

**FOUNDING GROUP & SCHOOL LEADERSHIP**  
*14 Del. C. § 512 (1)*

**Founding Group Membership [14 Del. C. § 512 (1)]**

**a. Identify the key members of the Founding Group**

The Founding Group of The Vine’s Preparatory School is a unique gathering of professionals and citizens that span several professional service and education areas. Together, they are one unit with a sole vision that is to see the students of Sussex County Delaware receive an education option that will cause them to become positive contributors to their local, national and global communities. To foster an educational environment of excellence, creativity, business and citizenship.

**b. Explain the Founding Group’s collective qualifications for establishing a high-quality charter school in Delaware and in assuming stewardship of public funds. Address the following in your response.**

<b>Founding Group Member</b>	<b>Board Position</b>	<b>Profession</b>	<b>Expertise &amp; Roles they will Play to VPS</b>
<b>Chanda Jackson-Short, Ph. D.</b>	Board of Directors Chairperson Founding Group	Social Worker	<b>School Leader</b> , Organizational Leadership, Charter School Start Up, VPS Developer, Parent & Community Engagement Governance
<b>Orlando Short</b>  <b>Community Member</b>	Board Member  Founding Group	Constable, Security Specialist	Security & Discipline, Outreach
<b>Alan Cobb</b>	Board Member  Founding Group	Assistant Vice President Of Facilities Delaware State College	<b>Treasurer</b> , Planning, Design & Engineering, Negotiations & Purchasing
<b>Sharon Conaway</b>  <b>Educator</b>	Board Member  Founding Group	Elementary Education  Certified in Math and Reading	Educator, Curriculum Development & Instructional Strategies, Planning
<b>Nakia McNair</b>  <b>Educator</b>	Board Member  Founding Group	Elementary Education	Educator, Curriculum Development & Instructional Strategies, Planning, Marketing

<b>DaShaunna Harris</b>	Board Member  Founding Group	Collegiate Student  Educational Leadership	<b>Secretary</b> , Educational & Organizational Leadership, Operations, Student Life, Administration
<b>Aldrich M. Hines</b>	Board Member/ Founding Group	Chief Para Transit Supervisor DART	Transportation Specialist, Community Engagement
<b>Rev. Carol E. Harris Community Member</b>	Board Member/ Founding Group	Senior Pastor, Pastoral Counseling, Religious Education, Chaplain	Board Development & Expansion, Community Liaison, School Leadership, Fundraising

**c. Describe the Founding Group's ties to and knowledge of the proposed school community.**

- **Summarize each person's experience, qualifications, and affiliations that will be directly relevant to developing a high-quality charter school that reflects the school's mission and vision. Explain why each individual was chosen to participate in this Founding Group.**
- **Explain how and why the Founding Group decided to form a school in Delaware.**

**Dr. Chanda Jackson**— Dr. Short holds a Doctorate Degree in Social work and has been an Social Worker and advocate for youth in crisis and education for many years. She is the visionary for Vine's Preparatory School and has worked tirelessly to comprise and develop the application and culture that will be VPS. Dr. Short, is a member of several community organizations where she volunteers her time and efforts in building and strengthening local communities and the services they provide their citizens. She has made her voice heard on one of Kent County's steering committees and continues to pursue excellence in education for our children. Dr. Short has an extensive history with training and developing staff. Dr. Short's ability to translate vision and accountability for its success is an asset that will be the backbone of VPS.

**Orlando Short Jr.**- Orlando Short is a constable and security specialist with in the Bayhealth Hospital Network. Mr. Short has extensive experience in facilities security and discipline ranging back to his days of service in the United States Navy. As a Deputy Adjutant for a National Network of Churches, Orlando is responsible for comprising security plans for multiple facilities and securing National religious leaders. He has an unparalleled dedication to the emerging generations and volunteers his time counseling youth in crisis, assisting with rehabilitation trainings for youth offenders currently in or about to be released from Delaware's penal system. My Short's high level knowledge of discipline plans and environment stabilization will greatly contribute to the forming culture of VPS.

**Alankato D. Cobb Sr.**- Mr. Cobb is an Assistant Vice President at the Delaware State University, Dover, Delaware. He previously served as the Facilities Planning Engineer at Lincoln University, Lincoln, Pennsylvania from 2012 through 2013. Mr. Cobb also has 18 years of experience in engineering and design. He has held various engineering positions at several engineering firms. Mr. Cobb has been the Senior Project Manager for Delaware Engineering and Design Cooperation from 1997 to 2013. He received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Florida Institute of Technology. Mr. Cobb will play a key role in the purchasing, renovations/build phase of VPS. The board will also rely on his extensive knowledge budgets, budgeting and facilities operations and management during this phase and onward.

**Sharon Conaway**- Mrs. Conaway has background in curriculum writing and development. As a current classroom teacher, she is very familiar with the national curricular shift to the Common Core State Standards and has skills designing and implementing lessons that align to those standards. Mrs. Conaway is certified in Reading and Math. She has experience helping students

explore their learning styles, teaching them in the way they learn best, AND encouraging them to step outside of their comfort zones to learn things in a new way. We anticipate Mrs. Conaway's familiarity with best practices such as DI (Differentiated Instruction), UDL (Universal Design for Learning), STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and PBL (Project / Problem-Based Learning) to aid in maximizing student growth and learning potential. Ms. Conaway's expertise with 1:1 tutoring and educational advancement will guide us in curriculum administration.

**Aldrich M. Hines-** Mr. Hines is a Chief Paratransit Supervisor for the Delaware Transit Cooperation (Dart) which is a division of the Department of Transportation. He has over 27 years of transportation experience. In that 27 year tenure he has been licensed to operate various types of vehicles from cargo vans, combat vehicles, and a wide variety of commercial vehicles including but not limited to 25 to 40 foot buses. He currently oversees the day to day Paratransit operations in Sussex County Delaware. He supervises 72 operators and 7 dispatch Supervisors and assures that over 900 trips daily are performed in a safe and efficient manner.

Aldrich has been trained and certified in wide spectrum areas as it relates to transportation, leadership, public Awareness. His training involves but not limited to Harassment Prevention training, Diffusing Confrontations, Workplace Violence Prevention, Drug and Alcohol. Mr. Hines will directly handle VPS transportation plan and monitor its efficiency. Mr. Hines brings his wealth of knowledge in the transportation field to our team.

**Nakia McNair-** Mrs. McNair has been recognized twice for being Teacher of the Year in her school, Lake Forest North Elementary. Among the recognition, she had the opportunity to be profiled in the U.S. Department of Education's Doing What Works Website that showcased the best educational practices of teachers across the nation. She has the opportunity to work on a District Curriculum work group in which she collaborates with other teachers to plan curriculum units and develop assessments. Currently, Nakia McNair is a member of the 2015 Delaware Dream Team, in which, she has the opportunity to work with teachers across the state in Professional Learning Communities to develop Common Core-based lessons for Learn Zillion. Learn Zillion is a digital library that is utilized by teachers, parents, and students. Mrs. McNair's ability to make curriculum comprehensive for students and parents. Her experience has caused her to be a great asset to our curriculum team.

**DaShaunna Harris-** Is currently a senior at Wesley College, where she is will be graduating this May with her BA in Psychology. Miss Harris intends to continue her studies and pursue a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership. Her administrative skills have assisted our team greatly. DaShaunna's senior research proposal directly lined up with the philosophy of our Founding Board. Choice in education can directly impact graduation and

school retention rates. Her fresh eyes as a current student has been refreshing and informative when developing the student culture and life of VPS.

**Rev. Carol Harris** – Rev. Harris is the Senior Pastor of the Ecclesia Family Worship Center of Dover, Delaware and a Chaplain at Bayhealth Hospital. She holds both secular and religious degrees. Her love and commitment to our younger generations has caused her to be a voice and an advocate for an emerging generation. She brings well over 20 years of experience in Social Work and counseling to our founding group. Pastor Harris is well engrafted in Delaware’s Social, Educational & Religious communities. Her experience lends itself to our team by way of, community relations, donor development and student culture.

***Full resumes, professional biographies. See Attachment 1***