

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

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**TO:** All Councilmembers

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

**DATE:** November 15, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Report on PR 24-933, the “Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee David Domenici Confirmation Resolution of 2022”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 24-933, the “Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee David Domenici Confirmation Resolution of 2022” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

CONTENTS

I.	Background and Need.....	1
II.	Legislative Chronology.....	3
III.	Position of the Executive.....	4
IV.	Comments of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.....	4
V.	Summary of Testimony.....	4
VI.	Impact of Existing Law.....	5
VII.	Fiscal Impact.....	5
VIII.	Section-by-Section Analysis.....	5
IX.	Committee Action.....	5
X.	Attachments.....	5

**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

Proposed Resolution 24-933, the “Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee David Domenici Confirmation Resolution of 2022,” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor on September 16, 2022 and referred to the Committee of the Whole. The purpose of PR 24-933 is to confirm the Mayor’s nomination of David Domenici for appointment to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee (Coordinating Committee) to serve a term of four years.<sup>1</sup>

The Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Act of 2018<sup>2</sup> created the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee (“Coordinating Committee”) which is a public body composed of engaged non-government residents and agency representatives to support planning, policymaking, program development, and budgeting for successful educational

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<sup>1</sup> § 2-1599.03(b)(2)(B)(*citing* terms for the initial nongovernmental voting members shall begin on the date that a majority of the members are sworn in, which shall become the anniversary date for all subsequent appointments).

<sup>2</sup> § 2-1599.03.

experiences and outcomes for students in the care of D.C. The focus of the Coordinating Committee is on District residents under 25 years of age who are incarcerated or detained by, committed to and under the custody of, or otherwise under the supervision of, the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services; the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency; the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia; the Family Court Social Services Division; the Child and Family Services Agency; the Department of Corrections; or the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The Coordinating Committee develops strategies and policies that guide implementation of the District's policies and programs to improve educational outcomes for students in the care of the District. The Coordinating Committee consists of 25 voting members and 4 non-voting members representing key community stakeholder constituencies and certain District agency heads or their designees. 17 members are agency heads or their designees, 8 are non-governmental members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council, and 3 are other governmental members or their designees invited by the Mayor to participate. The Coordinating Committee is headed by a non-voting Director appointed by the Mayor.

To date, the Mayor has appointed 10 of the governmental voting members and the non-voting Director. If confirmed by the Council, this nomination will be one of the first four non-governmental voting members of the Coordinating Committee since it became effective in 2019.

**Table A: Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Membership**

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Appointee</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
<b><i>PR 24-933</i></b>	<b><i>David Domenici</i></b>	<b><i>Non-Government Member</i></b>	<b><i>4 years</i></b>
PR 24-934	Dr. Felecia Hayward	Non-Government Member	4 years
PR 24-935	Kesha Fitzhugh	Non-Government Member	4 years
PR 24-938	Claire Blumenson	Non-Government Member	4 years
	Vacant	Non-Government Member	3 years
	Vacant	Non-Government Member	3 years
	Vacant	Non-Government Member	3 years
	Vacant	Non-Government Member	2 years
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member	2 years
	Yuliana Bruister	Governmental Voting Member (OSSE)	N/A
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member (ReEngagement Center)	N/A
	Adina Levi	Governmental Voting Member (DYRS)	N/A
	Megan Dho	Governmental Voting Member (CFSA)	N/A
	Amy Lopez	Governmental Voting Member (DOC)	N/A
	Sarah Navarro	Governmental Voting Member (DCPS)	N/A
	Theresa Kemp	Governmental Voting Member (PCSB)	N/A

Resolution	Appointee	Position	Term Expiration
	William Hacker	Governmental Voting Member (UDC)	N/A
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member (Family Court)	N/A
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member (Superior Court)	N/A
	Nicole Ukaegbu	Governmental Voting Member (CIC)	N/A
	Barbara Paulson	Governmental Voting Member (DBH)	N/A
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member (OAG)	N/A
	Angela Spinella	Governmental Voting Member (DDS)	N/A
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member (DC Public Defender Services)	N/A
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member(DME)	N/A
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member (Ombudsperson for Children)	N/A
	Vacant*	Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency	N/A
	Vacant*	Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia	N/A
	Vacant*	Federal Bureau of Prisons	N/A

\* Nonvoting Member

Mr. Domenici earned a Juris Doctor from Stanford Law School in 1993 and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Virginia in 1986. He has been a District resident since 1992. He is a civil servant and an educator, having spent most of his adult life working in education with a focus on system-involved and at-risk teens. In 1997, Mr. Domenici co-founded the See Forever Foundation and the Maya Angelou Public Charter Schools (Maya Angelou) where he worked full-time until 2011. While at Maya Angelou, he served as Executive Director and Principal.

In 2007, Mr. Domenici was selected to open a new school at Oak Hill, which was the former name of the District’s secure juvenile facility. From 2007 through 2011, he worked full-time as the principal of the Maya Angelou Academy at Oak Hill. In 2011, he left Maya Angelou to launch a ‘sister’ nonprofit, BreakFree Education, with the goal of supporting educational reform in juvenile justice facilities across the country. Mr. Domenici currently works at BreakFree Education and serves as a volunteer on the board of the See Forever Foundation and the Maya Angelou Public Charter School. BreakFree Education’s mission is to focus on working with juvenile justice agencies and their education partners, with the goal of improving education for students held in confinement.

Based on his commitment to the mission of the Committee, his educational leadership, and his dedication to improving equitable outcomes, the Committee recommends the appointment of Mr. Domenici to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee. The Committee recommends adoption of PR 24-933.

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- September 16, 2022 PR 24-933, the “Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee David Domenici Confirmation Resolution of 2022” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor.
- September 30, 2022 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 24-933 is published in the *D.C. Register*.
- October 4, 2022 PR 24-933 is “read” at a Legislative meeting; on this date the referral of the PR to the Committee of the Whole is official and the 45-day period for Council review begins. If the Council does not act by November 18, 2022, PR 24-933 will be deemed approved
- October 7, 2022 Notice of the public hearing is published in the *D.C. Register*.
- November 2, 2022 The Committee of the Whole convenes a public hearing on PR 24-933.
- November 15, 2022 The Committee of the Whole marks up PR 24-933.

### III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Mr. Domenici is the Mayor’s nominee for appointment to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee.

### IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 24-933.

### V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public roundtable on five Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee nominations, including PR 24-933, on Tuesday, November 2, 2022. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing, pertaining to Mr. Domenici. Submitted copies of testimony are attached to this report.

***David Domenici, Appointee***, testified and answered questions from Chairman Mendelson regarding his background and experience as it pertains to the Committee and his interest in serving on the Committee. Mr. Domenici explained that he is the Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings. In this role, he is responsible for building consortium of state juvenile justice agencies to promote education reform in secure youth facilities. In his prior role at the See Forever Foundation/Maya Angelou Public Charter School, he served as the Founding principal of Oak Hill/New Beginnings Youth Center, the Districts long-term, secure facility for adjudicated youth. He stated his excitement to serve as a member of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee because he believes both his strong, long-standing work here in the District and his work around the country will enable him to support the

work of the Committee and will allow him to be able to work effectively and collaboratively with its broad range of stakeholders.

## VI. IMPACT OF EXISTING LAW

The Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee is established pursuant to D.C. Code § 2-1599.03. PR 24-933 is an exercise of the Council's discretion to approve or disapprove Mayoral nominations to Boards and Commissions, pursuant to the Confirmation Act of 1978 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Code § 1-523.01).

## VII. FISCAL IMPACT

A Fiscal Impact Statement is not necessary for a confirmation. Committee members are not compensated for their service.

## VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of PR 24-933.
<u>Section 2</u>	Confirms the appointment of David Domenici to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee, as a non-governmental member, to serve a term ending of four years. <sup>3</sup>
<u>Section 3</u>	Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the nominee and to the Mayor.
<u>Section 4</u>	Provides that PR 24-933 shall take effect immediately.

## IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

## X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 24-933 as introduced.
2. Nominee's responses to Committee pre-hearing and post-hearing questions.
3. Written Testimony and Comments.

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<sup>3</sup> § 2-1599.03(b)(2)(B)(*citing* terms for the initial nongovernmental voting members shall begin on the date that a majority of the members are sworn in, which shall become the anniversary date for all subsequent appointments).

4. Legal Sufficiency Review.
5. Committee Print for PR 24-933.



**MURIEL BOWSER**  
**MAYOR**

September 19, 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 4 of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Act of 2018, effective April 11, 2019 (D.C. Law 22-303; D.C. Official Code § 2-1599.03), I am pleased to nominate the following individual:

Mr. David Domenici  
Locust Road, NW  
Washington, DC 20012  
(Ward 4)


for appointment as a representative of an organization that provides services to students in the juvenile justice system nongovernmental voting member of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee, for a term to end four years from the date of confirmation.

Enclosed you will find biographical information detailing the above nominee's experience, together 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, Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments, should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,

  
Muriel E. Bowser

  
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 Mr. David Domenici to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee David Domenici Confirmation Resolution of 2022”.

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

Mr. David Domenici  
Locust Road, NW  
Washington, DC 20012  
(Ward 4)

as a representative of an organization that provides services to students involved in the juvenile or criminal justice system nongovernmental voting member of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee, pursuant to section 3 of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Act of 2018, effective April 11, 2019 (D.C. Law 22-303; D.C. Official Code § 2-1599.02), for a term to end four years from the date of confirmation.

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

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.



## David Domenici

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings**

**2011 to Present**

- Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings. Responsible for building consortium of state juvenile justice agencies committed to education reform in their secure care youth facilities, launching Unjammed, a multi-state program aimed at developing blended learning programs inside of secure care youth facilities, and supporting range of national initiatives directed at improved teaching and learning in secure care youth facilities around the country.
- Co-Founder of the Travis Hill School, with campuses located inside of the juvenile detention center and the adult jail in New Orleans, Louisiana. The School has been widely cited as a model for education in confined settings and have been acknowledged as one of the highest performing alternative schools in the state of Louisiana based on student performance. The Center and the Travis Hill School has a 45 person staff and an annual budget of approximately \$4 million.

#### **See Forever Foundation/Maya Angelou Public Charter School**

**1997 to September 2011**

*Principal, Maya Angelou Academy*

**2007 to September 2011**

- Founding principal of school serving students residing at Oak Hill/New Beginnings Youth Center, the Districts long-term, secure facility for adjudicated youth. Co-wrote school response to RFO. Developed budget and staffing plan. Developed key program components, including thematic unit structure, job training program, youth advocate model, and modified PBIS system to encourage pro-social behavior. Provide leadership and instructional support to school staff. Served as primary liaison with Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services leadership team.
- School program termed 'one of the best' and turn-around considered 'remarkable' by court-appointed expert in the spring of 2010.

*Co-Founder and Executive Director*

*April 1997 to December 2006*

- Co-founded alternative school for court-involved and at-risk teens. Co-wrote charter application. Created and developed program model, which included year-round extended day programming, individualized learning, vocational training, on site mental health services, and residential living for students who need it. Co-directed school for its first year, focusing on the academic, vocational, operational, and financial components of the program.
- From 1997 through 2001, served as the school Principal and its Executive Director.
- Led school growth and expansion from 1997 to 2010. Overall budget grew from \$500,000 to over \$15,000,000 during tenure; the staff grew from 7 to over 190; the student population grew from 20 to 700, over school campuses of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School, the Maya Angelou Academy.

#### **Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering**

**1992 to 1997**

*Associate, Banking, Corporate Transactions, International Trade*

- Major projects included multi-year international trade and tariff suit involving a U.S. corporation and its foreign affiliates, ongoing transaction work with bank holding companies, and merger and acquisition work on behalf of financial institutions.

#### **Roma Pizzeria and Project Soar**

**1995 to 1997**

*Founder and Store Operator*

- Opened and managed pizza delivery restaurant that served as a after-school tutoring and job training center for court-involved teens. Worked part-time as attorney at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in the mornings, and operated restaurant in the afternoons, evenings, and weekends.

#### **Shearson Lehman Brothers**

**1986 to 1988**

*Analyst, Corporate Finance*

- Provided financial support and analysis to general corporate finance practice. Focused on health care and leveraged transactions.
- Selected to serve on recruiting team during final six months; invited to remain at the firm after completion of two-year analyst program; received highest level of performance/exit bonus.

### EDUCATION

**JD, Stanford Law School, Palo Alto, CA**

**1989 to 1992**

**BA, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA**

**1982 to 1986**

**AWARDS AND AFFILIATIONS**

*Dial Fellow, Emerson Collective*

**Selected 2019**

- Media and Communication Fellowship

*Ashoka Fellow*

**Selected 2002**

- Social Entrepreneurship Fellowship

*Echoing Green Fellow*

**Selected 1996**

- Social Entrepreneurship Fellowship



Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments

John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

**David Domenici**



David Domenici is the founder and executive director of the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings (CEEAS).

Prior to starting CEEAS, Mr. Domenici worked with the Maya Angelou Schools, a network of alternative schools in Washington, DC that he co-founded. He served as the founding principal of the Maya Angelou Academy, the school located inside DC's long-term, secure juvenile facility, from 2007 to 2011. The Maya Angelou Academy's success has been widely recognized. The changes at the school were termed "remarkable" by a national expert and court-appointed monitor. The Middle States Commission's accreditation team called the Maya Angelou Academy "one of the best schools we have ever seen." The school has been featured in local and national publications, including the Washington Post Magazine and Education Week.

Mr. Domenici is the co-author, along with James Forman, Jr., of two articles about school reform. The first, "What It Takes to Transform a School Inside a Juvenile Facility: The Story of the Maya Angelou Academy," highlights lessons learned during the start-up and first year of the Maya Angelou Academy. The second, "A Circle of Trust," chronicles the first year of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School.

A Ward 4 resident, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia and a Juris Doctor degree from Stanford Law School.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

**To:** Bryan Hum, Steve Walker  
**From:** Betsy Cavendish  
**Date:** August 3, 2022  
**Subject:** Legal sufficiency review of Resolutions nominating Claire Blumenson, David Domenici, Kesha Fitzhugh, Dr. Felecia Hayward, and L. Danielle Robinette as nongovernmental voting members; Yuliana Bruister, Megan Dho, William Hacker, Laura Harding, Theresa Kemp, Adina Levi, Amy Lopez, Sarah Navarro, Barbara Paulson, Angela Spinella, and Nicole Ukaegbu as governmental voting members; and LaShunda Hill as Director of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee

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**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'.

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Elizabeth Cavendish





COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

Phil Mendelson  
Chairman

Office: (202) 724-8032  
Fax: (202) 724-8085

October 26, 2022

Mr. David Domenici  
[REDACTED] Locust Road Northwest  
Washington, DC 20012

Dear Mr. Domenici:

Congratulations on being considered for appointment to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee for the District of Columbia. As you know, the appointment is subject to confirmation by the Council. The Committee of the Whole has scheduled a public hearing on your nomination for **Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom Video Conference**. Enclosed is a copy of the hearing notice.

It is standard for the Council to submit questions to nominees. I request your response to the Committee to the following questions no later than close of business, Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

1. Please provide a copy of the Financial Disclosure Statement you filed with the Office of Campaign Finance or the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. If you have not filed a disclosure form, please provide answers to questions no. 2-8 in lieu of that statement. **I have not filed a Financial Disclosure Statement. See responses below.**
2. 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**
3. 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**
4. 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.

**See Forever Foundation, Board Member**

- **See Forever Foundation is the parent nonprofit of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School. See Forever provides education and related services to students in the District that cannot be provided through Maya Angelou. See Forever also provides operational support to Maya Angelou. See Forever has a contract with DYRS to provide educational services at New Beginnings and YSC.**

**Maya Angelou Public Charter School, Board Member**

- **Maya Angelou Public Charter School is a nonprofit, public charter school that is focused on operating schools to serve at-risk students in the District. We have a campus in the community (5600 East Capitol Street NE) with a high school and young adult learning center. In addition, the school program for 18-21 year-olds held at the DC Jail is organized and operated as part of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School.**

5. 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**

Mr. David Domenici

October 26, 2022

Page 2

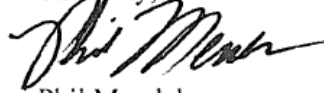
6. Please list the location of all real property located in the District of Columbia in which you have an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$1,000. **1361 Locust Road, NW, WDC 20012**
7. Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you. **None**
8. Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member. **None**
9. 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. **None**
10. Please list any other boards (e.g., Board of Directors for a non-profit) on which you are currently a member.
- **Learning Center Lab**
  - **See Forever Foundation**
  - **Maya Angelou Public Charter School**
  - **BreakFree Education**
11. 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. **No**
12. 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 on the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee? **No**
13. Please describe any local political activity (i.e. the District of Columbia local elections or campaigns) that you have engaged in over the past six years, including all campaign contributions to a D.C. candidate or political committee. **We have made modest financial contributions to a handful of candidates to DC offices over the past 6 years.**
14. Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered. **No**
15. Why have you agreed to serve, and how do you plan to help the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee fulfill its role and mission? Include in your answer what you believe should be the priorities for the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee and specific challenges you see for the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee. **I'm excited to serve as a member of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee. I believe my strong long-standing work here in DC and my work around the country will enable me to support the work of the Committee and will allow me to be able to work effectively and collaboratively with its broad range of stakeholders. See written testimony.**

16. Please include any past and present experiences that you believe are relevant to support your appointment to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee. **We funded Maya Angelou in order to fill a need in the city for a high-quality alternative high school for court-involved and other students who were not being well-served. At BreakFree Education, we similarly focus on working with juvenile justice agencies and their education partners, with the goal of improving education for students held in confinement.**

At the November 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing, you will be asked to make an opening statement indicating your interest in serving on the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee. The testimony of persons interested in supporting your nomination is helpful but not necessary. Interested parties should visit <http://www.ChairmanMendelson.com/testify> to register, or, alternatively, may submit written comments to the Committee regarding your nomination via letter mail or e-mail ([COW@dccouncil.gov](mailto:COW@dccouncil.gov)).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or Raleigh Lancaster on my staff at 202-724-7130, or [rlancaster@dccouncil.gov](mailto:rlancaster@dccouncil.gov).

Sincerely,



Phil Mendelson  
Chairman

enc.

PM/rl

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee**



**Public Roundtable on**

**PR24-0933, the “Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee David Domenici Confirmation Resolution of 2022”**

**Testimony of**

**David Domenici**

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

November 2, 2022  
11:00 am  
Virtual Meeting Platform  
The John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004



Good morning, Chairman Mendelson and members of the Committee of the Whole. My name is David Domenici and I am honored to appear before you today as a nominee of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee. I want to thank Mayor Muriel Bowser for nominating me to this appointment and the Council for taking the time to consider my nomination.

In the next few minutes, I want to provide the Council with a brief overview of my background and experience working in this space and answer any questions you may have.

I have lived in Washington since 1992. I practiced law briefly here in the city but have spent most of my adult life working in education, with a focus on system-involved and at-risk teens.

In 1997, I co-founded the See Forever Foundation and the Maya Angelou Public Charter Schools (Maya Angelou), where I worked full-time until 2011. While at Maya Angelou, I served as the executive director and principal for many years.

In 2007, Maya Angelou was selected to open up a school at Oak Hill, which was the name of D.C.'s secure juvenile facility at that time. From 2007 through 2011, I worked full-time on site, as the principal of the Maya Angelou Academy at Oak Hill and was also serving in that capacity when Oak Hill became what is now known as New Beginnings.

In 2011, I left the staff at Maya Angelou to launch a 'sister' nonprofit, BreakFree Education, with the goal of supporting educational reform in juvenile justice facilities across the country.

I currently work at BreakFree Education, and serve as a volunteer on the board of the See Forever Foundation and the Maya Angelou Public Charter School.

My work at See Forever Foundation, Maya Angelou Public Charter Schools and BreakFree Education provides me with a solid understanding of the issues that the Students in the Care of DC Coordinating Committee is charged with addressing.

We founded Maya Angelou in order to fill a need in the city for a high-quality alternative high school for court-involved and other students who were not being well-served. At BreakFree Education, we similarly focus on working with juvenile justice agencies and their education partners, with the goal of improving education for students held in confinement.

I'm excited to serve as a member of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee. I believe both my strong, long-standing work here in DC and my work around the country will enable me to support the work of the Committee and will allow me to be able to work effectively and collaboratively with its broad range of stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration today. I'm available to answer any questions you may have.



**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL**

Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 4  
Washington, DC 20004  
(202) 724-8026

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson**

**FROM: Nicole L. Streeter, General Counsel *NLS***

**DATE: November 7, 2022**

**RE: Legal Sufficiency Determination for Students in the  
Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Kesha  
Fitzhugh Confirmation Resolution of 2022, PR24-  
935**

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The measure is legally and technically sufficient for Council consideration.

The proposed resolution would confirm the appointment of Kesha Fitzhugh, to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee, established by section 3 of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Act of 2018, effective April 11, 2019 (D.C. Law 22-303; D.C. Official Code § 2-1599.02), as a parent, guardian, or foster parent of a student in the care of D.C. nongovernmental voting member for a term of 4 years.

I am available if you have any questions.

1 **COMMITTEE PRINT**  
2 Committee of the Whole  
3 November 15, 2022  
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5  
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7 **A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

8  
9 24-935

10  
11 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
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16 To confirm the appointment of Ms. Kesha Fitzhugh to the Students in the Care of D.C.  
17 Coordinating Committee.

18  
19 **RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this**  
20 resolution may be cited as the “Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Kesha  
21 Fitzhugh Confirmation Resolution of 2022”.

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

25 Ms. Kesha Fitzhugh  
26 Douglas Road, SE  
27 Washington, DC 20020  
28 (Ward 2)  
29

30 as a parent, guardian or foster parent of a student in the care of D.C. nongovernmental voting  
31 member of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee, pursuant to section 3 of the  
32 Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Act of 2018, effective April 11, 2019  
33 (D.C. Law 22-303; D.C. Official Code § 2-1599.02), for a term of four years.

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.**