



TWO RIVERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 8, 2026

Call to Order

Chair Carne called the June 8th meeting of the Two Rivers Board of Trustees to order at 6:06 PM at Young Elementary with a quorum of Trustees present. Trustees Proffitt and Sheehy were not present. Trustee Hou arrived at 6:08pm. Chair Carne opened the meeting by explaining that the meeting would be held per the Open Meetings Act and recorded. She also noted that she would be acting as a proxy on behalf of Treasurer Awwal for the June 8th meeting only.

Roll Call

Board Members

Elle Carne, Chair	Present
Derek Pierce, Vice Chair	Present
Mike Jacobs Jr., Secretary	Absent
Faisal Awwal, Treasurer	Present, by proxy
Alyssa Brunner, Trustee	Present
Elaine Hou, Trustee	Present
Malik Husser, Trustee	Present
Jessica Proffitt, Trustee	Absent
Erin Sheehy, Trustee	Absent
Ahna Smith, Trustee	Present
Raj Thomas, Trustee	Present
Belicia Reaves, Executive Director and Ex Officio	Present

Others Present

Michelle Kimso, Special Project Manager for the Office of the Executive Director
Bridget Jackson, Chief of Staff
Mary Gornick, Chief Human Resources Officer
Aqueelha James, Chief Academic Officer
Gail Williams, Chief Operating Officer
McKenzie Baecker, 4th St Elementary Principal
Stephanie Clinesmith, 4th Street Parent

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Trustees Hou was not present, all other Trustees voted to approve the agenda.

Approval of the May 11 , 2026 Minutes

Trustees Hou was not present, all other Trustees voted to approve the minutes.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Reaves started by sharing the mission moment, Musical at Two Rivers. Regarding enrollment, the numbers have been slower to enroll than before, however once enrolled, everything is intact. Two Rivers will be completing an internal audit before the OSSE audit. Several listening sessions have taken place in which stakeholders have listed reasons to return to Two Rivers as academic rigor and behavior systems. Reaves encouraged Trustees to be actively engaged in voting in DC to make sure our funding matches what is given to DCPS. In Development, families were thanked who have participated in fantastic voyages. An outdoor funding campaign is starting on June 15th and will run through the summer.

In the Strategic plan year 2, top things proud of highlight include MS math achievement seeing a 180 turn around with double digit gains. When Reaves joined Two Rivers, staffing retention was at 65% and is currently at 88%, and is up compared to last year's 84%. They continue to be thoughtful about creating conditions for staff and leaders. In community partnerships, 86% of students screened through Prevention of Blindness got glasses. Parents shared that 83% feel students belong at the school.

Trustees asked about re-enrollment areas of surprise and equal distribution across grades or other trends that were noticed. Reaves shared that year over year 4th and 5th at both campuses are lower, as students are lost to 5-12th grade schools. Families of 2nd and 3rd students are looking at neighborhood schools that are having renovations. Overall, there are a number of families moving out of DMV.

Strategic Plan

CAO James shared that during SY:2025–26, the academic team continued implementation of Goal 1 priorities focused on strengthening instructional quality, improving student outcomes, and increasing equitable access to rigorous learning experiences across campuses. MAP Achievement improved modestly in ELA and Math. However, in the lower achievement quarterlies, it went 36 to 37, in which Two Rivers wants it to go in the opposite direction. MAP ELA growth went from 53% to 57%, which is good, but not at the rate Two Rivers would like to see it. 62% of K-2 students grew 3 microphrases. In ELA MAP, Multi-lingual students grew while At -risk and SPED students decreased. Black students and multi-race declined, while hispanic and white experienced growth. In Math, 38% of students met or exceeded achievement benchmarks and 51% met their growth goals.

The organization also continued its focus on high-quality student work through Celebration of Learning experiences across campuses. Principal Baecker shared that they don't just look at assessment scores, also looking at High Quality Student Work. Documentation panels tell the story of all student work. 3rd grade students re-wrote Peter Pan and MS continue to learn about Fredrick Douglass.

Trustee questions asked why the choice to Dr. Frederick Douglass legacy. ED Reaves that it is part of the EL Module and Two Rivers was adjusting and extending based on the students.

CAO James continued to share that next steps are to deepen data use, provide targeted support through SAILing and LAB time, increase responsive teaching and academic discourse, and to engage families. The network's priorities include re-envisioning professional learning and continuing using the co-teaching model which has a high success rate.

Trustees commented that they don't like to see dips and were wondering what are the next steps, specifically when seeing trends in the data. James shared that when deepening data use, there is a variation in how long the teacher has been receiving coaching. Two Rivers is being thoughtful about how much to put on one person. There is targeted support for students.

Trustees commented that it would be great to do a deep dive on the data, to see if there is something specific that is causing the dip. James shared that EL Skills block walkthrough data is used and paired it with student academic data and coaching to see what the three components do to boost teachers' confidence and differentiated instruction.

Trustees asked what resources and systems are in place to empower students coming in grade level after the summer. CAO James shared that scholars below the 40th percentile come to Extended School Year. The Middle School also offered an after school math program.

Finance

Chair Carne shared the following memo below which were previously shared with Trustees.

- **Contract Renewals-** Two Rivers used the services of the companies in the below table in FY26. Rates for FY27 were solicited and increased/decreased usage (if any) was considered. The contracts were previously procured in compliance with DC Public Charter School Board requirements and are therefore eligible for renewal without further procurement. The contracts are each estimated to have an aggregate value equal to or exceeding \$25,000 over the course of the fiscal year and therefore necessitate board approval according to Two Rivers policy.

Contractor	Service	Rate Change	FY26 Cost	FY27 Cost
EL Education	Professional Development and Implementation of the EL Education School Reform Design	Slight decrease	\$98,100	\$97,600
EmpowerK12	Data Tracking and Analysis	Upgrading service package in order to improve depth of data analysis and extend data tracking	\$44,000	\$60,500
Traditional Expressions	African Drumming Instruction	4% increase	\$75,000	\$78,000
Law Office of Lauren Baum	Legal Services for SPED	No rate change	\$36,650	\$50,000
Capitol Kids Therapy	Speech Language Pathology	5% increase	\$10,000 Services used only from mid-April to June.	\$25,000
William Braxton Trash Service	Sanitation Services	Projected 3% increase	\$30,000	\$30,900

- Recommendation - The Board approve the renewal of listed contracts.

All Trustees voted to approve the FY 27 renewals.

Chief Operating Officer Williams shared that there were no updates from the budget that was presented at the May Board of Trustees meeting. A recommendation was made to vote to approve the budget.

All Trustees voted to approve the FY 27 budget.

Governance

Chair Carne thanked Trustees Sheehy and Profitt for their service of 1 term and Trustee Husser for his two-term service. She read the following resolution for Trustee Husser.

**IN RECOGNITION OF EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF TWO RIVERS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL PRESENTS
THE RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF
MALIK HUSSER**

WHEREAS, Malik Husser served two, three-year terms as a Trustee on the Two Rivers Board of Trustees (the “Board”) from 2020 through 2026;

WHEREAS, Malik Husser served as Vice Chair in the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school year;

WHEREAS, Malik Husser served with distinction leading the Board and Two Rivers Network successfully through the CoronaVirus pandemic always focusing on the safety of students and staff;

WHEREAS, Mr. Husser consistently supported the Two Rivers network, culminating in the 20th Anniversary Gala celebration, always championing the best interest of the school;

WHEREAS, Mr. Husser is a thoughtful and dedicated advocate for the Two Rivers network, bringing his love of education and his expertise to the Board governance and oversight role, championing the mission and vision of the Two Rivers Community from pandemic to expansion;

WHEREAS, Mr. Husser was a key voice during the Board’s analysis of various aspects of the evolution of Two Rivers from distinct schools to an organizational network, including the construction of the Two Rivers Middle School;

WHEREAS, Mr. Husser helped Two Rivers enter the next phase of the organization growth by leading and supporting a rigorous selection process for a second Executive Director;

WHEREAS, Mr. Husser supported a streamlined annual board recruitment process for multiple years, resulting in a diverse array of subject matter experts on the Board, which has widened the aperture through which the Board views matters before it;

WHEREAS, Mr. Husser streamlined elements involving the Board of Trustees in a manner that amplified engagement between the Executive Director, Two Rivers leadership, and the Board of Trustees;

WHEREAS, Mr. Husser served as a beacon of inspiration and mentorship for leaders of Two Rivers Leadership Council daring them to lead with conviction and heart always;

WHEREAS, Mr. Husser always brings an eye for detail, legal risk and financial acumen to his role as a Trustee and Officer on the Board;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board expresses its utmost gratitude and deepest appreciation to Mr. Husser for his immeasurable contributions, service, and dedication to Two Rivers;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be permanently entered into the minutes of the June 8, 2026 meeting of the Two Rivers Board of Trustees.

Trustee Husser thanked the Board and shared that children and education are the future.

Secretary Jacobs shared that Chair Carne and Treasurer Awwal ended their first term and would like to continue for a second term on the Board.

All Trustees voted to approve the second term nominees.

Secretary Jacobs shared that the governance committee recommended voting Rachel Stafford as Trustee. She has been serving on the governance committee.

All Trustees voted to approve Stafford as Trustee.

Chair Carne shared that the Executive Committee slate for SY '26-'27 is as follows:

Chair: Elle Carne

Vice Chair: Dr. Mike Jacobs

Treasurer: Faisal Awwal Trustee

Secretary: Alyssa Brunner

All Trustees voted to approve the Executive Committee for SY '26-'27.

ED Reaves shared that 8th graders are being celebrated through creativity in Passage Portfolios with 94% passing on the first time. The remaining students passed in round two. There are 83 students going to 26 high schools across the city.

Closed Session

All Trustees voted to move to closed session under OMA (b) (1) A law or court order requires that a particular matter or proceeding not be public (10) Personnel Matter.

All Trustees voted to move to open session. Chair Carne shared there was no public information to report.

Adjournment

All Trustees unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:57pm.

Prepared by:
Michelle Kimso/s/
Special Projects Manager for the
Office of the Executive Director

Submitted by:
Mike Jacobs/s/
Secretary