

Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School

Founders and Proposed Board of Trustees

This is prepared by the founding group of the proposed

Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School.

The seven founders have strong experience and are well qualified to implement this proposal to found and sustain an excellent charter school, have decades of combined experience managing public funds, represent all of the key areas of skills required for a new school start-up and have broad and tangible ties to Holyoke and surrounding communities. Ljuba Marsh is one of the co-founders of the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School and served as its Education Director for 11 years. She currently is the Principal of the Global Learning Charter Public School in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Bob Brick is the other co-founder of PVPACPS and served as its Administrative Director/Executive Director for 14 years. Before starting PVPA, Mr. Brick was administratively responsible for the oversight of all Outpatient Mental Health programming in Holyoke and Hampden County. Janet Sheppard is a practicing Attorney who served as the City Attorney in Northampton, Massachusetts for over 12 years. Her current practice includes Bar Advocacy for juveniles in Holyoke. Ingrid Askew is one of the founding board members of PVPA Charter Public School and she is currently a resident of Holyoke. Rhonda Soto, a former resident of Holyoke is also a former Charter School parent and teacher. She serves on the Board of the Care Center in Holyoke and the Holyoke Community College Alumni Council. . Elaine Reall is currently the City Solicitor in Northampton and has decades of experience in Employment Law and Human Resources. Keith Purcell is a CPA and Principal at the Accounting firm of Downey, Sweeney and Fitzgerald. Bob Brick and Ljuba Marsh are the primary authors of this final proposal.