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TWO RIVERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

October 19, 2026

Call to Order

Chair Carne called the October 19, 2026 meeting of the Two Rivers Board of Trustees to order at 6:05 PM at Two Rivers 4th Street Elementary School with a quorum of Trustees present. Treasurer Awwal and Secretary Jacobs arrived at 6:06pm. Trustee Pierce arrived at 6:09pm. Trustee Smith-Jones arrived at 6:18pm. Chair Carne opened the meeting by explaining that the meeting would be held per the Open Meetings Act and recorded.

Roll Call

Board Members

Elle Carne, Chair	Present
Mike Jacobs Jr., Vice Chair	Present
Alyssa Brunner, Trustee	Present
Faisal Awwal, Treasurer	Present
Elaine Hou, Trustee	Present
Derek Pierce, Trustee	Present
Nicole Smith-Jones, Trustee	Present
Rachel Stafford, 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
Mary Gornick, Chief Human Resources Officer
Aqueelha James, Chief Academic Officer
Gail Williams, Chief Operating Officer
McKenzie Baecker, 4th St Elementary Principal
Cody Encarncion, Spanish Department Lead
Dilenia Dilone Abreu, Elementary Spanish Teacher
John Rodriguez, Young ES Spanish Teacher
Bill Payne, 4th Street Parent, Trustee-elect
Alyssa Wilson, Trustee-elect
Anya Stockburger, 4th Street Parent

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Trustees Pierce and Smith-Jones were not present, all other Trustees voted to approve the agenda.

Approval of the September 14, 2026 Minutes

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Trustees Pierce and Smith-Jones were not present, all other Trustees voted to approve the minutes.

Public Comment

No comments were made.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Reaves started by introducing the Spanish Department for the mission moment. Spanish teachers Encarnacion, Dilone Abreu, and Rodriguez shared an overview of the Spanish Curriculum with Trustees including 3rd grade penpals, vocabulary fashion show and ECE greetings. They shared how thinking routines are incorporated through noting what students see, think, and wonder. They further showed Two Rivers traditions including Hispanic Heritage Month, Middle School Quinceanera, Latin Dance Competition and Spanish Night.

ED Reaves shared that Two Rivers met and exceeded the enrollment goal of 1,039 to land at 1,049. This is possible due to added PK4 and Kindergarten classes at 4th St. Two Rivers is fortunate to have the waitlists in the grade levels that they do, as there is a birth decline across the US. They are anticipating an attrition of students going into 1st grade, at which time there will be 2 classes per grade. Reaves shared appreciation for the Chief of Staff team, principals and Front Desk Associates for making this possible.

Trustees asked if a surplus in enrollment means a surplus in revenue? Reaves shared that the money is already being poured into the classrooms and staff, with the increase in classroom materials. While all staff did not get a shift in salary, staff who did not get the full 3% increase at the start of the school year have received a 1% increase to total the 3% cola.

Trustees also asked if other schools are having low enrollment and if there are trends in charters vs DCPS? They inquired how many other schools are fully enrolled vs under? Reaves shared that many charter schools are right under or below enrollment and some hit it on the head.

Reaves then shared upcoming events, including Board Coffee with families and the My High School Search Fair, with Trustees and that the Beyond the Basics Campaign was kicking off. Trustees asked how many schools participate in the fair. Reaves shared that over 25 schools participated with private, public, and even 2 boarding schools last year.

Academic Excellence

CAO James shared the Beginning of Year academic results. BOY Skills Block key findings include encoding proficiency improving at both elementary schools with 14% across the network. The response to the results include strengthening explicit, systematic foundational skills instruction, using foundational skills data to target support and monitoring skill mastery and literacy growth.

Fall MAP ELA indicated 7% decline in proficiency from Fall 2025 to Fall 2026 with both elementary schools declining and Middle School holding steady. In proficiency, SPED students saw an increase, while all other student groups saw decreases. ELA growth declined 3% with Young Elementary growing, but 4th St Elementary and Middle School declining. All racial demographics declined in proficiency with the greatest decline in multiracial students by 18%. In growth, At-risk, FARMS, and MLL students saw growth while other students saw decreases. The response to the results include increasing precision of small-group

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instruction, strengthening data-informed instructional decisions, and building teacher capacity through the Adult Learning Framework.

Fall MAP Math indicated 4% decline in proficiency with declines at Middle School and Young Elementary with 4th St increasing. In proficiency, SPED and FARMS remained the same, while MLL grew 16% points. Math growth declined 13% across the network with all 3 schools declining. In growth, MLL students grew 15% while all other subgroups declined. All racial demographics declined in growth with the greatest decline by black students of 15%. The response to the results include deepen conceptual understanding and mathematical reasoning, increasing the precision of targeted math instruction, and building teacher capacity through the adult learning framework.

Two Rivers will continue to monitor progress through interim reports with a goal of prioritizing stronger Tier 1 instruction, targeted supports, and job-embedded coaching, with particular attention to math growth. As a result, students will experience stronger Tier 1 instruction, targeted Tier 2 support, and will experience greater progress toward proficiency.

Trustees asked if there was anything that was a surprise with BOY data? James responded that not just MLL groups but with FARMS as well SAIL and LAB are making an impact. The team is digging deeper into SPED & MLL and the hispanic subgroup data.

Trustees inquired if the targeted responses were within the current budget? James shared that yes-they are. Middle School received a grant for High Impact Tutoring and the DIS grant to have impact tutoring for grades 1-8 was submitted on the 13th. Trustees followed up with inquiring how to use the grant to compliment with what we have now. James shared that there is limited research on ELA companies. Limited on ELA, so they decided to write the grant for ELA.

Trustees asked Principal Baecker what she was seeing in Tier 1 and Tier 2? Baecker shared that in Tier 1 instructional classrooms they are seeing responsive teaching. They are taking data and responding to it with 45% classrooms doing it with an increase of 73% in October.

Trustees inquired what they should expect MOY assessment data to tell? James shared they should see 5% growth from BOY.

Trustees asked if instruction was being monitored consistently? Principal Baecker shared that they are monitoring student actions and teacher actions. If it is not seen consistently, there is additional coaching provided. Observations are then done 1 time/week with coaching focused on goals for the observation. Learning walks occur monthly to assess progress in the areas needed.

Finance

Treasurer Awwal shared the following memo below which were previously shared with Trustees.

- Benefits Renewal- Two Rivers procures contracts through our insurance agent, NFP, in compliance with DC Public Charter School Board requirements; they are eligible for renewal and approval without further procurement. Two Rivers' current health insurance provider, Kaiser Permanente, submitted a renewal bid with a 11.4% rate increase. Aetna, CareFirst, Cigna, and United Healthcare declined to bid. The FY27 budget included a 21% increase

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over the FY26 forecasted health insurance actuals. In FY26, Two Rivers switched to the provider Guardian for dental and vision insurance. Under the contract, there is no rate increase for this year. In FY26, Two Rivers switched to The Principal for short-term and long-term disability and life insurance. Under the contract, there is no rate increase for this year.

- Recommendation - The Board to approve the benefit renewal.

All Trustees voted to unanimously approve the benefit renewal.

Treasurer Awwal welcomed new Finance Committee members.

Governance

Secretary Brunner thanked Trustee Thomas for his service. She shared the following memo below which were previously shared with Trustees.

- Vote on New Trustees- The resignation of Trustee Raj Thomas left the Board with an uneven number of Trustees at 8. Additionally the Board was not composed of a majority of DC residents. In order to be in compliance with the Public Charter School Board School Reform Act requiring that all public charter school boards have an odd number of members between 3 and 15, Two Rivers' Governance Committee has decided to invite Alyssa Wilson, Bill Payne, Dr. Charity Vinson, to join the Board.
  Alyssa Wilson currently serves as an attorney for the National Center for Youth Law and holds a J.D. from Howard University School of Law. Bill Payne is a Two Rivers parent who serves as a Commercial Territory Manager at Tenable and holds an MBA from Georgetown. Dr. Charity Vinson serves as the Head of Primary School at Holy Trinity an Episcopal School and holds a Doctorate from Lipscomb.
- Recommendation - The Board approve Alyssa Wilson, Bill Payne, and Dr. Charity Vinson as new Trustees.

All Trustees voted to unanimously approve the new Trustees.

Secretary Brunner reminded all Trustees to complete the PCSB training, which has been sent to them, by January.

Development

Vice Chair Jacobs Jr. provided an update that Two Rivers lost the outdoor education grant and is fundraising for outdoor education, of which $8,910 has been raised of $50,000. Corporate sponsorships have raised $20,000 of unrestricted funds, of which the goal was $15,000. The committee wants to ensure the funding model is sustainable. Trustees were asked to amplify beyond the basics campaign. ED Reaves clarified that the Outdoor Ed fundraising has closed and will reopen in the spring.

Adjournment

All Trustees unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:26pm.

Prepared by: Submitted by:

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

Alyssa Brunner/s/
Secretary