



**BOARD OF ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY  
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



April 8, 2026

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**RE: Resolution of Complaint Concerning Harmony Public Charter School Board's Compliance with the Open Meetings Act (#OOG-2025-0023)**

Dear [REDACTED]:

On February 12, 2025, the Office of Open Government (“OOG”) received your complaint (#OOG-2025-0023) (“Complaint”) alleging that Harmony Public Charter School Board (“Harmony PCSB”, or the “Board”) had not posted meeting links, or locations and times, and that there were no dates published for the Board’s fall 2024 meetings on the Public Charter School’s website.<sup>1</sup>

As you are aware, the Office of Open Government has the statutory charge to ensure that public bodies adhere to the Open Meetings Act.<sup>2</sup> The OMA reiterates the District of Columbia’s long-standing public policy that “all persons are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of [the] government and the actions of those who represent them.”<sup>3</sup> To support this policy, the OMA requires that its provisions be construed broadly to increase public access to public bodies’ meetings.<sup>4</sup>

Pursuant to 3 DCMR § 10400 *et seq.*,<sup>5</sup> I reviewed and assessed your Complaint. OOG’s legal staff also reviewed Harmony Public Charter School’s (“Harmony PCS” or “PCS”) and District of Columbia Public Charter School’s (“DC PCS”) websites, and the Executive Director of Harmony PCS’ response on behalf of the Board.

Upon consideration of the aforementioned (detailed background below), and the investigation results, I find that Harmony PCSB has not violated the OMA, because at the times OOG conducted its research, complete and timely meeting notices were posted for the upcoming meetings on Harmony PCS’ website, which included the location (login information and weblink) and the time of the meetings. Also, Harmony PCSB published annual schedule of its 2024 and

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<sup>1</sup> Email from [REDACTED] to Office of Open Government (OOG), on February 12, 2025.

<sup>2</sup> D.C. Official Code § 2-571, *et seq.*

<sup>3</sup> D.C. Official Code § 2-572.

<sup>4</sup> D.C. Official Code § 2-573.

<sup>5</sup> D.C. Municipal Regulations Section 3-10400 – Filing and Presentation of Complaints.

2025 meetings. As such, I find no OMA violation and must dismiss this matter pursuant to 3 DCMR §10403.1(b) because the action complained of does not violate the OMA. The justification for the dismissal follows.

My analysis begins with the facts, then a discussion of the OMA’s Notice of meeting provisions. I will conclude with a discussion of my enforcement authority under the OMA.

## **I. BACKGROUND**

### **A. The Complaint**

On February 10, 2025, you sent an email to OOG concerning alleged OMA violations by eleven Boards of Trustees, followed by an email inquiry about whether to submit separate complaints against forty-seven Boards of Trustees in alleged violation of the OMA or a detailed report of the total violations. In response to your question, OOG suggested that you “submit one complaint that collectively captures the 47 (or more) charters with [] a detailed report of the total, elaborating the potential problems with each.”<sup>6</sup> On February 12, 2025, you submitted the Collective Complaint (Complaints) via email to OOG. Your Collective Complaint contains the Complaint against Harmony Public Charter School Board, as follows: “No links, times, or locations; no dates for fall 2024 meetings.”<sup>7</sup>

The following is a summary of Harmony PCSB representative’s email response to the Complaint.

### **B. Summary of Harmony Executive Director’s February 27, 2025, email response to the Complaint**

OOG provided the chairman of Harmony PCSB with a redacted (for personal identifiable information) copy of the Complaint, thereby availing the chairman of the opportunity to respond to the said Complaint. Dr. Muhammet Turkay, Executive Director of Harmony PCS, response to the allegations in the Complaint via email on February 27, 2025, in part is as follows:

“We believe that Harmony DC PCS was and remains in compliance.

Links: Board documents and links are posted on our website under  
About>School Board> Board Documents  
<https://harmonydc.org/board-documents/>

Times: Board meeting times are posted on our website under  
About>School Board> Board Documents  
<https://harmonydc.org/board-documents/>

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<sup>6</sup> Email from ██████████ to Office of Open Government (OOG), on February 10, 2025; Email from Director Niquelle Allen (OOG) to ██████████, on February 12, 2025.

<sup>7</sup> Email from ██████████ to Office of Open Government (OOG), on February 12, 2025.

Dates for Previous Board Meetings

Only current and future meeting dates have links on our website.

Previous Board Meeting dates and documents can be found on our Drive.

The link is available on our website

About>School Board> Board Documents

<https://harmonydc.org/board-documents/>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/12wA96A8nv-0eIJH87\\_9FTzXRIybIZfGT/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12wA96A8nv-0eIJH87_9FTzXRIybIZfGT/view?usp=sharing)

I will also add more links to our website to help community members access the information more easily.”<sup>8</sup>

The following is a summary of your January 29, 2026, email to the Office of Open Government.

### **B. Summary of Complainant’s January 29, 2026, email to the Office of Open Government Concerning Harmony Public Charter School**

On January 29, 2026, you sent an email to OOG concerning certain DC public charter schools, including Harmony PCS. A summary of your concern about Harmony PCSB is as follows:

“Harmony appears to now (maybe?) be compliant with the OMA, possibly as a result of pressure because of their application with the charter board for a new facility.

The public was first made aware of Harmony’s September board meeting minutes in its application only because of a charter board requirement for those minutes.

It is still unclear to me to what extent Harmony is publicizing its board meetings to its school community, but parents and community members do not appear to ever be part of board meetings.

While the CEO of Harmony attested at the 11/17/25 charter board meeting that the school was in compliance with the OMA, it appeared to be a very new action, in direct contradiction to what I observed for most of 2025 and before.”<sup>9</sup>

I, now move to discuss the Complaint, commencing with the Notice of meeting provisions concerning your alleged absence of meeting links, or locations, and times. This is followed by the meeting provisions concerning the dates published for the Board’s fall 2024 meetings. I conclude with a discussion on my enforcement authority under the OMA.

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<sup>8</sup> Email from Dr. Muhammet Turkay, Executive Director of Harmony PCS to Attorney Advisor Joan Lelma (OOG), on February 27, 2025.

<sup>9</sup> Email from [REDACTED] to Office of Open Government (OOG), on January 29, 2026.

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. The OMA requires that the meeting notice of a public body includes the date, time, location, and a planned agenda to be covered at the meeting.

All meetings properly constituted to conduct public business as defined under the OMA,<sup>10</sup> unless specifically and legally exempted,<sup>11</sup> are presumed to be open to the public, and the public must receive advanced notice of the date, time, location and draft agenda.<sup>12</sup> Also, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-576(1), the public must be given notice of the change of schedule of a meeting, as soon as possible, or at least forty-eight (48) hours or two (2) business days, whichever is greater, except for emergency meetings. If one of the requirements of the notice is absent (date, time, location, and draft agenda) pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-576(5), a proper meeting notice has not been provided.

The District of Columbia’s Open Meetings Regulation instructions on how to conduct electronic meetings demonstrates that the means of access to electronic meetings is included in “location” in the OMA.<sup>13</sup> 3 DCMR 10409.7 states, “[a] Public Body conducting a meeting by electronic means shall ensure the meeting complies with the Open Meetings Act and take the following actions: (a) Provide a dial-in number for the public to participate in the meeting if the meeting is held by teleconference; (b) Provide login information if the meeting is held by web-conference.” Furthermore, OOG has provided clarification through one of its issued Guidance on electronic public body meetings. The Guidance along with the OMA and the Regulation shows that for virtual or hybrid meetings, “location” includes valid login information and website link, if the meeting is held by web-conference, and if the meeting is held by teleconference, valid dial-in number and access code to the meeting.<sup>14</sup>

You state in your Complaint that there are “[n]o links, times, or locations; [and] no dates for fall 2024 meetings.”<sup>15</sup> OOG’s staff conducted a review of Harmony PCS’ website in March, April, and June 2025, and January 29, 2026. The staff accessed the PCS’ website directly from entering the school’s name in the web browser and from the web links provided in its Executive Director’s response to your Complaint. OOG’s investigation results showed complete meeting notices were published on the school’s website, containing the web links to the respective upcoming meetings and the times of the meetings. In addition, an examination of the past meeting notices revealed that they contain web links to the meetings and the times of the meetings. Further, while OOG is unable to determine from a review of Harmony PCS’ website whether the January 2025 meeting notice was published within the statutorily required period of at least forty-eight (48) hours or two (2) business days before the meeting, the staff observed that Harmony PCSB’s June 2025 meeting notice was timely published.<sup>16</sup> However, on checking the

<sup>10</sup> D.C. Official Code § 2-574(1).

<sup>11</sup> D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b).

<sup>12</sup> D.C. Official Code § 2-576(5).

<sup>13</sup> 3 DCMR 10409.7, D.C. Official Code § 2-576(5).

<sup>14</sup> OOG’s *Guidance for Conducting Electronic Meetings After the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency* (Amended October 17, 2023).

<sup>15</sup> Email from ██████████ to Office of Open Government (OOG), on February 12, 2025.

<sup>16</sup> D.C. Official Code § 2-576(1).

school's website on January 29, 2026, OOG's staff observed that the Board's records were more readily accessible, which may be attributed to changes to how specific information is accessed via each subtab and web link.

Based on the preceding, Harmony PCSB has not violated the OMA by not providing location (web link) and time of its meetings as you alleged. Also, even though your email to me (OOG copied) on January 29, 2026, contain statements about Harmony PCSB but did not allege an OMA violation, OOG's staff reviewed Harmony PCS' website on the said date. No violation of the OMA was identified.

I now move to discuss the Notice of meeting provision concerning the dates published for the Board's fall 2024 meetings.

**A. The OMA mandates that a public body must establish an annual schedule of its meetings, if feasible, and must update the schedule throughout the year.**

Your allegation is that Harmony PCSB did not publish "dates for fall 2024 meetings."<sup>17</sup> The OMA codified at D.C. Official Code § 2-576(1) states that "... A public body shall establish an annual schedule of its meetings, if feasible, and shall update the schedule throughout the year..." The Executive Director of Harmony PCS provided OOG's staff with a web link to a copy of the Board's 2024 and 2025 meeting schedule in response to your Complaint. OOG staff's investigation of the PCS' website (accessed through the link and directly from the browser) on March, April, and June 2025, revealed that the Board's schedule for 2024 and 2025 were published on the school's website. Also, OOG's staff observed on January 29, 2026, that Harmony PCSB's 2026 annual schedule of meetings is published on the PCS' website. However, the staff's investigation reveals that there are no corresponding meeting notice and minutes for the November 4, 2025, meeting on the Board's annual schedule. Albeit, the annual (2025) schedule has "Cancelled" beside that meeting date, the posted information was modified on November 4, 2025.

Harmony PCS' website was updated to show that the November 4, 2025, meeting was cancelled. This conforms with the OMA for a public body to update its schedule throughout the year.<sup>18</sup> However, if the date on which "Cancelled" was printed on the schedule is the modification date (November 4, 2025), that would not have been timely, provided it was feasible for the Board to have done so earlier.<sup>19</sup>

I find that Harmony PCSB is not in violation of the OMA for allegedly not posting "dates for [its] fall 2024 meetings."<sup>20</sup> at the times OOG' staff examined the PCS' website. As such, the PCSB complies with the OMA by posting an annual schedule of its meetings. However, I remind and caution Harmony PCSB to ensure that its annual schedule must be updated in a timely manner, if changes are made, and it is feasible to do so.<sup>21</sup> A meeting cancellation is a change in

<sup>17</sup> Email from ██████████ to Office of Open Government (OOG), on February 12, 2025.

<sup>18</sup> D.C. Official Code § 2-576(1).

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Email from ██████████ to Office of Open Government (OOG), on February 12, 2025.

<sup>21</sup> D.C. Official Code § 2-576(1).

schedule. Furthermore, if meeting notices are published and the meeting is cancelled, “Cancelled” must also be printed on all the meeting notices as soon as the Board is aware of the cancellation.

Next, I will discuss my enforcement authority under the OMA and conclude.

### III. CONCLUSION

The facts alleged in the Complaint do not amount to a violation of the OMA. The Office of Open Government is empowered to seek injunctive and declaratory relief when certain OMA violations have occurred.<sup>22</sup> Your Complaint does not establish a violation of the OMA, and as such, I am dismissing it for the reasons stated herein, and under the OOG’s regulations.<sup>23</sup> Attached is a copy of your Complaint.<sup>24</sup>

The Office of Open Government’s 2026 OMA training schedule for Boards of Trustees for DC public charter schools is published, and the training invites for the first training were sent to Boards’ chairpersons and members.<sup>25</sup> The invites for all the trainings will be dispatched likewise; that is, two weeks before each scheduled training session, with a reminder closer to the respective sessions. Public body chairpersons and members must attend at least one of OOG’s OMA training sessions annually. The staff of public bodies are encouraged to attend the trainings provided by OOG.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact OOG Attorney Joan Lelma at [joan.lelma@dc.gov](mailto:joan.lelma@dc.gov).

Sincerely,



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Niquelle M. Allen, Esq.  
Director, Office of Open Government  
Board of Ethics and Government Accountability

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<sup>22</sup> See D.C. Official Code § 2-579.

<sup>23</sup> 3 D.C.M.R. § 10403.1 (“The Director [of Open Government] may dismiss a complaint on one or more of the following grounds: . . . (b) The action complained of does not violate the [OMA]).

<sup>24</sup> See 3 DCMR § 10403.2.

<sup>25</sup> See <https://www.open-dc.gov/news/2026-oma-trainings-boards-trustees-dc-public-charter-schools>.