

UP Academy Charter School of Boston

Founders and Proposed Board of Trustees

This is prepared by the founding group of the proposed UP Academy Charter School of Boston.

Lead Founder.

Scott Given. Scott is currently the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and a Board Member of Unlocking Potential, Inc. Scott will have no governance role and no employment role at UP Academy.

Previously, Scott worked as a strategy consultant at the Parthenon Group before teaching high school history at Boston Collegiate Charter School. Scott became the Principal of Excel Academy Charter School, where he spearheaded the school's comprehensive and successful improvement strategy. During Scott's tenure, the East Boston charter school was improved from an underperforming school into the highest-performing public middle school in Massachusetts.¹ Scott has worked as an independent consultant for charter schools in 9 states, as an Entrepreneur in Residence at the Newark Charter School Fund, and as an Entrepreneur in Residence at the NewSchools Venture Fund. Scott is a summa cum laude graduate of Dartmouth College and he earned his MBA from Harvard Business School.

Other Founding Team Members – Proposed Trustees.

Karen Daniels. Karen Daniels is the Executive Director of Step UP, a partnership with BPS and the City of Boston that harnesses universities' expertise, intellectual resources, and substantial experience in public education outreach to deliver targeted services to ten selected Boston schools. Among her many other experiences in urban education, Karen served as the Founding Headmaster of Excel High School (no affiliation with Excel Academy), a Boston Public High School, where she helped to revitalize South Boston High School.

Robert McConnaughey. Robert is the Head of Equities for Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC. Robert has been an active member of the investment community since 1993, via his roles with Columbia Management Group, LLC, Citigroup Global Asset Management, Prudential's Real Estate Securities Group, and Fidelity Management & Research. Robert currently serves as chair of the State of Massachusetts Finance Advisory Board and Advisory Council chair for the Trust for Public Land in Massachusetts.

Scott McCue. Scott is the Founding Head of School at Boston Preparatory Charter Public School. Prior to starting BPCPS, Scott was a teacher and administrator at the Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter School and taught high school history in the New York City public schools.

¹ Claim is based on grade 6-8 math and ELA MCAS proficiency rates from Spring 2004 (pre-turnaround) through Spring 2008 (post-turnaround). Additional data is provided in section III(C)(6).

Ted Preston. Ted is the Chief Executive Officer of the Achievement Network, an education non-profit that provides schools that serve high-need students with effective data-driven strategies to identify and close gaps in student learning and embed these strategies into schools' everyday routines. He is a founding Board Member and former Board Chair of the Edward W. Brooke Charter School, a high performing charter school in Boston. A graduate of Brown University, Ted also holds an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Jesse Solomon. Jesse is the Director of the Boston Teacher Residency. He taught middle and high school math for ten years at the King Open School in Cambridge, Brighton High School, and City on a Hill Public Charter School, where he was a founding teacher, lead teacher for curriculum/instruction, and a member of the Board of Directors. While at City on a Hill, he founded the Teachers Institute, a school-based teacher preparation program. He has been an instructor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and is a National Board-Certified Teacher.

Barbara Sullivan. Barbara is the Portfolio Manager for Education at Strategic Grant Partners (SGP), a coalition of fourteen Massachusetts-based family foundations. Prior to joining SGP, Barbara was a Senior Principal and part of the leadership team in the Parthenon Group's Education Center of Excellence in Boston, MA. Before joining Parthenon, Barbara was a Broad Resident in the BPS system.

Yutaka Tamura. Yutaka is the Chief Operation Officer of UKA Teacher U, a teacher training joint venture between KIPP, Uncommon Schools, and Achievement First, three of the nation's top-performing charter school management organizations. Yutaka was the Lead Founder of Excel Academy Charter School (Boston, MA) and served as its Executive Director from 2003-08. Yutaka completed a year-long residency in the Building Excellent Schools fellowship program prior to opening the school. Yutaka is currently a Board Member of Unlocking Potential; he will immediately resign this position if UP Academy is granted its charter.

Other Founding Team Members – Proposed School-Level Employees.

The following individuals were recruited to become part of the founding team after an intensive, national search yielding hundreds of resumes. UP Academy's Lead Founder and several of the school's proposed Board members vetted many candidates through a rigorous selection process; the following four individuals were determined to be outstanding candidates with the skills and experience necessary to drive excellence at UP Academy.

Jamie Morrison. Jamie is an Academic Achievement Manager - ELA for Unlocking Potential, Inc. Pending charter approval, Jamie will resign from Unlocking Potential and become a DCI at UP Academy. Jamie most recently served as a high-performing teacher and instructional coach at New Orleans College Preparatory Charter School in Louisiana.

Jesse Robinson. Jesse is as an Academic Achievement Manager - Math and Student Support for Unlocking Potential, Inc. Pending charter approval, Jesse will resign from

Unlocking Potential become a DCI at UP Academy. Jesse most recently served as the Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Placement at Orchard Gardens K-8 Pilot School in Boston. Previously, Jesse was the Dean of Support Services at Boston Preparatory Charter Public School.

Other Founding Team Members.

Stacey Childress. Stacey is the Deputy Director of Education at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Previously, Stacey was a Senior Lecturer in the General Management unit at Harvard Business School, and a co-founder of the Public Education Leadership Project at Harvard University. Stacey serves on numerous education-focused boards, including that of the Education Equality Project. Stacey is a Board Member of Unlocking Potential.

Nicole Dorn. Nicole is the Director of Operations for Unlocking Potential, Inc. Nicole most recently worked as a consultant with the Boston Consulting Group, where her work primarily focused on improving productivity in the financial services sector and developing education reform strategies for non-profit and public sector clients. She is an alumnus of Teach For America and taught for three years in the Baltimore City Public Schools. Nicole received her BA from Harvard University, her MA in Teaching from Johns Hopkins University, and her MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Terri Ferraguto Rita. Terri is the Director of Talent for Unlocking Potential, Inc. Terri most recently worked as National Director of Recruitment at Uncommon Schools, where she designed, implemented, and managed the selection process used to recruit, select, and hire more than 500 individuals. During Terri's tenure, the number of applicants to Uncommon increased by more than 400%. Terri earned her BA from Connecticut College and her Ed. M. from Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Jordan Meranus. Jordan is a Partner at NewSchools Venture Fund, a venture philanthropy firm working to transform public education by supporting education entrepreneurs and connecting their work to systems change. Jordan also currently serves on the Boards of Excel Academy Charter School, the Academy for Urban School Leadership, Acelero Learning, The Achievement Network, BetterLesson, Chicago International Charter School, and Mastery Charter Schools. Jordan is a Board Member of Unlocking Potential.