

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS

OUR VISION

Urban public schools exist to teach students to the highest standards of educational excellence. As the primary American institution responsible for weaving the strands of our society into a cohesive fabric, we — the leaders of America’s Great City Schools — see a future where the nation cares for all children, expects their best, appreciates their diversity, invests in their futures, and welcomes their participation in the American dream.

The Great City Schools are places where this vision becomes tangible and those ideals are put to the test. We pledge to commit ourselves to the work of advancing empathy, equity, justice, and tolerance, and we vow to do everything we can to vigorously resist the forces of ignorance, fear, and prejudice, as we teach and guide our students. We will keep our commitments, and as we do and as society supports our endeavors, cities will become the centers of a strong and equitable nation, with urban public schools successfully teaching our children and building our communities.

OUR MISSION

It is the special mission of America’s urban public schools to educate the nation’s most diverse student body to the highest academic standards and prepare them to contribute to our democracy and the global community.

OUR GOALS

To educate all urban school students to the highest academic standards.

To lead, govern and manage our urban public schools in ways that advance the education of our children and inspire the public’s confidence.

To build a confident, committed and supportive urban community for raising the achievement of urban public schoolchildren.

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS

Executive Committee

2020-2021

OFFICERS

Chair of the Board: Michael O'Neill, Boston School Committee
Chair-Elect: Barbara Jenkins, Orange County Superintendent
Secretary/Treasurer: Ashley Paz, Fort Worth School Board
Immediate Past-Chair: Eric Gordon, Cleveland CEO

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Siad Ali, Minneapolis School Board
Marcia Andrews, Palm Beach County School Board
Richard Carranza, New York City Chancellor
Linda Cavazos, Clark County School Board
Marcelo Cavazos, Arlington Superintendent
Sharon Contreras, Guilford County Superintendent
Valerie Davis, Fresno School Board
Kelly Gonez, Los Angeles School Board
Leslie Grant, Atlanta School Board
Guadalupe Guerrero, Portland Superintendent
Michael Hinojosa, Dallas Superintendent
William Hite, Philadelphia Superintendent
Robert Runcie, Broward County Superintendent
Sonja Santelises, Baltimore CEO
Elisa Vakalis, Anchorage School Board
Van Henri White, Rochester School Board
Sylvia Wilson, Pittsburgh School Board
Darrel Woo, Sacramento School Board
Vacancy

Ex Officio

Deborah Shanley, Brooklyn College School of Education

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FY 2020-21

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FY 2020-21

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EX-OFFICIO MEMBER				
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**COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS
Board of Directors (January 2021)**

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Santa Ana	Jerry Almendarez	Valerie Amezcua
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Toronto	Karen Falconer (Interim)	N/A
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Washoe County	Kristen McNeill	Marlena Raymond
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COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS

Staff

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