

Somerville Progressive Charter School

Founders and Proposed Board of Trustees

This is prepared by the founding group of the proposed Somerville Progressive Charter School

Luis Alvernaz is a senior healthcare administrator at Children's Hospital in Boston. He has had experience in turnaround situations, reorganizations, strategic planning, team building, implementation of new programs, and revenue and financial enhancement. Luis has three children and has lived in Somerville since he was nine years old. He was born in Portugal and is fluent in Portuguese.

Olivera Berce, M.L.A., has extensive experience in landscape design and project management. She has worked on many large scale projects and understands how to bring a project from conception through design and fruition. She has two children and lives in Somerville. She is originally from Slovenia.

Kristof Brzezinski, M.A., is an architect with extensive experience in academic and institutional design. He has designed child-oriented environments including the Sturgis Charter Public School of Hyannis's recent new expansion. He has two children and lives in Somerville. He is originally from Poland.

Proposed founding board member- Property Seat

Gonzalo Carrasco, Ph.D., is a researcher and scholar in chemical oceanography and biochemistry, affiliated with MIT. He has one child and lives in Somerville. He is originally from Peru and is fluent in Spanish.

Nicole Castoreno, M.Ed., specializes in moderate special needs K-8 education, and currently works at a Massachusetts charter school in this capacity. She is experienced in diagnostic testing and drafting IEPs. She lives in Chelsea.

Julie Catalano, MSW, is a licensed social worker with extensive experience working with families from a range of socio-economic strata. She is also a small business owner with financial and organizational skills. She has two children and lives in Somerville.

Evelyn Dalembert, M.A., is an early childhood educator, as well as small business owner. For over 15 years, she has owned, operated, and managed the Lyne Family Day Care in Somerville, which offers child care for children ages one through five. She has two grown children and lives in Somerville. She was born in Haiti and is fluent in French and Haitian-Creole.

Laura Douglass, Ph.D., is a scholar and researcher in pedagogical methods, affiliated with Lesley University. She has strong research, organizational and writing skills and has many connections to experts in K-8 education. She has one child and lives in Somerville. *Proposed founding board member – Charter Compliance Seat*

Selena Fitanides, Esq., is an attorney who teaches legal writing. She has taught literacy skills and ESL in urban communities. She has experience designing and renovating buildings. She has three children and lives in Somerville. *Proposed founding board member – Legal Compliance Seat*

Elizabeth Leto Fulton, M.A., is a fine art paintings conservator with a private business. She has business management skills, and a vast knowledge of the conservation, preservation, science and history of fine arts paintings. She has shared her 20 years of experience in the classroom through workshops and museum visits and has taught remedial English. She is fluent in Italian, has one child and lives in Somerville.

Maya Gonzalez has worked for the past 30 years as a teacher, counselor and advocate in schools and programs serving English Language Learners (ELL) and their families. She currently is an ELL teacher at a Massachusetts charter school where she developed a program for ELL students. She is fluent in Spanish.

Lola Hamilton, M.S., is an educator with degrees in Severe Special Needs, Media Technology, and Educational Administration. She has been working with students with special needs in the Boston Public School system for over fifteen years. She has three children and lives in Somerville. She is originally from the United Kingdom. *Proposed founding board member – Education Seat*

Ally Hines, B.A., has a long history of volunteering in the public schools (including in leadership roles), initiating and running creative programs, and community-building. She has 2 children and lives in

Somerville. She is originally from the United Kingdom and speaks French. *Proposed founding board member – Development Seat*

Eugenia Hristova, Ph.D., is a scholar and educator in international studies and is affiliated with Northeastern University and Simmons College. She has one child and lives in Somerville. She was born in Bulgaria and was raised in Egypt.

Soraia Junkoski, M.A., C.A.G.S., has extensive experience teaching and counseling bilingual students in Massachusetts and Rhode Island and currently works as a counselor at Framingham High School. She has passionately defended the rights of minority students in the New England area for over a decade. She was born in Brazil and, in addition to her native Portuguese, Soraia is fluent in Spanish and English.

Kate Latimer, Esq., is an attorney with experience in community organizing. She has been actively involved in her 3 children's education, including serving as co-president of their cooperative pre-school and in leadership positions with their Somerville public school's parent organization, and as a regular classroom volunteer.

Heidi Lyne, M.A., has spent her career in progressive education as a teacher and school administrator, including at the Mission Hill School in Roxbury. She is currently the Head of Lower School at the Neighborhood House Charter School in Dorchester. She speaks French, reads Spanish, and lives in Cambridge. *Proven Provider and Proposed founding board member – Charter Compliance Seat*

Christopher P. Maffucci, Esq., is an attorney who specializes in real estate and construction law. He is currently a partner in a real estate development business and has owned and run several retail businesses. He has three children and lives in Somerville.

Seth Minkoff, Ph.D., has a background in linguistics and currently teaches Spanish, history and math at Saugus High School. He has developed K-12 language curriculum, trained K-12 language teachers, and is licensed to teach Spanish, ESL, Mathematics and History. He has one child and lives in Somerville. He is fluent in Spanish and has a working knowledge of French and K'iche'-Maya.

Yelena Popovic, M.S., is an atmospheric scientist with experience in air quality and environmental issues. She currently works as a meteorologist at TRC. She has 2 children and lives in Somerville. She is originally from Serbia.

Pavlos Protopapas, Ph.D., is a scholar and lecturer in astrophysics and engineering at Harvard University and coaches Somerville children in soccer. He has two children and lives in Somerville. He is originally from Cyprus and speaks Greek. *Proposed founding board member – Education Seat*

Judy Schwartz, M.Ed., is a lecturer in communications at Boston College and is involved in student multimedia at the college as well as comprehensive media literacy. She has one child and lives in Somerville. She is fluent in Spanish.

Masha Shoykhet, M.S., currently works as a project manager at Harvard University. She is well versed in grants administration and business administration, as well as IT project and product management. She has 3 children and lives in Somerville. She is originally from Russia and is fluent in Russian.

Craig Smith, Ed.D., is a scholar and researcher in psychology affiliated with the Harvard Department of Psychology. His specialty is children's social development. He has two children and lives in Somerville.

Ana Iara Soares, B.A., has a degree in language arts and currently runs and manages her own family day care business which serves pre-school children. She has three children and lives in Somerville. She is originally from Brazil. She is fluent in Portuguese and French.

Elizabeth Traumann, MSW, works at the Cambridge Health Alliance with the Portuguese Mental Health team as a Social Worker. She is interested in improving the living standards of the Portuguese-speaking communities in Massachusetts. She has three children and lives in Somerville. She was born in Brazil and is fluent in Portuguese.

Martha Ware, M.A., is an illustrator and lecturer in visual communication at Bentley College. She has extensive experience with self-governance in education, having served as co-founder, administrator, and educator at a democratic, progressive school in Colorado for eight years. She lives in Medford.

Maria West, M.A., has experience in child education and teacher training, as well as in small business management. For the last 15 years, she has owned, operated, and managed the West Family Day Care in

Somerville, which offers child care for children from ages one through twelve. She has three children and lives in Somerville. *Proposed founding board member – Personnel Seat*

Jamila Xible, M.A.L.D., has extensive experience in global research and consulting, including content development and operations management. She also was director of the Somerville Human Rights Commission for three years. She has three children and lives in Somerville. She was born in Brazil and is fluent in Portuguese and conversant in Spanish. *Proposed founding board member – Community Relations Seat*

Bruce Yap, M.S., is a founder, owner, and chief operator of MetroRock, a successful indoor rock climbing center with two locations. Among other duties, he acts as business manager, handling staffing, human resources, payroll, A/R and A/P, cash flow, account reconciliation, inventory management and strategic sourcing. Before opening MetroRock, he ran a successful software development consulting firm. Recently he started a non-profit to extend rock climbing experiences to underprivileged youth. He has two children and lives in Somerville. *Proposed founding board member - Finance Seat*