGE)</td>
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<td>C. HYDE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PCS</td>
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<td>C. MARY McLEOD BETHUNE DAY PCS</td>
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<td>C. TREE OF LIFE COMMUNITY PCS (CAPITOL)</td>
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<td>C. WASHINGTON MATH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PCS</td>
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<td>C. WASHINGTON YU YING PCS</td>
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<td>C. WILMIA E. DOWAR, JR. PCS (NORTHWEST)</td>
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<td>C. WILMIA E. DOWAR, JR. PCS (EDGWOOD)</td>
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<td>C. CESAR CHAVEZ PCS (PARKER)</td>
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<td>C. EAGLE ACADEMY PCS (CAMERON)</td>
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<td>C. FRIENDSHIP PCS (CHAMBERLAN)</td>
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<td>C. 2 AKRIS PCS (ELEMTARY SCHOOL)</td>
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<td>C. 2 AKRIS PCS (MIDDLE SCHOOL)</td>
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#### WARD 7

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<td>C. ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY PCS</td>
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<td>C. CESAR CHAVEZ PCS (PUBLIC POLICY, PARKEER)</td>
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</table>
This map was created for planning purposes from a variety of sources. It is neither a survey nor a legal document. Information provided by other agencies should be verified with them where appropriate.
### 2009–2010 PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL PROFILE

- **# of schools**: 57
- **# of campuses**: 99
- **# of students**: 27,660
- **% Low-income**: 65
- **% English Language Learners**: 4
- **% Special Education**: 10
- **% African American**: 87
- **% Latino/Hispanic**: 9
- **% Caucasian**: 3
- **% Asian/Pacific Islander**: 1
- **% Native American**: 0
- **% Other**: 0

### 2009–2010 PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT TREND CHART

### 2009–2010 PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL OUTCOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of School</th>
<th># of Graduating seniors</th>
<th># of graduating juniors</th>
<th># of college accepted</th>
<th>% of graduates accepted to college</th>
<th># receiving scholarships</th>
<th>% receiving scholarships</th>
<th>Amount of Scholarship</th>
<th># taking college entrance exams</th>
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<tr>
<td>Booker T Washington</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cesar Chavez-Parkside*</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>117%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>380,000.00</td>
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<td>Cesar Chavez-Capital Hill</td>
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<td>26%</td>
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<td>no report</td>
<td>no report</td>
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<td>Friendship-Collegiate</td>
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<td>131</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>50%</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<td>30%</td>
<td>301,500.00</td>
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<td>Young America Works</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>13,500.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>756</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,907,798.00</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>15,907,798.00</strong></td>
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* Note: number of students accepted to college and receiving scholarships includes summer graduates who were not included in # of graduates.
Special Honors and Accomplishments 2009–2010

HOWARD UNIVERSITY MS² STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ASTRONOMY NIGHT AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Howard University Middle School of Math and Science students, accompanied by their science teachers and principal, were among 150 guests from Washington, D.C. area schools who were hosted by President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, for Astronomy Night on the White House South Lawn in October 2009. Astronomy Night was held in honor of the International Year of Astronomy. Students stargazed and conducted hands-on experiments with astronomers from across the country. They talked with astronomers, astronauts, NASA staff and representatives from various museums and planetariums. Space heroes Buzz Aldrin, Sally Ride and Mae Jemison joined in with the students. They learned about their universe using more than 20 telescopes provided by NASA and other organizations.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY MS² STUDENT WINS WASHINGTON INFORMER SPELLING BEE

Avery Coffey, 7th grade student at Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science earned 1st place in the Non-DCPS Cluster Spelling Bee Competition which was held on February 19th. He went on the city wide competition on March 20th and won the 28th Annual Washington Informer Spelling Bee Competition held at the NBC studios. He emerged victorious after a grueling 53-round spelling battle with his opponent. He went on to represent D.C. students in the National Spelling Bee in June.

WASHINGTON, MATH, SCIENCE TECH STUDENTS HAVE LIVE DISCUSSION WITH NASA ASTRONAUTS

In November, 2010, Washington Mathematics Science Technology Public Charter High School (WMST) students participated in a live discussion with astronauts aboard the International Space Station. Invited by NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, students asked the astronauts a variety of scientific questions about their experiences and research in space.

The downlink is one in a series with educational organizations in the U.S. and abroad to improve teaching and learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It is an integral component of Teaching From Space, a NASA Education office. Teaching From Space promotes learning opportunities and builds partnerships with the education community using the unique environment of human spaceflight. NASA Television aired a Video File from the downlink event.

WASHINGTON LATIN STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD IN DOHA, QATAR AND ROME

Washington Latin PCS is one of two schools in the country supported by the Qatar Foundation International to offer Arabic. Over Spring Break, 16 students who study Arabic in the school’s after-school program traveled to Doha, Qatar, where they met with students in girls’ and boys’ schools with whom Washington Latin had established partnerships. The school was also excited to send 13 students in the Latin IV Honors class to Rome to see the sights they are learning about in class.
D.C. Teacher of the Year: Stephanie Day
Friendship Chamberlain

For the second year in a row, the D.C. Teacher of the Year honor went to a D.C. public charter school educator. Ms. Stephanie Day, the lead special education resource teacher at Friendship Public Charter School’s Chamberlain Campus, was selected from thousands of teachers in the District of Columbia. Ms. Day was chosen as D.C. Teacher of the Year for her dedication to her students, commitment to the profession of teaching, and her capacity to serve as an ambassador and model for the teachers of the District of Columbia. She was selected by a panel of education leaders after an application process that included a written application and essays, an interview, and a classroom observation.

Washington Post Teacher and Leadership Awards Winners

E. W. Stokes Principal honored with Distinguished Educational Leadership Award

The principal of E.W. Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School, Patricia Crain de Galarce was named the 2010 Charter School honoree as part of the Washington Post’s Distinguished Educational Leadership Awards. Principal Galarce has been the Director of Education at Stokes School almost since its start in 1998. For the past twelve years, she has been chiefly responsible for the school’s curriculum and support for the staff and students. Prior to Stokes School, she spent twenty years in the education field both domestically and abroad in Paraguay. She said she had heard about the award a few years ago, and had always hoped to win it one day. “Now that it’s happened I am honored and humbled,” she said.

E. L. Haynes Teacher receives Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award

Nate Franz, a 5th grade math teacher at E. L. Haynes Public Charter School received the 2010 Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award in the charter school category. Mr. Franz is currently the E.L. Haynes Public Charter School’s math department chair. Prior to teaching at Haynes, Mr. Franz taught at KIPP DC Key Academy and Friendship PCS – Woodridge campus. In an interview with reviewers from the PCSB, Franz stated that he feels that teaching is about “meeting all students where they are when they come into your classroom and taking them to places they never thought they would get to; it’s about setting them up for success.”

Both awards are given to principals and teachers in 20 school systems in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Each winner received a financial award and was recognized at award ceremonies hosted by the Washington Post.

Meridian PCS Students Attended the 2010 World Cup

Two of Meridian Public Charter School’s students, Francisco Garcia and Ahmed Washington, were selected as a part of the Grassroot Project’s Team Up Campaign to travel to South Africa for the 2010 World Cup activities. The Team Up Campaign brings together youth in Washington, D.C. and South Africa, uniting them in a cultural exchange and HIV/AIDS education program to bring the global battle against AIDS to the 2010 World Cup. Garcia and Washington were accompanied by
Meridian’s athletic director, Robert Robinson. While in South Africa, Garcia, Washington, and Robinson joined other Washingtonians and South Africans to take historical tours, shop in the local markets, meet AIDS activists, compete in soccer tournaments, participate in community projects, and witness the 2010 World Cup.

**KIPP DC: AIM ACADEMY STUDENTS TAKE TRIP OF A LIFETIME THANKS TO GLOBAL EXPLORERS AND TRAVEL CHANNEL**

Twenty middle school students and one educator from KIPP DC: AIM Academy Public Charter School participated in a life-changing expedition to Costa Rica in July 2010. Global Explorers (GEx), a nonprofit organization, partnered with the Travel Channel to provide this unique opportunity to KIPP DC: AIM Academy Public Charter School.

The Global Explorers educational travel program emphasizes science, culture, and community service while developing skills such as problem solving, collaboration, self-awareness and communication. In addition to a ten-day expedition, the students have been studying Costa Rica for a semester and will be required to develop their own community service initiatives in Washington, D.C. upon their return. Travel Channel staff members also hosted a pre-travel media skills retreat that equipped the group to bring their travel stories home in fun and exciting ways.

**PCS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION’S “LET’S READ LET’S MOVE” EVENT**

Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and local D.C. students from Arts and Technology Academy Public Charter School Arts & Technology Academy PCS, Meridian PCS and DC Bilingual PCS joined Secretary Arne Duncan for Let’s Read. Let’s Move. at the Department of Education’s headquarters in Washington, D.C. LaHood read The Little Engine That Could to students and joined Duncan for a discussion about the book and the importance of summer learning, physical fitness and healthy eating. Following the reading and discussion, students received a free book; enjoyed healthy snacks; engaged in writing and enrichment activities; and rotated through fitness and game stations featuring jump rope, hula hoops, basketball, bowling, putting, ring toss, corn hole, duck-duck-goose, hopscotch and musical chairs.

The goal of this new program, led by the Corporation for National and Community Service, is to get more Americans volunteering to combat childhood obesity and summer learning loss among youth.

Let’s Read. Let’s Move. is part of the Obama Administration’s United We Serve summer service initiative, a nationwide effort calling on all Americans to make service a part of their daily lives. As part of its role in this initiative, the U.S. Department of Education invites Cabinet members and public officials to read books to children, promote healthy lifestyles and participate in games and fitness activities with children in pre-kindergarten through third grade.

**D.C. Achievers Scholarship Program**

This year, students from Maya Angelou Public Charter High School, Thurgood Marshall Public Charter High School and Friendship Collegiate Public Charter High School graduated with D.C. Achievers Scholarships that provide up to $50,000 over four to five years for college expenses at four-year colleges or universities all over the country. The D.C. Achievers Scholarship Program is a multifaceted scholarship program that supports students from six high schools in Washington, D.C. that have high percentages of low-income students. Students receive support services while in high school and through their college career. The scholarship program is funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The first cohort of applicants was selected in 2007 and entered college in 2008. To date, 500 low-income youth in the District of Columbia have participated in the program.
THE D.C. PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD WEBSITE

The PCSB’s new, enhanced website was launched in November 2009. The site is easier to navigate, with content targeted to students, parents, community members, journalists, researchers and other interested in the PCSB’s work and information about charter schools. New interactive features include a searchable database to find information about charter schools, subscriptions to content-specific updates and a special area just for school leaders. www.dcpubliccharter.com

Google Analytics reports that there are an average of 10,000 visits and 40,000 page views to the website per month, with about 40,000 page views.

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

PCSB board meetings take place on the third Monday of every month, usually at 7:30pm, at the PCSB headquarters. These meetings, in which all board decisions are made, are always open to the public. There are designated times for public officials and community members to offer comments on any topics pertaining to the PCSB or charter schools. The date, time and agenda of each board meeting are posted on the PCSB website.

During the 2009–2010 fiscal year, the PCSB hosted 13 board meetings, all except two took place at the PCSB headquarters. Board members voted on charter school requests, charter reviews, sanctions and notices related to school performance, and board policy changes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings are held primarily for three reasons: 1) as part of the charter application process; 2) when a school requests to amend its charter agreement; and 3) when a school has exercised it right to an informal hearing in response to a board proposal to revoke the school’s charter. In each case, members of the public are asked to participate, by listening to the proposals presented and giving input on the impact of the possible decisions on the community.

The PCSB hosted eight public hearings; one on applications, two on charter revocation proposals, and five charter amendment requests.

COMMUNITY FORUMS

The PCSB hosts community forums to discuss with community members decisions that may impact their communities directly. The forums are also intended to provide information to help parents and students make informed decisions about charter schools.

PCSB hosted two community forums related to school closures, to help families understand the reason for the closures and to assist them with transitions to new schools. The two forums, for students attending Young America Works and for students enrolled at ALTA and Children’s Studio School, also included enrollment fairs to which charter and traditional schools were invited to share information about their programs.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Each year PCSB members provide testimony during public hearings held by the Council of the District of Columbia, the State Board of Education, and the U.S. Congress, on topics related to PCSB performance and accountability, charter school performance, and citywide issues affecting children and youth.

PCSB members and leadership provided testimony at 10 hearings, held by the D.C. Council, the State Board of Education and the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee.

SOCIAL MEDIA

With the addition of the new website, PCSB has added social media tools such as Twitter, Facebook and Youtube
to interact with community members where they already are. PCSB staff tweet all of the board meetings as well as important board updates. The PCSB’s Facebook page also provides opportunities for Facebook users to stay abreast of board news and offer comments. PCSB’s Youtube channel shows videos produced by charter school students, school leaders and community members about charter school opportunities and experiences.

MEDIA RELATIONS
The PCSB communications team manages regular engagement with print, television, radio and web-based journalists. PCSB spokespersons offer information on charter school performance, expert input on relevant issues, announcements of board decisions and policy statements and facilitate the research and investigation of issues for stories in the public interest.

PCSB staff issued more than 50 news releases, facilitated dozens of interviews with media outlets, and provided background information and statistics for numerous news stories.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
PCSB members and staff interact regularly with other D.C. Government agencies on the PCSB’s accountability, charter school performance and on collaborative efforts of agencies that serve and support children, youth and families.

PCSB members and staff participated in meetings, working groups, and community events, with Mayor Adrian Fenty, D.C. councilmembers and staff, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, the Office of Deputy Mayor for Education and staff, D.C. Public Schools, the Office of the City Administrator, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, the D.C. Department of Health, and other agencies regarding the city’s education budget, special education services, school closings, school safety, early childhood education, healthy children, and common core standards, among other topics.

SPECIAL EVENTS
PCSB members and staff host or participate in special events to raise awareness of the PCSB’s role in education reform solutions and charter school options available to D.C. families.

The PCSB was again a participating sponsor in the 2009 D.C. Family Education Expo in fall 2009, sponsored the first annual D.C. Charter School Expo and Recruitment Fair in January 2010, a participating sponsor of Stone Soul Picnic in summer 2009 and hosted an Open House and Community Meet and Greet during National Charter Schools week in May 2010.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO PCSB NEWS UPDATES
Community members may take advantage of free subscription to PCSB email updates through the PCSB website. PCSB staff share with subscribers board meeting decisions, announcements of public hearings, community forums and new releases, at least once per month.

Subscriptions to the community email list increased from 600 members in 2008–2009 fiscal year to 1100 members during the 2009–2010 fiscal year.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
The PCSB seeks to comply with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Any member of the public may submit a request for any document that the PCSB generates as part of its work, or any documents or data collected from or about public charter schools. PCSB staff attempt to respond to all requests for information without delay, and to the fullest extent possible.

PCSB staff responded to 11 FOIA requests, related to school performance, financial data, parental complaints, and board decisions.
HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT

In the winter and spring of 2010, PCSB staff and charter advocates worked with the staff of Council member Mary Cheh’s to develop the Healthy Schools Act. This legislation will require schools to serve more nutritious meals, increase physical and health education, and improve environmental, health and wellness programs in all D.C. public schools. The new law, which goes into effect in August 2010, will raise the nutritional standards and improve the quality of school meals. It will put more fresh, local fruits and vegetables on students’ plates. The legislation will allow schools to provide free breakfast in all schools and require breakfast to be served in the classroom in schools with high poverty rates. The Healthy Schools Act will be funded by extending the District’s 6 percent sales tax to include the sale of sweetened beverages.

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP

Last year, D.C. Council Chair Vincent Gray asked the PCSB to establish the Public Charter School Facilities Allotment Working Group to research and recommend an appropriate cost-based formula for the public charter school facilities allotment for FY2011 and future fiscal years. The group found that the actual costs for facilities to charter schools exceed the allotment the schools receive each year. The ideal formula for figuring the annual public charter school facilities allowance would meet both equity and sufficiency tests. The working group suggested that given FY 2011 budget realities, the sufficiency test cannot be met. However, it can and should be a goal for future budgets. In the Mayor’s FY 2011 budget the facilities per pupil allotment was increased to $3,000 from $2,880. In addition, the per pupil funding was increased to $8,945 per student – a 2% increase from the previous year.

The FY 2011 budget also establishes an independent public education finance reform commission to study and report on the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula with regard to improving equity, adequacy, affordability and transparency. The commission will also make recommendations for increasing uniformity in the 2013 budget and succeeding years; examine weaknesses in the funding formula or in implementation that interfere with uniformity of funding.

PUBLIC EDUCATION FACILITIES PLANNING

The Mayor will also establish an Office of Public Education Facilities Planning within the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education, responsible for the development of the Master Facilities Plan, which shall function as a citywide public education facilities plan. The PCSB will participate in this facilities planning by providing educational plans and policies for charter schools; establishing a public charter school facilities registry in which charter schools will have the opportunity to register to receive facilities planning and technical support from the planning office.

PCSB members and staff will continue to strengthen the relationships with the Mayor and the Council, by increasing the PCSB’s operational transparency and accountability to all elected officials.
Technical Assistance

The D.C. Public Charter School Board hosted or supported the following technical assistance workshops and training programs for school leaders and staff:

» Accreditation Workshops
» Application Review Process Workshop
» Authorizer Oversight Information System (AOIS) Workshop
» Curriculum Development Workshops
» DC CAS Workshops
» Discipline Plan Development Workshops
» Early Childhood Education Workshops
» Governance Workshops
» INFORM – Instructional Data Management System Workshop
» Online Attendance Management System (OLAMS) Workshop
» Performance Management Framework Workshops
» Secondary Audit Review Training
» Self-Study/Program Development Review Workshops
» Trans-Atlantic Schools Innovation Alliance
The D.C. Public Charter School Board (PCSB) has a long history of holding public charter schools to high standards of fiscal and operational accountability and in turn must be accountable to similar standards. Fiscal Year 2009–2010 marks the PCSB’s 13th year of operation. PCSB’s audited financial statements, as determined by independent auditor Kendall, Prebola and Jones, C. P. A., were exempt from material misstatements and fairly presented all governmental and major funds activities for the 12-month operating period ending September 30, 2009 (FY2009). In addition, as required per District auditing requirements, PCSB’s FY2009 audited financial statements were presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, as well as, standards applicable to financial statements per government auditing standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Table A shows the PCSB’s FY2010 budget in comparison to that of the previous two fiscal periods. PCSB’s FY2010 revenue projection of $7.0 million represents an increase of $1.9 million, or 37%, over FY2009 actual revenues of $5.1 million. Most of the revenue growth (50%) is attributable to the anticipated receipt of federal grant funds ($1.4 million) to support the enhancement of PCSB’s oversight platform and the release of previously restricted private grant funds ($1.5 million). Appropriations received from the D.C. government account for 24% of FY10 revenues.

Consistent with historical growth trends, the charter sector expanded in terms of student population, from 25,568 students in SY 2008–2009 to 27,660 in SY 2009–2010. One new school opened, and six schools added additional campuses, for a total of 57 charter schools on 99 campuses. The additional monitoring costs outpaced the increases in revenue, yet the PCSB again maintained, and in some cases increased, the comprehensive oversight practices that have made the PCSB a national model for authorizing.

Program-related expenses are anticipated to increase substantially (62%) as a result of new oversight platforms being implemented to better monitor the programmatic performance of the charter schools. Approximately $745K of the program’s budget has been allocated to reimburse schools for information technology enhancements to affect school reporting to PCSB. Another $891K is

### TABLE A: THREE-YEAR BUDGET ANALYSIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010E*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local appropriations</td>
<td>$1,718,630</td>
<td>$1,660,277</td>
<td>$1,660,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin fees</td>
<td>$1,487,882</td>
<td>$1,828,073</td>
<td>$1,879,394</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$157,213</td>
<td>$1,622,694</td>
<td>$3,476,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,363,725</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,111,043</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,015,844</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Costs</td>
<td>$1,677,888</td>
<td>$1,907,490</td>
<td>$2,217,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program-related costs</td>
<td>$1,412,047</td>
<td>$2,485,517</td>
<td>$4,033,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities-related costs</td>
<td>$307,166</td>
<td>$355,422</td>
<td>$389,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other costs</td>
<td>$255,402</td>
<td>$293,249</td>
<td>$265,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,652,503</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,874,249</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,905,260</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of students</td>
<td>21,866</td>
<td>25,568</td>
<td>27,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue per student</td>
<td>$153.83</td>
<td>$199.90</td>
<td>$253.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses per student</td>
<td>$167.04</td>
<td>$151.55</td>
<td>$195.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of employees</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of students per PCSB staff</td>
<td>1,041</td>
<td>1,086</td>
<td>1,024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Estimated not actual – FY ends September 30, 2010
earmarked to assist PCSB in the enhancement of its own information technology infrastructure. Personnel, facilities, and “other” costs centers increased by 16%, 10%, and −10%, respectively.

Excluding grants which did not come from local coffers and administration fees which are already captured via the charter schools budget, the PCSB’s FY2010 local funds revenues represent about .41% (see Chart A) of the District’s $405 million charter school budget and and .18% (see Chart B) of the District’s $2.02 billion total public education budget. Our per-student cost to taxpayers for FY2010 amounts to approximately $195 per student—the city’s average spending per student is approximately $14K. The $195 per student costs represents a 27% cost increase relative to FY2009 per student expenditures of $153 per student. These facts make a strong statement about the PCSB’s value to taxpayers as an independent government agency which strives to remain lean and efficient.

Similar to past fiscal years, PCSB continues to prioritize core programs to support the reviews, monitoring, support services, and accountability to stakeholders. The organization also continues to work to reduce programmatic outlays to consultants by redirecting more oversight workflow to full-time employees. Even though projected total consultant-related programs outlays are substantially higher ($1.5 million) than they were for FY2009, the average-costs per consultant engagement remains steady at approximately $3,500 per engagement (review-specific engagements).
Chart C illustrates the PCSB’s proportionate expenditures relative to revenue for FY2010. Personnel and program-related expenditures account for 32% and 58% of revenues respectively. Personnel expenditures are expected to increase 16% for FY2010 relative to FY2009 figures. The bulk of this increase was required to support the addition of three new staff members to the PCSB team. Additionally, a reduced reliance on specialized consultants for certain programs-related reviews required that additional personnel expenditures be incurred to maintain appropriate levels of oversight effectiveness. Programs-related expenditures for FY2010 are expected to increase by 62% relative to FY2009 levels as a result of the implementation of specialized oversight platforms and technical assistance initiatives being implemented to enhance the quality of charter school governance, financial management and leadership capacities. The remaining 10% of the budget is slated to be spent on facilities expenses and back-office operations.

Chart D demonstrates that a higher percentage of the PCSB’s revenues came from non-local revenue sources than from administration fees received from charter schools or the city’s budget appropriations in FY2010. Charter schools are billed at the rate of ½ of 1% of their annual budgets. This reverses a 12-year trend whereby

PCSB has historically received more from local coffers than from non-local coffers. The organization continues to solicit funds from private donors to enhance the quality of charter school oversight in the District.

PCSB members and staff remain vigilant about using taxpayer funding responsibly, efficiently, and with the highest levels of transparency. Careful oversight of bookkeeping and budget discipline will maintain the PCSB’s long-standing record of strong fiscal management, and will serve the educational interests of Washington, D.C.’s students, families and communities.
Jeremy Williams, Director of Business Oversight, discusses with school leaders the importance of sound financial planning.