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St. Paul Public Schools Superintendent to Lead Council of the Great City Schools

Cincinnati Board Member, San Francisco Superintendent Part of Leadership Team

WASHINGTON, April 22 – Superintendent Valeria Silva of the Saint Paul Public Schools in Minnesota has been elected chair of the Council of the Great City Schools' Board of Directors.

She will preside over the national urban education policy and research organization that represents 67 big-city school systems for a one-year term, effective July 1. The Council's 134-member board is composed of the superintendent and a school board member from each of the districts represented.

"Superintendent Silva has emerged as a recognized national leader in education, especially in pioneering English-language learner reforms," says Council Executive Director Michael Casserly. "She will lead our efforts to improve student achievement as we are implementing higher academic standards in big-city schools."

Silva will succeed Council Chair Candy Olson, a school board member in Florida's Hillsborough County Schools in Tampa, who has led the Council since last July.

Moving up to chair-elect is Eileen Cooper Reed, a school board member in Ohio's Cincinnati Public Schools, who currently serves as secretary-treasurer of the Council.

San Francisco Public Schools Superintendent Richard Carranza has been elected to the secretary-treasurer post to round out the Council's new leadership team for the upcoming 2013-14 school year.