



## **Baltimore Charter Parent Union**

The National Parent Union (NPU) is a network of highly effective parent organizations and grassroots activists across the country. They are united behind a set of common goals and principles to channel the power of parents. The NPU has developed a vibrant coalition that disrupts the traditional role of parent voice in policy space. The Baltimore Alliance of Public Charter Schools has worked with the NPU to develop the Baltimore Charter Parent Union (BCPU). BCPU will work to build a platform for our families to come together from all of our schools to lead city-wide advocacy efforts to protect and support charter schools and their communities.

### **Foundations of the Baltimore Charter Parent Union....**

- Create a Baltimore Charter Parent Union across the Baltimore City Public School District with representation from each member charter school
- Serve as an avenue for our parents to advocate and network on behalf of all the charters in Baltimore City at the local, state, and federal level
- Align the larger charter community around a shared language of Baltimore public charter schools
- Utilize parent voice to inform the work of charter schools across the District

### **Getting Started with the Baltimore Charter Parent Union...**

The Maryland Alliance of Public Charter Schools seeks each Baltimore City public charter school to nominate 1 or 2 parents from their school community. We suggest identifying a parent that is already involved in your school and currently supports your school in some way. Also, if your school currently has a parent liaison please identify them along with a parent. Once identified, please email Phylicia with the name, email, and phone number of the individual(s). She will notify the parent(s) and liaison(s) with their nomination to the BCPU committee. They will also receive notice of the first meeting and acceptance protocol.

We are very excited to get this off the ground. Thank you for your continued support and patience. **If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Phylicia at [phylicia@mdcharters.org](mailto:phylicia@mdcharters.org) or 410-919-9678 ext 3.**



## **Baltimore Charter Parent Union Commission Member**

### **Mission Statement of BCPU -**

The BCPU Commission, acting as a single entity, is legally and ethically responsible for all activities of the Baltimore Charter Parent Union. Individual commission members have an obligation to uphold the standards of conduct set for them by the Commission and applicable laws.

### **The BCPU Commission is responsible for:**

- Establish the mission of the BCPU
- Determining how the Commission carries out its mission through long-range and short-range planning and review
- Establishing policies that ensure best practices are followed
- Acquiring and maintaining resources
- Insuring BCPU has the financial resources necessary to carry out its mission
- Maintaining the Commission
- Orienting and training new Commission members
- Develop Commission leadership to maintain continuity and institutional knowledge
- Providing oversight to ensure the Commission is making progress in achieving its mission

### **Responsibilities of Commission Advocates include:**

- Understand and promote BCPU's mission
- Gain a working knowledge of BCPU's programs, services and delivery models
- Be a working member of at least one BCPU committee, work group or project annually
- Assisting in the recruitment of volunteers and participants at actions or events
- Advocate for BCPU and the Baltimore charter community
- Help to educate the community
- Identifying and/or avoid conflicts of interest
- Offer if not asked to participate in activities you can help with
- Ask questions
- Be respectful of differing opinions
- Be open minded to diverse ideas
- Actively participate in Commission meetings and annual planning retreats
- Participate in annual Commission self assessment
- Review Commission meeting materials before the meetings



### **Time Demands (approximate):**

- Attend and actively participate in at least 75% of Commission meetings in a 12 month period.
  - Meet once a month on an agreed upon regular date and time
- Committee/Project/Work Group- 1 to 3 hours per month or as needed
- Annual planning retreat - 6 hours one Saturday
- Attendance at events (time varies) - Attend at least two events/actions per year
- Participate in 1/2 day orientation for new Commission members
- Reviewing meeting materials (will be sent out at least one week prior to the meeting for review) - 30 mins to 1 hour

### **Financial and Resource Development Expectations:**

- Participating in resource development and fundraising
  - Sell 10 tickets to organization fundraising event, tickets are \$100
  - Recruit sponsors if possible \$10 - \$1000
  - Identify and assist in cultivation of potential donors
  - Assist in funding lobbying/advocacy efforts in Annapolis

### **Maryland Alliance of Public Charter School's Responsibilities to Commission Activists:**

- Send meeting materials in a timely manner
- Schedule and host regular meetings
- Provide accurate and efficient responses to questions, concerns, etc.
- Support the Commission with a staff person from MAPCS
- Assist with some financial and/or development work