

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: May 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Report on PR 24-580, “Public Charter School Board Shantelle Wright Confirmation Resolution of 2022”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR24-580, “Public Charter School Board Shantelle Wright Confirmation Resolution of 2022” was referred, reports favorably thereon and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

The purpose of Proposed Resolution 24-580 is to confirm the appointment of Ms. Shantelle Wright as a member of the Public Charter School Board (PCSB). If confirmed, Shantelle Wright will fill a currently vacant seat on the Board.

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. Wright has had extensive experience leading charter schools in the District. Ms. Wright has served as the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Achievement Prep Public Charter School in Washington, DC. Achievement Prep is an award-winning, college preparatory public charter school network located in Southeast Washington, DC. Achievement Prep's mission is to prepare students to excel as high achieving scholars and leaders in high-achieving scholars and leaders in high school, in college, and beyond. Ms. Wright grew the Achievement Prep network from a single site school serving 68 scholars to a three school network serving approximately 1,000 children in PreK-3 through 8th grade. Achievement Prep has been one of the highest performing charter networks in the District.

Ms. Wright currently serves as the Chief Program Officer for EdNavigator, a non-profit organization that seeks to empower every family in the country with access to affordable, high-quality, on-demand support along the path to a great education, from before preschool to college and beyond. As a member of the executive leadership team, Ms. Wright is responsible for establishing the vision and direction for all of the organization's work and programming and is responsible for ensuring that EdNavigator provides exceptional educational support that makes a difference for families. To do so, she continually works to improve navigation strategies and practices and build sustainable and valuable service.

Ms. Wright is being appointed to the Public Charter School Board as a voting member. Given the candidate's expertise in furthering educational excellence and exceptional charter school leadership in the District of Columbia, the Committee recommends approval of PR24-580. The Committee of the Whole reports favorably on PR 24-580, 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

Member/Nominee	Pending PR (if applicable)	1st Term Appointment Date	Reappointment Date	Term Expiration Date
Jim Sandman	N/A	July 15, 2019	Feb. 2024	N/A
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

- February 1, 2022 PR 24-580, the “Public Charter School Board Shantelle Wright Confirmation Resolution of 2022” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of Mayor Bowser.
- February 11, 2022 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 24-580 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- February 15, 2022 Referred to Committee of the Whole.
- April 6, 2022 Notice of Public Hearing Published filed in the *Office of the Secretary*.
- April 25, 2022 Public Hearing on PR24-580.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Shantelle Wright is the Mayor’s nominee for 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 24-580.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on PR 24-580 (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. Shantelle Wright.

Dr. Jessica Sutter, Ward 6 Representative, DC State Board of Education, testified in support of Ms. Shantelle Wright 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. Wright and three other nominees to the DC Public Charter School Board. She noted that Ms. Wright's leadership expertise will inform the DC PCSB's work on the priority of effective organization.

Shannon Hodge, Founding Executive Director, DC Charter School Alliance, testified in support of Ms. Wright 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.

Shantelle Wright, Nominee, testified and answered questions from Chairman Mendelson regarding her background, experience, and ability to serve on the District of Public Charter School Board.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Ms. Wright'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 24-580.

- Section 2 Confirms the appointment of Shantelle Wright as a member of the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board for four-year term to end April 24, 2026.
- Section 3 Transmittal of the Resolution
- Section 4 Provides that the resolution will take effect once approved by the Council.

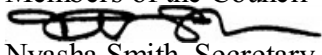
IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 24-580 as introduced.
2. Committee Report on PR 24-580 without attachments.
3. Nominee's testimony and response to questions.
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination for PR 24-580.
5. Committee Print for PR 24-580.

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

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council
From :  Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council
Date : Monday, February 7, 2022
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Tuesday, February 01, 2022. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Public Charter School Board Shantelle Wright Confirmation Resolution of 2022", PR24-0580

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson, at the request of Mayor

The Chairman is referring this legislation to Committee of the Whole. This resolution will be deemed disapproved on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 without Council action.

Attachment
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

February 01, 2022

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 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), I am pleased to nominate:

Ms. Shantelle Wright
Cook Drive, NE
Washington, DC 20032
(Ward 8)

for appointment as a member of the Public Charter School Board, replacing Naomi Shelton, for a term to end February 24, 2025.

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 appointment of Shantelle Wright 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 Shantelle Wright Confirmation Resolution of 2022".

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

Ms. Shantelle Wright
Cook Drive, SE
Washington, DC 20032
(Ward 8)

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), replacing Naomi Shelton, for a term to end February 24, 2025.

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.

SHANTELE D. WRIGHT

EDUCATION

The George Washington University School of Law, Washington, D.C.
Juris Doctor (J.D.)

Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia
B.A., Sociology, *Magna Cum Laude*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

EdNavigator, National Organization
Chief Program Officer

September 2021 to Present

EdNavigator is a nonprofit organization that seeks to empower every family in the United States with access to affordable, high-quality, on-demand support along the path to a great education, from before preschool to college and beyond.

As member of the executive leadership team, responsible for establishing the vision and direction for all Navigation work and programming. Responsible for ensuring that EdNavigator provides exceptional educational support that makes a difference for families, continually refining and improving navigation strategies and practices, and building a sustainable and valuable service. Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Ensuring outstanding quality of navigation at the local and national levels by building out systems and processes to develop/train staff and quality control our services
- Assessing and refining the program model to ensure it is efficient, effective, and sustainable
- Codifying knowledge and sharing best practices throughout the team
- Manage a team of 12, including Executive Directors and Lead Navigator for National Support to high levels of performance
- Represent EdNavigator and champion navigation support with various external audiences
- Serve as member of 4-person Executive Team to make high level strategic decisions for the organization

Achievement Prep Public Charter School, Washington, DC
Founder and Chief Executive Officer;
Senior Advisor to Interim CEO

August 2007 to July 2021

Achievement Prep (a 501c3 organization) is an award winning, college-preparatory public charter school network located in Southeast Washington, DC. Achievement Prep's mission is to prepare students to excel as high-achieving scholars and leaders in high school, in college and beyond.

Founded and grew charter school network from a single site school serving 68 scholars to a three (3) school network serving approximately 1,000 children in Prek-3 through 8th grade. Historically one of the highest performing networks in the District, Achievement Prep's mission is to prepare students to excel as high-achieving scholars and leaders in high school, college and beyond.

- 98% of Achievement Prep's founding scholars are now 4-year college graduates

- Led and managed a team that grew from 12 to 133 over 5-year period
- Achieved and maintained Tier 1 status consistently for a 6-year period
- Grew organization from an \$500,000 organization to a \$25 Million Dollar organization, fundraising and securing over \$8.8 Million Dollars in grants and donations
- Secured and led a capital campaign of over \$33 Million Dollars to build a state of the art two-building educational campus buffered by a \$17 NMTC transaction
- Served as a strategic leader and advocate for school choice, parents' rights, and school equity
- Operated an organization from day one that has always kept diversity, equity and inclusion at the forefront, maintaining staff and leadership, both at the school and board level, where 80% or more reflect the identity of those we serve

The Founder serves as the chief executive officer responsible for oversight of the entire organization, including but not limited to academic programming, operations, and finance. In the 2014-15SY, the chief executive officer launched the network office of C-suite and senior leaders to support the growth and expansion of Achievement Prep in the East of the River community.

Building Excellent Schools

August 2006 – August 2007

Fellow

Highly selective, rigorous, yearlong training that prepares individuals who are deeply committed to improving urban education to design, found and lead a high-performing, urban charter school. At the end of the Fellowship year, Fellows apply to establish their own free-standing, locally controlled charter school—customized to the needs of its community and independent of any management organization. Through the Building Excellent Schools Fellowship, Achievement Preparatory Academy was founded in 2007.

Penzance Real Estate Companies, Washington, DC

May 2006 to August 2006

Consultant/Contract Attorney

Staff Attorney working in-house with renowned real estate development company on various commercial real estate acquisition, disposition, development, financing and leasing transactions.

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, Washington, DC

Consultant/Contract Attorney

January 2006 – May 2006

Associate in real estate group; Appointed to Firm Recruiting Committee

August 1998 – November 2003

Summer Associate

May 1997 - August 1997

Asked to return to firm and serve as legal counsel in real estate practice group, representing public and private developers in acquisition and financing transactions. Experience and skills resulted in offer to work in-house with firm client. Practice involved representation of real estate developers, public and private companies, and private and publicly traded Real Estate Investment Trusts in various commercial real estate acquisition, disposition, development, financing and leasing transactions. Practice also involved marketing various areas of the firm's real estate expertise to existing and potential clients, conducting client meetings, and advising clients on various corporate matters, including entity formation and corporate organizational requirements. Experience includes drafting and conducting negotiations of letters of intent, term sheets, contracts, loan documents and other conveyance documents; closing the acquisition or disposition of properties; and drafting and negotiating various leasing, management, development, licensing and joint venture agreements. Represented pro bono clients in landlord/tenant, small claims, and family matters in the District of Columbia Superior Court.

The SEED Public Charter School, Washington, D.C.
Assistant Head of School for Student Life
Boarding Program Coordinator

May 2004 – December 2005
December 2003 – May 2004

One of the lead administrators of the nation's only urban, public, boarding school for grades seven through twelve. Responsible for the recruitment, hiring, retention, management, evaluation, and professional development of a faculty comprised of five (5) lead managers and 45 plus staff members. Supervised and managed a program and operating budget in excess of \$1.5 million. Responsible for direct oversight of the Student Life Program, and providing leadership and direction in the development, implementation, and assessment of the school's life skills curriculum *Habits for Achieving Life Long Success (HALLS)*. Developed community partnerships and served as the primary liaison with various agencies and organizations.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE:

DC Charter School Alliance, *Interim Director of Advocacy and Policy* (July 2021-November 2021)

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Maryland State Bar
- District of Columbia Bar

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Maryland State Bar Association
- District of Columbia Bar Association
- Washington Bar Association
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated
- Words Beats Life, Board of Directors (current)

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



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

Shantelle D. Wright



Shantelle D. Wright is an award winning, inspiring leader, consistently recognized for her work in education reform, and the urban education landscape. She is the Founder and most recently stepped down as Chief Executive Officer of Achievement Prep, a charter school network in the District of Columbia. Intentionally located East of the Anacostia River in Ward 8 of Southeast DC, Achievement Prep, now in its 15th year of service to the community, exists to prepare students to excel as high-achieving scholars and leaders in high school, college and beyond.

Prior to founding and opening Achievement Prep, Ms. Wright was selected as one of 13 outstanding leaders to complete the BES fellowship program. BES is a highly competitive, rigorous, yearlong, full-time training program in urban charter school creation and leadership. Ms. Wright is also a licensed attorney having practiced commercial real estate and corporate law for several years at a large, well-respected Washington, DC law firm. She serves on the Board of Directors for Words Beats & Life.

A Ward 8 resident, Ms. Wright holds a BA in Sociology from Hampton University, and a Juris Doctorate from The George Washington University School of Law.



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: January 27, 2022
Subject: Legal sufficiency review of Resolutions nominating Shukurat Adamoh-Faniyan, Nick Rodriguez, and Shantelle Wright to the Public Charter School Board

This is to Certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced Resolutions and found them to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call Vanessa Careiro, Deputy General Counsel, Executive Office of the Mayor, at 202-724-1303, or me at 202-724-7681.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'.

Elizabeth Cavendish

Shantelle D. Wright written responses to DC Council questions:

1. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business with the District Government in which you have a beneficial interest valued in excess of \$1,000, including publicly traded stock.
 - None
2. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business (including consulting) with the District Government from which you or your immediate family have received (or are receiving) income for services rendered in excess of \$200 during the past two years.
 - None
3. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting business with the District Government in which you or any member of your immediate family serves as an officer, director, partner, or agent. Also list the position(s) held, a brief description of the entity, and any other pertinent details.
 - None
4. Please provide the name of any lender and the amount of liability for each outstanding liability borrowed by you or any member of your immediate family in excess of \$1,000. Do not include loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution, or from any business enterprise regularly engaged in the business of providing revolving credit or installment accounts.
 - None
5. Please list the location of all real property located in the District of Columbia in which you have an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$1,000.
 - 1001 Cook Drive SE, Washington, DC 20032
6. Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you.
 - District of Columbia Bar
 - Maryland State Bar
7. Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member.
 - District of Columbia Bar Association
 - National Bar Association
 - Maryland Bar Association
 - Education Leaders of Color
8. Please list all boards and commissions connected with the District government on which you are or have been a member and include the term of service for each.
 - United Planning Organization – 2017-2019 (mayoral appointee)
9. Please list any other boards (e.g., Board of Directors of a non-profit) on which you are currently a member.

- None
10. Do you have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local governments, either contested or uncontested? If so, please provide documentation of attempts to pay the amount owed or to resolve the disputed claim.
 - None
 11. Do you or any member of your immediate family have any interest, financial or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly pose a conflict of interest for you in performance of your duties as a member of the Public Charter School Board?
 - No
 12. Please describe any local political activity (i.e. the District of Columbia local elections or campaigns) that you have engaged in over the past five years, including all campaign contributions to a D.C. candidate or political committee.
 - None
 13. Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered.
 - No
 14. Why have you agreed to serve and how do you plan to help the Board fulfill its role and mission during your time on the Board?
 - As a local charter school founder, I've participated in the entire life cycle of a charter school — from completing the application, to opening doors for the first time, to securing facilities, to undergoing charter reviews. I have operated a charter school during the pandemic and I intimately understand the complex issues the DC Public Charter School Board faces, not just from theory, but as an actual practitioner. As a lawyer, I understand the significance of the School Reform Act, the policies, and the regulations governing charter schools. I will bring my years of experience in education and law to the Board to help shape the important charge we've been given and the decisions we face. I believe it's crucial for members of this Board to deeply understand education, school leadership, the DC community landscape, and how the decisions we as leaders make impact children, families, DC residents, and the city as a whole. I have that deep knowledge and expertise. As a member of the DC Public Charter School Board, I will bring a passionate focus on equity and quality to make sure that the nearly half of DC public school students educated in charter schools are getting the quality education that makes them feel valued and prepares them for lifelong learning, fulfilling careers, and economic security. It would be an honor to serve my city, teachers, school leaders, staff, and students in this capacity.
 15. What challenges do you believe face the charter and how do you believe these challenges can be addressed?
 - The deep inequities revealed by the pandemic, particularly in communities of color hit hardest by COVID-19, will ripple in our children's education and in other parts of their lives for years to come. This makes the work we do and the decisions we make even more critical than they already were before the pandemic. As we work toward

recovery, what we prioritize and what we value will change the trajectory for generations to come. This Board has an obligation to make sure that the charter sector is an active participant in the city's recovery. The Board must create transparent and equitable accountability standards in this new post pandemic reality that will fully support — not hinder — schools from doing the work necessary for children to thrive. This includes listening and learning from school leaders, students and families. The Board has the delicate balancing act of ensuring each charter school has the freedom and flexibility to innovate and meet students' needs, while also making sure the schools are succeeding, are freely and fairly open to all, and employ equitable practices within. The Board must set clear expectations for student success (via accountability frameworks) post pandemic and create structures to hold schools accountable for the results. Lastly, as the city continues to grow and change, the Board will need to play a critical role in ensuring DC has a comprehensive cross sector education ecosystem (traditional public, charter and private) that meets the needs and demands of the city and ensures resources are allocated appropriately. As a member of the Board, I will listen to all information presented, read and learn as much as I can, and make informed decisions that put students and families first.

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



Public Roundtable
on
PR24-0580, the “Public Charter School Board Shantelle Wright Confirmation
Resolution of 2022”

Testimony of
Shantelle Wright

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 afternoon, Chairman Mendelson, and members of the Committee of the Whole. My name is Shantelle Wright. I am honored to be before you today as a nominee for a Mayoral appointment to the DC Public Charter School Board. I want to start by thanking Mayor Bowser for her consideration, and by thanking each of you here today for your time and your service.

To understand my nomination, you have to understand who I am.

I'm a proud Ward 8 DC resident, attorney, educator, and founder and former charter school leader. Almost 30 years ago, I moved to this city to attend the George Washington University School of Law. I quickly knew that the District would be my forever home.

Since I stopped practicing law nearly 20 years ago, I've dedicated my life to public education and fighting for children who look like me — children who are growing up in harsh environments like I did and who rely daily on the hope instilled by caring adults in their schools. I was raised by a single mother who worked two jobs to keep a roof over our heads and food in our mouths. We didn't have much, but my mother knew the power a good education would provide and insisted school be a top priority in my life. Starting in 6th grade, I was part of the "Urban Suburban" program, which meant I rode two hours to school from the inner city to the suburbs, and two hours home from school each and every day.

I'm proud of the education my mother fought for me to get. But no child should ever have to travel four (4) hours round trip and leave their neighborhood to get a good education. That was the driving force behind why 14 years ago, I founded — and had the honor to lead — Achievement Prep, a



public charter school network intentionally and strategically located in Ward 8. It has been the greatest professional joy for me and an absolute privilege to serve the children and families of Washington, DC. I've won many awards and received accolades over the years working in the District and with Achievement Prep, but my proudest moments by far have come from children defying the odds, breaking down barriers, and seizing the opportunities a great education brings.

I often think about our founding class of scholars. In 2008, 68 families of rising 4th and 5th graders put their faith in me and gave me the great privilege of teaching their children. I'm still honored they believed in us and took a chance on the unknown of Achievement Prep – instead of keeping their children in the schools they came from or choosing a school they already knew.

That first year, I went into the homes and sat on the couches of each and every founding family and asked them what their hopes and dreams were for their children, a practice I continued for a decade after we started the school. Like many parents, they said they wanted better lives for their children than they had. And my scholars' families, my neighbors, and the families living East of the River told me they wanted their kids to be safe.

Not better classes, not higher test scores, but to simply be safe. They wanted their children to get to and from school safely. Inside the school, they needed to know their kids would be safe — both physically and emotionally.

Even though I made the choice to step down from leading Achievement Prep last July, my commitment to children and families didn't change. Right now, I'm the Chief Program Officer at



EdNavigator, a national nonprofit whose mission is to empower every family in the United States with access to affordable, high-quality, on-demand support along the path to a great education, from before preschool to college and beyond.

And since my earliest days as a Washingtonian, I've been active and involved in my neighborhood and my city. I served with many of our key organizations like Miriam's Kitchen and Martha's Table. Mayor Bowser appointed me in 2017 to serve on her behalf on the United Planning Organization (UPO) Board of Directors, a role I continued for four years. And, when I served as an appointed member of the Mayor's Education Cross Sector Task Force, I brought the same passionate focus on equity and quality that I brought to Achievement Prep. I want to make sure that DC continues to be the fastest growing district in the country, but in an equitable and a comprehensive way that brings all stakeholders to the table.

As a member of the DC Public Charter School Board, I will bring that same passionate focus on equity and quality to make sure that the nearly half of DC public school students educated in charter schools are getting the quality education that makes them feel valued and prepares them for lifelong learning, fulfilling careers, and economic security. It would be an honor to serve my city, teachers, school leaders, staff, and students in this capacity.

I intimately understand the complex issues the DC Public Charter School Board faces, not just from theory, but as an actual practitioner. I will bring my years of experience and unique perspective to the Board to help shape the important charge we've been given and the decisions we face. As we work toward recovery, what we prioritize and what we value will change the



trajectory for generations to come. This Board has an obligation to make sure that the charter sector is an active participant in the city's recovery and that we are creating accountability standards and desired outcomes that will fully support — not hinder — schools from doing the work necessary for children to thrive.

Unfortunately, both here and across the country, our children's education has been politicized. Too many decisions get made based on who screams the loudest or who has the most access. Not enough decisions get made by those who understand our students' life experiences or who have the deep expertise necessary to make the right choices. That's why I want to join the Board.

I would be honored to serve in this new capacity as a DC Public Charter School Board Member. I have the skills, the passion, and the desire to help build a truly equitable public education system. I bring a wealth of knowledge and direct experience. I'm a strategic problem solver with executive leadership, engagement, operations and financial expertise.

If confirmed, my commitment to serve will be unwavering. My fight for equity and informed decision-making will be unapologetic. And my knowledge, experience, and willingness to learn and listen will be unmatched. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.



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

11
12 24-580
13

14 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
15
16 _____
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18 To confirm the appointment of Shantelle Wright 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 Shantelle Wright Confirmation Resolution of
22 2022”.

23
24 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the reappointment of:
25

26 Ms. Shukurat Adamoh-Faniyan
27 Cook Drive, SE
28 Washington, DC 20032
29 (Ward 8)
30

31 as a member of the Public Charter School Board, established by section 2214 of the District of
32 Columbia School Reform Act of 1995, approved April 26, 1996 (110 Stat. 1321; D.C. Official
33 Code §38-1802.14), replacing Naomi Shelton, for a term to end February 24, 2025.

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

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