**Tarkan Topcuoglu** has been in the field of education for more than 18 years, having worked in urban and suburban school settings, specifically in college prep schools, as a teacher, department head, academic dean, and principal. He worked as an academic dean and in start-up process of Hampden Charter School of Science (HCSS) in 2009-2011. His most recent administrative experience was working as Chief Education Officer in a college prep charter school serving students K-12 in NJ for five years. Under his leadership, the school has been recognized as a 2016-National Blue Ribbon School Awardee by the United States Department of Education. The school has been transformed from a Low-performing to a High-performing college-prep school, named a Top 10 School by JerseyCAN, awarded Silver status as one of America’s Best High Schools by *US News and World Report*, and recognized as a Reward School by the New Jersey Department of Education. Mr.Topcuoglu has been selected to receive the Terrel H. Bell Award for outstanding school leadership by the United States Department of Education at its 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Ceremony in Washington DC. One of seven award recipients nationwide, Mr.Topcuoglu, was selected from a candidate pool of almost 329 principals of National Blue Ribbon Schools. He is married, has two children, and resides in Agawam, MA.

**Zully Dinc** is a parent of three, residing in Springfield, and a teacher in the Springfield Public Schools. Her teaching experience in Springfield and involvement in the community have been great assets for HCSS. As a long term resident of Springfield she will be a liaison to the local community.

**Dr. Ahmet Gunay** received his Ph.D. degree in chemistry from the University of Rochester. He worked for the University of Delaware and then Worcester Polytechnic Institute as a post-doctoral researcher. He has published several research papers in internationally accredited science journals including the *Journal of American Chemical Society*. He currently teaches chemistry at Westfield State University as a part-time faculty. He is the father of three and he resides in Agawam.

**Diane H. Hunter** has been serving on the board for two years. Mrs. Hunter contributes to HCSS through her strong ties with the community and her entrepreneurial spirit. She owns and runs Miss Diane’s Family Childcare in Springfield.

**Pinar Karaaslan** is a paralegal working for a law firm in Springfield. Her area of expertise is real estate, and her vast knowledge in real estate and law has been providential for HCSS. She has been serving successfully on the board since the inception of the flagship school.

**Prof. Nigar J. Khan** is the retired Associate Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Massachusetts. Before joining the university she taught social studies in the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District at junior and middle and high school levels. In her current as well as previous positions, she works closely with the science, mathematics, and engineering departments of the University of Massachusetts in developing summer study programs for underprivileged inner city high school students. These programs have worked very well not only in giving students an exposure to these areas of study but also encouraging and preparing them for their future choices. She is also a parent. She will oversee the overall educational program of HCSS.

**Dr. Volkan Yesilyurt** is one of the founding board members of HCSS and has been serving as chair of the Board of Trustees since 2008. He is currently a post-doctoral research associate in the Koch Institute for Cancer Research at MIT. He is highly motivated with the desire to contribute to community and to help the youth in low performing districts. He holds a Ph.D. from UMass-Amherst in chemistry, and he is also a parent.

***Note***: Commissioner Chester appointed two additional trustees to the board of trustees of the Hampden Charter School of Science after the final application was submitted in November. **Saaida Crawford Carter** and **Saad Syed** were appointed on December 12, 2016. The Commissioner is the appointing authority for trustees of charter schools.