

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

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**TO:** All Councilmembers

**FROM:** Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Committee of the Whole

**DATE:** May 17, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Report on PR 24-432, “Public Charter School Board Lea Crusey Confirmation Resolution of 2021”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR24-432, “Public Charter School Board Lea Crusey Confirmation Resolution of 2021” was referred, reports favorably thereon and recommends approval by the Council.

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**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

The purpose of Proposed Resolution 24-432 is to confirm the re-appointment of Lea Crusey as a member of the Public Charter School Board (PCSB) at the pleasure of the Mayor. Lea Crusey was first appointed to the PCSB in June 2018 to a seat vacated by Darren Woodruff, whose term concluded in February 2018.

The District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995' ("SRA") gave the District of Columbia the authority to start independent, autonomous, public schools, commonly known as charter schools. The law initially gave authority to the District of Columbia Board of Education to charter these schools and also established the PCSB. The seven-member board was created for the purpose of authorizing new charters, monitoring the operations and student academic progress of the schools under its purview, and ensuring that the public charter schools under its authority are in compliance with the terms of their charter and applicable federal and local laws. As an independent authorizer of public charter schools, the PCSB is responsible for chartering new

schools through a comprehensive application review process; monitoring existing charter schools for compliance with applicable local and federal laws; and, ensuring public charter schools are held accountable for both academic and non-academic performance. The PCSB is currently the District of Columbia's sole charter school authorizer and now oversees 66 charter schools on 120 campuses

Ms. Crusey began her career as an educator. Ms. Crusey then became an instructor for the Dimensions Education Group. In that role, she taught English language grammar and conversion to multinational secondary students. Ms. Crusey also worked in Chicago, Illinois as Project Coordinator in Real Estate for the Chicago Transit Authority ("CTA") and led a pilot to combine Chicago Public School student ID with CTA smart cards, which increased ridership among the student population by 300% and reduced operations by \$500,000. Later, as Director of Financial Operations for LAZ Parking- Chicago Parking Meters, Ms. Crusey oversaw operational finances for a \$1.2B public/private partnership. Additionally, Ms. Crusey worked as State Director for StudentsFirst where she strategized to advance legislative education reform such as charter school accountability and expansion, tenure reform, and teacher evaluations in Iowa, Nevada, and Missouri. Next, she became Senior Advisor at Democrats for Education Reform (now known as Education Reform Now Advocacy). In this role, she served as an interim organizational head during a leadership transition. Following this position, she became Senior Advisor at the U.S. Department of Education, during President Barack Obama's Administration, in the Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development. She worked on several programmatic initiatives such as the Administration on Charter Schools, Promise Neighborhoods, teacher preparation, and Striving Readers. Currently, Ms. Crusey is the Founder and CEO of Allies for Educational Equity. Allies for Educational Equity is a national political action committee that advances education reform initiatives. Ms. Crusey is the current Board Chair of the Public Charter School Board. At the confirmation hearing on April 25, 2022, the Committee received testimony regarding Ms. Crusey's admirable leadership and her deep knowledge of and experience education policy and charter policy in DC. Testimony also revealed that in her current service on the Board, Ms. Crusey has shown that she holds school leaders to high expectations and is focused on ensuring safe, engaging and academically rigorous schools for all students across the District.

Given the candidate's extensive expertise in furthering educational excellence, and current leadership of the Board, the Committee recommends approval of PR24-432. The Committee of the Whole reports favorably on PR 24-432, adopts the report on this measure, and recommends approval by the Council. The Committee makes no changes to the Print adopted by the Committee.

**Table A: Membership of the Public Charter School Board**

<b>Member/Nominee</b>	<b>Pending PR (if applicable)</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Term Appointment Date</b>	<b>Reappointment Date</b>	<b>Term Expiration Date</b>
Jim Sandman	N/A	July 15, 2019	Feb. 2024	
Naomi Shelton	N/A	January 22, 2018	Feb. 2021	Seat Vacated
Steve Bumbaugh	N/A	June 2, 2015	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2025
Lea Crusey	PR24-432	December 7, 2018	Feb. 2022	Feb. 2026

Rick Cruz	N/A	October 10, 2014	Feb. 2018	Feb. 2022
Ricarda Ganjam	N/A	October 8, 2015	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2023
Saba Bireda	N/A	July 18, 2016	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2027
Nick Rodriguez	PR24-578	Pending Appt.	N/A	April 2026
Shukurat Adamoh-Faniyan	PR24-579	Pending Appt.	N/A	April 2026
Shantelle Wright	PR24-580	Pending Appt.	N/A	April 2026

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- October 21, 2021 PR 24-432, the “Public Charter School Board Lea Crusey Confirmation Resolution of 2021” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of Mayor Bowser.
- November 2, 2021 Referred to Committee of the Whole.
- November 5, 2021 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 24-432 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- April 6, 2022 Notice of Public Hearing Published filed in the *Office of the Secretary*.
- April 8, 2022 Notice of Public Hearing Published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- April 25, 2022 Public Hearing on PR24-432.

## III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Lea Crusey is the Mayor’s nominee for re-appointment to the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board.

## IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 24-432.

## V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on PR 24-432 (and three other nominations to the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board) on Monday, April 25, 2022. The testimony summarized below, and attached, is from the portion of the hearing pertaining to Ms. Lea Crusey.

*Dr. Jessica Sutter, Ward 6 Representative, DC State Board of Education*, testified in support of Ms. Crusey and the three other nominees to the Public Charter School Board.

*Dr. Michelle Walker-Davis, Executive Director of the Public Charter School Board*, testified in support of Ms. Crusey and three other nominees to the DC Public Charter School Board.

*Shannon Hodge, Founding Executive Director, DC Charter School Alliance*, testified in support of Ms. Crusey and the three other nominees to the DC Public Charter School Board, and urged the Council to move swiftly to move the confirmations to a vote in order to return the DC PCSB to its full capacity and function.

*Valerie Jablow, Public Witness*, testified about the nomination process, noting each of the nominees' connection to charter schools in DC.

*Lea Crusey, Nominee*, testified and answered questions from Chairman Mendelson regarding her background, experience, and interest in continuing to serve as Chair of the District of Public Charter School Board.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Ms. Crusey's appointment.

## VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Members of the Public Charter School Board are appointed pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 38-1802.14, which established the Board.

## VII. FISCAL IMPACT

Pursuant to section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975 (D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47(c)), the requirement of fiscal impact statement for confirmation resolutions does not apply.

### VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- Section 1 States the short title of Proposed Resolution 24-432.
- Section 2 Confirms the reappointment of Lea Crusey as a member of the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board for four-year term to end February 24, 2026.
- Section 3 Transmittal of the Resolution
- Section 4 Provides that the resolution will take effect once approved by the Council.

### IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

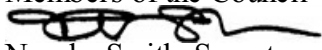
### X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 24-432 as introduced.
2. Committee Report on PR 24-432 without attachments.
3. Nominee's testimony and response to questions.
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination for PR 24-432.
5. Committee Print for PR 24-432.

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.**  
**Washington D.C. 20004**

Memorandum

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To : Members of the Council  
From :  Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council  
Date : Wednesday, October 27, 2021  
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Thursday, October 21, 2021. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Public Charter School Board Lea Crusey Confirmation Resolution of 2021",  
PR24-0432

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson, at the request of Mayor

The Chairman is referring this legislation to Committee of the Whole.

Attachment  
cc: General Counsel  
Budget Director  
Legislative Services



**MURIEL BOWSER**  
**MAYOR**

October 21, 2021

The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), and pursuant to 2214 of the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995, approved April 26, 1996 (110 Stat. 1321; Pub. L. 104-134; D.C. Official Code § 38-1802.14), I am pleased to nominate:

Ms. Lea Crusey  
First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
(Ward 6)

for reappointment as a member of the Public Charter School Board, for a term to end February 24, 2026.

Enclosed you will find all biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, along with a proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

I would appreciate the Council's earliest consideration of this nomination for confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Steven Walker, Director, Office of Talent and Appointments, should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Muriel Bowser".

Muriel Bowser  
Mayor



Chairman Phil Mendelson  
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To confirm the reappointment of Lea Crusey to the Public Charter School Board.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Public Charter School Board Lea Crusey Confirmation Resolution of 2021".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the reappointment of:

Ms. Lea Crusey  
First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
(Ward 6)

as a member of the Public Charter School Board, pursuant to section 2214 of the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995, approved April 26, 1996 (110 Stat. 1321; Pub. L. 104-134; D.C. Official Code § 38-1802.14), for a term to end February 24, 2026.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, each to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.



# LEA M. CRUSEY

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Invest America Ventures, *Co-founder, President, & COO*** December 2020 – Present  
Washington, DC / New York, NY

- Co-founder and investor in startup public benefit corporation set out to ensure that a learner's investment leads to a life of independence, growth, and prosperity through the development of student loan repayment interruption insurance.

**Allies for Educational Equity, *Founder & CEO*** February 2017 – October 2021  
Washington, DC

- As unpaid founder, led nationally peer-funded and peer-advised federal political action committee.
- Cultivated and organizing nationwide community.
- Designed team-based method to bring expertise to citizenship, contributing to more than 200 races in 17 states, ranging from local/school board to US Congress.
- Engaged in national dialogue through written publications and serving on panel discussions.

**US Department of Education, *Senior Policy Advisor*** May 2016 - January 2017  
Washington, DC

- Advised on and represented P-12 education policy priorities as Schedule C Presidential Appointee in the Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development; portfolio included the Charter Schools Program, Promise Neighborhoods, Teacher Preparation, and Striving Readers;
- Led drafting of "Significant Guidance on Teacher Preparation Regulations", published Nov. 2016.

**Charter Schools Action Fund, *Advisor*** January - May 2016  
Washington, DC

- Advised on advocacy / political strategy to organize support for charter schools to increase access to high quality public schools of choice nationwide.
- Incubated peer-funded political action committee model.

**Democrats for Education Reform, *Acting Executive Director*** August 2013 - November 2015  
Washington, DC / New York, NY

- Led \$15M organization with 30+ staff across national and state offices as interim through leadership transition;
- Facilitated 2016 Presidential plan to fundraise and drive strategic impact, coordinating influencer support through campaign and guide on education reform policy into next Democratic administration.

*National Deputy Director*

- Directly managed 5-person Senior Leadership Team to drive productivity and align strategy with operations;
- Guided from concept to implementation key initiatives: impact measurement, political fundraising platform, annual convening "Camp Philos," revamp of websites, and strategic reallocation of resources.

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE & SERVICE

### DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB), *Vice Chair*

Washington, DC

December 2018 – Present

- Mayoral appointee to the 7-member volunteer board of the District of Columbia's sole public charter school authorizer, responsible for the initial approval and ongoing review and renewal of all 68 Local Education Agencies, which educate 47% of the District of Columbia's 94,000 public school students.
- Serve as Founding Chair of DC PCSB's School Performance Committee and as Board Vice-Chair.

### Center for Supportive Schools, *Board Member*

Princeton, NJ

November 2014 – June 2021

- Serve as volunteer Director to Board of \$14.8M non-profit organization founded in 1979, serving 194 school partners fostering student-led school culture and climate initiatives at middle and high schools across 10 states.
- Founding Chair of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee, comprised of both CSS staff and Board.

### StudentsFirst, *State Director and Special Projects Manager*

Sacramento, CA

April 2011 - July 2013

- Led statewide legislative advocacy to advance education policy in Iowa, Missouri, and Nevada, including supporter organizing, crafting and delivery of testimony, and coalition strategy.
- Engaged key stakeholders: SEA/LEA leadership, educators, parents, regional business leaders, and philanthropy.

### LAZ Parking-Chicago Parking Meters, *Director- Financial Operations*

Chicago, IL

November 2009 - April 2011

- Forecasted revenue and expenses for \$1.2B public-private partnership.
- Managed staff of 8 across 3 functional areas: Accounting, Meter Database, Data Analytics.

### *Senior Manager- Special Projects & Quality Control*

- Led research and vendor management for software and hardware design for regular contract reconciliation

### Chicago Transit Authority, *Manager- Smart Card Products and Project Coordinator- Real Estate*

Chicago, IL

2008 - 2009

- Led design and pilot for first-in-kind farecard payment products, with public sector and non-profit partners- Chicago Public Schools and I-GO Car Sharing.

### Dimensions Education Group, *Instructor- English Language Department*

Singapore

2005 - 2006

- Instructed multinational secondary students in English language grammar and conversation

### Teach for America / Edison McNair Academy, *Corps Member / Teacher*

East Palo Alto, CA

2003 – 2005

- Served as member of national service corps of college graduates to commit 2 years to teach in under-resourced public schools, instructing 350 students in grades 4-8 in multiple subjects.

## EDUCATION

### University of Chicago- Harris School of Public Policy, Chicago, IL

- Master's degree in public policy, with coursework in Economics, Statistics and focus on urban development
- Vice President- Minorities in Public Policy (MiPPs); member- Women in Public Policy (WiPP)

### Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, CA

- Bachelor of Arts in Government and History (double major), with Gender Studies strand;
- *Phi Alpha Theta* Honors Society and Departmental Honors in History;
- Claremont Mudd Scripps Athletic Hall of Fame- Women's Lacrosse, inducted 2017



Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments  
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

### Lea Crusey



Lea Crusey is the Co-founder, President, and COO of Invest America Ventures, a startup public benefit corporation set out to ensure that a learner's investment leads to a life of independence, growth, and prosperity through the development of student loan repayment interruption insurance. She previously served as the founder & CEO of Allies for Educational Equity, a non-partisan, grassroots-funded political action committee, with a mission to collectivize the political voice of education reformers to build a world in which demography is not destiny.

Ms. Crusey's career spans the country and has crossed sectors. She began in the classroom as a Teach For America Corps Member in the Bay Area, and later worked on state level advocacy for StudentsFirst. Prior to launching Allies, Ms. Crusey served as an Obama Administration appointee at the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development where she advised on a P-12 education policy, with a portfolio that included teacher preparation, charter schools, Promise Neighborhoods, and literacy. Ms. Crusey has served on the Board of Directors for the Washington Leadership Academy Public Charter High School, the Center for Supportive Schools, and Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks.

A Ward 6 resident, Ms. Crusey holds a Bachelor of Arts from Claremont McKenna College and a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

**To:** Ronan Gulstone, Steve Walker  
**From:** Betsy Cavendish  
**Date:** September 30, 2021  
**Subject:** Legal sufficiency review of Resolution nominating Lea Crusey to the Public Charter School Board.

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**This is to Certify** that this office has reviewed the above-referenced Resolution and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-724-7681.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'. The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Elizabeth Cavendish

Lea M. Crusey  
13 4<sup>th</sup> St. NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20004

April 18, 2022

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

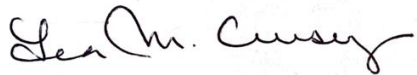
Thank you for the letter, dated April 8, 2022. The following are responses to that, with related documents attached:

1. Enclosed is the copy of the Financial Disclosure Statement I filed with the Office of Campaign Finance/Board of Ethics and Government Accountability in June 2021. I have not yet submitted my responses for 2022 (these are due May 16, 2022).
2. The attached statement, submitted with my last financial disclosure statement, reflects ownership of publicly traded stock. I am not aware if any of those companies transact with the District of Columbia Government.
3. Not applicable.
4. Not applicable.
5. Not applicable.
6. I reside at 13 4<sup>th</sup> St. NE, Washington, DC 20002, a real property owned in full by myself and my spouse that has a real market value in excess of \$1,000.
7. Not applicable.
8. Not applicable.
9. I serve as Chair of the DC Public Charter School Board. I was nominated to that body by Mayor Bowser in 2018, later confirmed by City Council, and sworn in, in December 2018. I served as Vice-Chair from September 2020 through November 2021.
10. I am not currently on any other boards.
11. No.
12. No.
13. I have engaged in the following political activity in the past five years:
  - a. Mayoral election - Muriel Bowser, campaign contribution, yard sign (\$200, Jan. 2022)
  - b. City Council election – Charles Allen, campaign contribution (\$50, Oct. 2021)
  - c. State Board of Education – Jacque Patterson, campaign contribution (\$100, Oct. 2020)
  - d. City Council election – Brandon Todd, campaign contribution (\$100, May 2020)
  - e. State Board of Education- Callie Kozlak, campaign contribution (\$20, October 2018)
  - f. State Board of Education – Jason Andrean, campaign contribution (\$20, October 2018)

- g. State Board of Education – Jessica Sutter, volunteer, hosted fundraiser, and campaign contribution (\$200, March 2018)
14. No.
  15. I am deeply committed to the oversight of a high-quality selection of public-school choice options for families in the District of Columbia. I am proud to have been elected by my fellow Board members to serve as Chair of this oversight body and bring to my board service my experience and expertise as an educator, education public policy, and in board governance.
  16. While incredibly resilient, our city’s students and school communities have faced enormous challenges since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. We face a generational opportunity to ensure that the hard work to persist through this pandemic leads to a thriving and joyful public charter school community, with students positioned to succeed in learning and life. During my first term of service, our board worked hard to select a new Executive Director and shepherd through a new strategic plan, with revised mission and vision, and is in the process of revising our accountability framework. I am eager to see through the complete implementation of these strategic initiatives, particularly given the deep and urgent need to ensure high quality and safe learning opportunities for DC’s students as we as a city continue to emerge from the effects of COVID-19.

Thank you for your leadership of our city and for your consideration of my nomination.

Sincerely,



Lea M. Crusey

**FDS Filing Details for 2020**

**Name:** Lea Crusey

**Date of Appointment or Employment:** 12/5/2018

**Final Date of Service:**

**Position:** Board Member

**Agency:** DC Public Charter School Board

**Position Held with the District Government During the Prior calendar year (If Not The Same As Above)**

**Position:**

**Final Date in Position:**

**Agency:**

**Non District Employment/Business**

1) Did you have any non-District employment or engage in any outside business or other activity during the previous calendar year for which you received compensation of \$200 or more?

**No**

2) Was your spouse, registered domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) employed by a private entity or did they engage in any business endeavors during the previous calendar year for which they received compensation of \$200 or more?

Position / Title	Name of Employer	Description of Work	Start Date	End Date	Client Name	Website of business or employer (if applicable)
CEO	Phone2Action	CEO of company that develops software for public affairs campaigns.	07/12/2012			

3) In the previous calendar year, did you serve in any unpaid position or in any other formal capacity (without compensation) of a non-government board or other outside entity where you had influence over the entity's finances or decision-making (e.g., as an officer, director, partner, consultant, contractor, volunteer, or member)?

Position / Title	Name of Entity	Start Date	End Date	Website of entity
President and COO	Invest America Ventures	12/23/2020		
Founder and CEO	Allies for Educational Equity	2/17/2017		
Board Member	Center for Supportive Schools	01/01/2020		

4) During the previous calendar year, did your spouse, registered domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) serve in any unpaid position or in any other formal capacity (without compensation) of a non-government board or other outside entity where they had influence over the entity's finances or decision-making (e.g., as an officer, director, partner, consultant, contractor, volunteer, or member)?

**No**

5) During the previous calendar year, did you have any agreements with a former or current employer, other than with the District of Columbia, for future payments or benefits (such as separation pay, partnership buyouts, or pension or retirement pay) or for future employment or for a leave of absence?

**No**

6) During the previous calendar year, did your spouse, registered domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) have any agreements with a former or current employer, other than with the District of Columbia, for future payments or benefits (such as separation pay, partnership buyouts, or pension or retirement pay) or for future employment or for a leave of absence?

Former/Current Employer	Type of Agreement or Benefit
Phone2Action (Current)	Jeb Ory (my spouse) has an employment agreement with his employer, Phone2Action, that was signed in 2019. The agreement details his compensation and benefits for serving as an executive for the company.

#### Securities, Holdings and Investments

7) Did you have a beneficial interest in or hold any security at the close of the previous calendar year that exceeded, in the aggregate, \$1,000 or that produced income of \$200 or more?

List each security and/or beneficial interest you held below	Total Value of Beneficial Interests or Securities at the close of previous calendar year.
See attached file for positions held jointly	\$250,001 - \$500,000

8) Did your spouse, registered domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) have a beneficial interest in or hold any security, at the close of the previous calendar year, that exceeded, in the aggregate, \$1,000 or that produced income of \$200 or more?

List each security and/or beneficial interest you held below	Total Value of Beneficial Interests or Securities at the close of previous calendar year.
See attached file for positions held jointly	\$250,001 - \$500,000
Phone2Action	Over \$1,000,000

9) Did you owe any entity or person (other than a member of your immediate family) \$1,000 or more (excluding: mortgages on your personal residence, student loans, automobile loans, credit card accounts or other revolving credit, and other loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution) during the previous calendar year?

No

10) Did your spouse, domestic partner or dependent child(ren) owe any entity or person (other than a member of their immediate family) \$1,000 or more, (excluding: mortgages on your personal residence, student loans, automobile loans, credit card accounts or other revolving credit, and other loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution) during the previous calendar year?

No

11) Did you have an interest in any real property located in the District of Columbia during the previous calendar year, aside from your primary personal residence, where your interest had a fair market value \$1,000 or more, or where the property produced income of \$200 or more?

Location of Real Property	Purchase or Acquisition Date	Date Sold or Conveyed	Value of Ownership Interest in Real Estate
314 6th St. NE, Washington, DC 20002	11/15/2013	06/05/2020	Over \$1,000,000

12) Did your spouse, domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) have an interest in any real property located in the District of Columbia during the previous calendar year aside from their primary personal residence, where their interest had a fair market value of more than \$1,000, or where the property produced income of \$200 or more?

Location of Real Property	Purchase or Acquisition Date	Date Sold or Conveyed	Value of Ownership Interest in Real Estate
314 6th St. NE	11/15/2013	06/05/2020	Over \$1,000,000



### Regulated Professions

13) Do you hold any professional or occupational licenses issued by the District of Columbia government (i.e., are you licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia, or are you licensed by the District's Department of Health, the District's Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, the District's Department of Mental Health, the District's Department of Insurance Securities and Banking, the Metropolitan Police Department, the District's Occupational and Professional Licensing Administration, etc.)?

**No**

14) Does your spouse, domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) hold any professional or occupational licenses issued by the District of Columbia government (i.e., are they licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia, or are they licensed by the District's Department of Health, the District's Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, the District's Department of Mental Health, the District's Department of Insurance Securities and Banking, the Metropolitan Police Department, or the District's Occupational and Professional Licensing Administration, etc.)?

**No**

### Gifts

15) Did you receive any gift(s) from any person that has or is seeking to do business with the District, conducts operations or activities that are regulated by the District, or has an interest that may be favorably affected by the performance or nonperformance of your duties in the total amount or with a total value of \$100 or more during the previous calendar year?

**No**

### Additional Comments

### Supporting Documents

2021.06.04 - Crusey & Ory - Stock holdings at TD.xlsx

### I certify that I have:

- Not caused title to property to be placed in the legal name, possession, or control of another person or entity for the purpose of avoiding the disclosure requirements on this form;
- Filed and paid my income and property taxes or am in current good standing with the IRS and state tax collector because of an extension, payment plan or other arrangement or agreement;
- Diligently safeguarded the assets of the taxpayers and the District;
- Complied with my duty to report known illegal activity, including attempted bribes, to the appropriate authorities;
- Not been offered or accepted any bribes;
- Not directly or indirectly received government funds through illegal or improper means;
- Not raised or received funds in violation of federal or District law; and
- Not received or been given anything of value, including a gift, favor, service, loan gratuity, discount, hospitality, political contribution, or promise of future employment, based on any understanding that my official actions or judgment or vote would be influenced.
- Completed a full ethics training within the last 365 days;

### Additional Comments

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD**



Public Roundtable  
on  
PR24-0432, the “Public Charter School Board Lea Crusey Resolution of 2021”

Testimony of  
Lea Crusey

Before the  
Committee of the Whole  
Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairperson

April 25, 2022  
12:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting Platform



Good \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Mendelson, and members of the DC Council. My name is Lea Crusey, Chair of the DC Public Charter School Board. I am honored to be here with you today to share my background and experience, and to offer how I can continue to contribute to the education sector in the District of Columbia.

I would first like to thank Mayor Bowser for nominating me again, as our city continues to address the extraordinarily challenging life and learning circumstances for our city's students and communities. I would also like to thank you, Chairman, and the rest of the City Council for your steadfast leadership amidst a period of uncertainty, anxiety, and (for many) trauma through this pandemic. Lastly, I want to thank MOTA for their support through this nomination process.

I visit with you today proud to be part of our city's multi-century journey to make possible an equitable educational system for all its residents. When I spoke before the Council three years ago, I shared in my testimony that when my husband, Jeb, and I had moved to DC – now more than eight years ago, we chose to set down roots here, in the District, in part because of what we knew of this city's approach to education governance and that its public-school choice model is grounded in student success in learning. Specifically, DC's educational governance allows a school and its educators to innovate - operationally and programmatically - while being held accountable for student outcomes, devoting public dollars from infancy to adulthood for equitable access to a diverse array of learning and growth opportunities. We made the right choice then, and as our roots deepen here, now as parents of two school-aged children in DC's public schools, I still believe it today.



I believe that systems and practices consistently oriented toward a child's success are those that not only work the best, but also result in the best outcomes for those children and for society at large. Accordingly, my professional through line reflects a deep commitment to learning and to problem-solving for greater impact and stronger outcomes. I began my career in the classroom as an educator and have since continued that work in roles in the public, private and non-profit sectors focused on improving how cities work and policies are enacted. Currently, I work to support college students post-graduation into adulthood.

Outside of work, I have served on not-for-profit boards and love to read, hike, travel by bike around DC, and - one day - I look forward to traveling again beyond our immediate region. Additionally, as the parent of a child in an out-of-boundary District public school and a child in a charter public school, I am an active member of my local community including at St. Mark's Episcopal Church of Capitol Hill..

It has been a busy three years since my initial appointment to the DC Public Charter School Board in 2018. Charged with the oversight function of our city's charter LEAs, I have looked to evidence of a school's performance at key moments: point of review and renewal, when considering amendments to their charter or an enrollment ceiling increase, and when considering applications for new schools. I have not backed away from difficult decisions and I have looked with particular interest to parent input and behavior: with more than 60% of parents choosing a school other than their in-boundary neighborhood school, their demand for the right learning environment for their child matters. A parent's deliberate decision to enroll - or move - their child can be a powerful indicator of demand for a programmatic model. I have heard directly and observed that what also



matters are accessibility to transportation, to a school nurse or mental health professional, outdoor space, as well as grade spans and feeder opportunities.

Of all that this board and agency have accomplished over the past three years, I am most proud to have been part of the selection of Dr. Michelle Walker-Davis to lead the DCPCSB in its next chapter. That experience reflected this Board's comity and capacity to deliberate with care and precision, reviewing a national panel of qualified candidates for the role. Dr. Walker-Davis, who brings expertise and knowledge of DC's history and operating landscape, in her first year has already shepherded a refreshed mission and vision: "every DC student receives a quality education that makes them feel valued and prepares them for lifelong learning, fulfilling careers, and economic security." She has a clear vision of a thoughtfully constructed and ambitious strategic roadmap, and what will be a new accountability framework reflecting our three strategic priorities: commitment to excellent schools, enduring partnerships across our city, and an effective organization.

Looking forward, the District of Columbia's learners face a generational challenge as we all adapt to our new reality caused by this pandemic. I am emboldened by the responsibility we collectively face to deliver on that. In accordance with the School Reform Act, and grounded in our mission and vision, I will continue to look to school performance and parent input to inform my decisions, always striving to form a more complete picture of student performance across subgroups, while weighting and consideration of both growth and proficiency, and with an orientation that values a school that has gone above and beyond to deliver excellence and equity.



Above all, I continue to be so grateful for this opportunity to serve my city and its students and families so that we, the adults, deliver on the promises we have made for a great public education.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today and I am happy to answer any questions.



1 **COMMITTEE PRINT**  
2 **Committee of the Whole**  
3 **May 17, 2022**  
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10 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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12 24-432  
13

14 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17

18 To confirm the appointment of Lea Crusey to the Public Charter School Board.  
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20 RESOLVED, BY COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution  
21 may be cited as the “Public Charter School Board Lea Crusey Confirmation Resolution of 2021”.

22  
23 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the reappointment of:  
24

25 Ms. Lea Crusey  
26 First Street, NE  
27 Washington, DC 20002  
28 (Ward 6)  
29

30 as a member of the Public Charter School Board, established by section 2214 of the District of  
31 Columbia School Reform Act of 1995, approved April 26, 1996 (110 Stat. 1321; D.C. Official  
32 Code §38-1802.14), for a term to end February 24, 2026.

33 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution,  
34 upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

35 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.