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Council of the Great City Schools
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Pittsburgh School Board President to Lead National Council

Boston Superintendent, Portland Board Member Also Elected to Posts

WASHINGTON, July 1– William Isler, board president of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, today begins a one-year term as chair of the Council of the Great City Schools' Board of Directors.

He will preside over the national urban education policy and research organization that represents 66 big-city school systems. The Council's board is composed of the superintendent and a school board member from each Council member district.

Isler succeeds Superintendent Carol Comeau of the Anchorage School District in Alaska after serving as chair-elect, which will now be assumed by Boston Public Schools Superintendent Carol Johnson.

Elected to Johnson's secretary-treasurer post has been Dilafruz Williams, a board member of the Portland Public Schools in Oregon, to round out the Council's 2008-2009 leadership.

"As the only national organization exclusively representing the needs of urban public schools, our mission is clear cut: to educate the nation's most diverse student body to the highest academic standards," says Council Executive Director Michael Casserly.

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