



## A Board of Trustees Making a Difference for D.C. Students

Capital City Public Charter School is governed by a Board of Trustees filled with diverse talents and expertise and a deep passion for the school's mission. They work in partnership with the school's leadership to achieve organizational goals.

### 2019-2020 BOARD

Alison Arnold, Chair,  
*Mathematics Teacher*

Maggie Boland, Secretary,  
*Managing Director, Signature Theatre*

Sarah Dillard, Founder &  
*CEO, Kaleidoscope*

Quameice Harris, Parent  
Trustee, *Special Assistant to the Director, D.C. Department of Human Services*

Anne Herr, Interim  
*Co-Executive Director, FOCUS*

Rochanda Hiligh-Thomas,  
Parent Trustee, *Executive Director, Advocates for Justice & Education (AJE)*

Mizmun Kusairi, VP of  
*Planning, Candid*

Galo Pazmino, Treasurer,  
*Co-Founder & President, SamiChakra LLC*

Nitika Tolani, Vice-Chair,  
*Technical Manager / M&E Advisor, Management Systems International*

### ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Capital City is an award-winning public charter school for children in PreK-12th grade in D.C.

**PARENT FOUNDED IN 2000.** Founded in 2000 by a committed group of public school parents, we offer a rigorous academic program that emphasizes independent and collaborative learning within an inclusive community.

**EL EDUCATION CREDENTIALLED MENTOR SCHOOL.** Through the EL Education model, students study compelling topics, many related to social justice, through authentic hands-on learning experiences that result in high quality and meaningful products.

**WHOLE CHILD FOCUS.** The school takes a whole child approach to education and offers exemplary programs in character education, arts, fitness/wellness, and adventure.

**COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION.** The school serves a diverse population of nearly 1,000 students (74% low-income; 53% Latino, 35% Black, 6% White, 2% Asian, 4% Multi-race). Capital City has been recognized as a model for diversity and inclusivity and makes a strong commitment to educational equity for all students.

**100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE.** Since our first senior class, 100% of graduates have been accepted to college. In a 2014 visit, First Lady Michelle Obama recognized the school for success in this area stating, "Here at Capital City, every student is college material, and the goal is to get the very best education possible."



Board members Maggie Boland and Anne Wallestad during First Lady Michelle Obama's 2014 visit

### ABOUT THE BOARD

Capital City's Board sets the strategic direction for the school, provides financial and programmatic oversight, and secures resources to support the mission and programs.

***"Capital City is an extraordinary school that enables young people from diverse backgrounds to learn together in a positive, student-centered environment that emphasizes critical thinking and intellectual curiosity. The board plays an important part, working with the head of school to ensure we are the best we can possibly be for our students and families."***

Anne Wallestad, former Board member and CEO of BoardSource



Board members and Head of School Karen Dresden at the school's Theatre Grand Opening in Feb. 2017

***“After visiting [Capital City], meeting Head of School Karen Dresden, the principals, staff and students, I was smitten. Being a Trustee and Chair of the Board has been a phenomenal labor of love. The board is high performing, conscientious and will do whatever it takes to keep this jewel performing well in our nation’s capital.”***

Jean-Claude Brizard, former Board Chair and Deputy Director & Senior Advisor at Gates Foundation

## TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Members spend an estimated 8-10 hours per month on their duties related to board service. Specific responsibilities include:

- Serving as an ambassador for the school by clearly articulating our mission and accomplishments to the public and introducing others to the school.
- Attending board meetings held bi-monthly and an annual retreat.
- Serving on a minimum of one standing committee (Finance, Development, School Performance, Governance) where most of the work of the board takes place. Committees typically meet at least once between each board meeting.
- Working with school leadership to set annual and long-range goals and measure success against those goals.
- Conducting strong financial and program oversight, ensuring the program has the resources and yields the results that enable the school to achieve its mission.
- Contributing financially in an amount that is personally significant, with the goal of 100% of Board members supporting the school financially.
- Spending the equivalent of one half-day per year attending school activities or classes to become better-informed advocates for the school as a whole.
- Ensuring the legal and ethical integrity of the school is in compliance with the requirements of the law, professional ethics and school norms.

## TRUSTEE QUALIFICATIONS

Capital City’s Board has identified a need for competencies in the following areas: **finance, philanthropy, communications and development, and governance.**

We seek a board reflective of the diverse student population that we serve. Strong candidates are committed to the school’s mission, have professional expertise aligned with our needs, are able to commit 8-10 hours per month to board service, and have governance experience and/or the willingness to participate in a one-day training for new board members provided by our partner organization, Charter Board Partners.

**For more information about the Board of Trustees and opportunities to get involved, contact Samantha Witkes, Special Projects Coordinator, at [switkes@ccpcs.org](mailto:switkes@ccpcs.org).**

### The Board has been instrumental in achieving these accomplishments:

- Lower and High Schools named Tier 1 High Performing Schools by the DC Public Charter School Board (2018).
- Consistently achieved the highest ranking for financials by the DC Public Charter School Board.
- Expanded from 600 students to nearly 1,000 students. Moved to and renovated the Rabaut Junior High School to support our program (2012).
- Named a Green Ribbon School by the Department of Education (2016).
- Re-accredited for another 7 years by the Middle States Association (2016).
- Designed and constructed a state-of-the-art theater (2016).
- Featured in Aspen Institute Case Study on Social and Emotional Learning (2017).



Capital City’s award-winning school in Ward 4



Board members at the Class of 2018 College March to the Mailbox