

Springfield Collegiate Charter School

Proposed Board of Trustees

This is prepared by the founding group of the proposed Springfield Collegiate Charter School.

John Brown, an Investment Strategy Analyst in the Chief Investment Officer's group at MassMutual, brings strong financial and real estate development experience. Mr. Brown has been active in several community initiatives including as a board member of St Jude School in Harlem, NYC and through early involvement in a speaker series designed to prepare high school seniors for college. Mr. Brown earned a BS from the University of Virginia and MBA from Columbia Business School.

Christin Deremian, Manager at Human Resources Unlimited in Springfield, brings extensive knowledge of the city and expertise in staffing and government contracting. Actively involved in the Young Professionals Society of Greater Springfield, she is board member for the Molly Bish Foundation, member of the Chamber of Commerce, Women's Professional Chamber, and is a Supervising Practitioner at Springfield College. Ms. Deremian earned a BS at Bay Path College and is 2011 honoree of the BusinessWest 40 Under 40 award.

James Duda, partner at Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinas, is the head of its intellectual property practice group and has taught environmental law at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He brings community leadership and governance experience, having served on a number of boards, including those for EarthAction, Regional Technology Corporation, Valley Technology Outreach, and the Amherst Ballet. He is a former member of the school boards for the Amherst Regional Public Schools and the Town of Pelham, MA. He currently is a member of the Board for the New England Public Radio Foundation. Mr. Duda earned a BA from Bennington College, MS from UCLA, and a JD from Boston College.

Peter Ellis, Vice President and Creative Director at a DIS Designs, a Springfield-based web and graphic design agency, will drive our marketing and public relations work. Mr. Ellis has helped to found a number of local business ventures; he serves on the Board of Directors for the Young Professionals of Greater Springfield and the AdClub of Western Massachusetts. Recent graduate of a regional leadership program, Leadership Pioneer Valley, Mr. Ellis earned a BA from Maryland Bible College and Seminary.

Jennifer Gabriel is the Vice President, Community Relations Manager for TD Bank where she coordinates philanthropic giving with area non-profits. Ms. Gabriel brings the perspective of a parent of a child in the Springfield Public School system and is a member of several Springfield-based organizations including the Springfield Business Leaders for Education Committee and Reading Success by Grade 4 Funding Collaborative. Ms. Gabriel holds a BA from Bridgewater State College.

Kelvin Molina is Community Engagement Coordinator for HAPHousing, a large non-profit organization focused on housing assistance, development of affordable housing, and consumer education located in the South End Neighborhood of Springfield. He is focused on the recovery and revitalization efforts for the South End, Six Corners and Old Hill Neighborhoods which were devastated by the June 1st tornado of 2011. Mr. Molina previously worked at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, a regional planning organization, as a Community Development Planner and Transportation Planner focused primarily on grant writing, procurement, project management, and neighborhood revitalization. He is a member of the MA Army National Guard where he currently serves at the rank of Captain. A lifelong Springfield resident and product of Springfield Public Schools (SPS), Mr. Molina has deep understanding of the challenges facing Springfield residents both in and out of the SPS system. Mr. Molina holds an MPA and BA from Westfield State.

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Robin Olejarz is Chief Financial Officer of the Greater Springfield YMCA, where she currently oversees a \$10.6 million budget. A CPA, she has worked in both public and private accounting over the course of her career, holding positions at Coopers & Lybrand (now PriceWaterhouse Coopers), Turgean, Schultz & Associates (now Aubrey, Dixon, Turgeon), Moriarty & Primack, P.C., and Kostin Ruffkess & Company, P.C. She has served on numerous boards in Springfield and devoted a great deal of her time to volunteer work, much of it in Springfield's schools. A native of Springfield, Ms. Olejarz attended the Springfield Public Schools and holds a BA and a BS in Accounting from Western New England College.

Gareth Ross is Vice President of Strategy at MassMutual, where he is responsible for a small team of analysts tasked with identifying, articulating and defending long term distribution strategy. His core responsibilities include market assessment, financial analytics, demand forecasting and creation of executive and board presentations. Mr. Ross has held various roles in finance and strategy and is eager to use his expertise on behalf of Springfield Collegiate. Mr. Ross has a BA from Washington University in St. Louis, MBA from Wharton, and MA from the University of Pennsylvania.

William Spirer is a Fellow with Building Excellent Schools, Lead Founder for Springfield Collegiate, and the proposed Executive Director. Mr. Spirer was a Teach For America (TFA) corps member, teacher, and attorney. He taught Global History, leading students to a 79% pass rate on the state exam (49 points higher than the pass rate for similar city schools and 13 points higher than the statewide pass rate), economics, and government, and chaired the History Department. He has worked as a Grade Team Leader and as a TFA Content Specialist, coaching novice teachers on successful instructional strategies. In law school, Mr. Spirer was a Public Interest Law Fellow, was awarded the Faculty Public Service Award, chaired the student group that ran a consumer rights clinic, and was Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Law and Policy*, overseeing a staff of sixty members. Mr. Spirer worked as an attorney in Lowell, MA, where he served in the Children and Family Law division of the MA public defenders' office. In 2012, Mr. Spirer was accepted into the prestigious Building Excellent Schools Fellowship, during which he will complete leadership training at high performing urban schools, with a particular focus on elementary curriculum development and instruction. We intend Mr. Spirer to serve as the founding Executive Director of Springfield Collegiate and he will serve on the board in an *ex officio*, non-voting capacity. Mr. Spirer earned a BA at Bates College, MST in Education at Pace University, and JD at Brooklyn Law School.

Danielle L. Williams is the Program Director for the Lead to Succeed program at Baypath College, a year-long program which encourages inner city middle school girls to aim for their very best in school and in life. She coordinates and implements the overall program, including organizing and facilitating workshops, discussions, and a speaker series. As an attorney committed to young people, Ms. Williams has volunteered as a writing coach and routinely operates as a public speaker where she addresses young people about writing and following their dreams. An attorney for ten years, she has practiced in Hampden County as an Assistant District Attorney both in district and juvenile court. This experience gave her a unique look at the problems facing Springfield, and has grounded in her a commitment to the Pioneer Valley. A native of Western Massachusetts, she is a graduate of the local MacDuffie School, received a BA from The College of William and Mary and JD from Western New England University.