

UP Academy Charter School of Springfield

Members of the Founding Group and the Proposed Board of Trustees

This document was prepared by the applicant group of the proposed UP Academy Charter School of Springfield.

Founding Team Members – Proposed Trustees

Delcie Bean, Chief Executive Officer, Paragus IT. Delcie is the Chief Executive Officer of Springfield-based Paragus IT, a fast-growing IT firm offering clients a range of services from desk support for staff to consulting to engineering to managing IT dollars. In addition, Delcie founded Tech Foundry, a Springfield-based initiative to recruit, train and place high school students and others at a variety of entry-level technology jobs at companies throughout the region.

Jack Dill, President, Colebrook Realty Services. Jack Dill, President of Springfield-based Colebrook Realty Services, has been negotiating real estate transactions on behalf of his clients - buyers, sellers, property owners and tenants - for more than three decades. Jack's community involvement reaches beyond his role as Colebrook President. He is an active supporter of numerous local nonprofits, and has served as trustee, director and board chair time and again. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Springfield School Volunteers, Inc., member of Springfield Business Leaders for Education, director of the Springfield Education Fund and board member of the Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation (MHIC). Jack has lived in Springfield since 1974.

Ashley Martin, Executive Director Western Massachusetts, The Achievement Network, and Former Teacher, Springfield Public Schools. Ashley serves as the Executive Director Western Massachusetts for The Achievement Network. Before that, she worked as Assistant Principal and ELA Teacher of the Duggan Middle School in Springfield.

Katie Rae Mulvey, Senior Portfolio Analyst (Education), Strategic Grant Partners. Katie Rae is a Senior Portfolio Analyst at Strategic Grant Partners, where she has provided strategic and analytical support for a variety of education-focused organizations across Massachusetts, with a specific focus on initiatives in Springfield. Katie Rae previously worked as a Senior Consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton.

Rachel Romano, Founder and Executive Director, Veritas Preparatory Charter School. Rachel is the Founder and Executive Director of Veritas Preparatory Prep Charter School in Springfield. In founding Veritas Prep, she studied and visited some of the highest performing urban charter schools to inform the design of Veritas Prep and make it a gap-closing school in Springfield. Prior to founding Veritas Prep, Rachel was the Principal and Executive Director of the Christa McAuliffe Regional Charter School in Framingham, MA where she led the school to achieve consistent gains in student achievement and increased enrollment by 62%. She also spent six years working in the Springfield Public Schools as a teacher and school leader.

Awilda Sanchez, Grandparent, Springfield Public Schools. Awilda is a grandparent and parent of many students and past students of Springfield Public Schools. Awilda has organized a remarkable number of Springfield community members around issues of education reform. She is a Stand for Children Member Leader and she serves as the organization's Springfield Organizer. Awilda serves on the Parent Teacher Organization at Brookings Elementary School.

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Kwame Webster, Managing Director for Western Massachusetts, Teach for America Massachusetts. Kwame will serve as the Founding Managing Director of Teacher for America Massachusetts's new Western Massachusetts region. Previously, Kwame has served as an Instructional Designer for the Collaborative for Educational Services as well as a teacher in New Orleans, LA.

Founding Team Members – Employees of Proposed Management Organization

Scott Given, CEO, Founder and CEO, UP Education Network. Scott is the Founder and CEO of UP Education Network. Scott has previously served as the Principal of Excel Academy Charter School, where he led a comprehensive school improvement effort from 2005 to 2008. Scott has also been a high school history teacher at Boston Collegiate Charter School and an Associate at the Parthenon Group, a strategy consulting firm.

Tim Nicolette, President, UP Education Network. Tim is the President of UP Education Network. Previously, Tim served as the Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief Financial Officer at Boston Public Schools. Tim has also worked as an Advisor to former Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and as an Associate Consultant for L.E.K. Consulting.

Founding Team Members – No Intention to become Board Members or School Employees

Mary Walachy, Executive Director, Irene and George Davis Foundation. Mary is the Executive Director of the Springfield-based Davis Foundation, where she has worked since 1997. Previously, Mary has worked as the Executive Director of the Mental Health Association of Greater Springfield.

Superintendent Daniel Warwick, Springfield Public Schools. Superintendent Warwick began his career with Springfield Public Schools nearly forty years ago. He has served in a variety of roles, including Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Principal, Supervisor of Special Education, and Teacher. Superintendent Warwick has been a lifelong Springfield resident.