

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*

2022-2023

OFFICERS

Chair of the Board: Kelly Gonez, Los Angeles School Board
Chair-Elect: Guadalupe Guerrero, Portland Superintendent
Secretary/Treasurer: TBD
Immediate Past-Chair: Michael O'Neill, Boston School Committee

MEMBERS

Marcia Andrews, Palm Beach County School Board
Jill Baker, Long Beach Superintendent*
Marcelo Cavazos, Arlington Superintendent
Elyse Dashew, Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board
Addison Davis, Hillsborough County Superintendent*
Valerie Davis, Fresno School Board
Talisa Dixon, Columbus Superintendent
Stephanie Elizalde, Dallas Superintendent
Lewis Ferebee, District of Columbia Chancellor
Eric Gordon, Cleveland CEO
Joe Gothard, St. Paul Superintendent
Shavonna Holman, Omaha School Board
Jesus Jara, Clark County Superintendent
Rodney Jordan, Norfolk School Board
Pedro Martinez, Chicago CEO
Diane Porter, Jefferson County School Board
Sonja Santelises, Baltimore CEO
Joyce Wilkerson, Philadelphia School Board
Stacey Woolley, Tulsa School Board*

Vacancy

Ex Officio

Deborah Shanley, Brooklyn College School of Education
Sharon Contreras, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, College of
Education

*pending Committee vote

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FY 2022-23

	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
OFFICERS:				
GONEZ, KELLY	Los Angeles Unified SD 333 South Beaudry Ave Board Room Los Angeles, CA 90017	District (213) 241-7002 Cell (818) 577-8575	District (213) 241-8442	kelly.gonez@lausd.net rosemary.duff@lausd.net megan.vandenbos@lausd.net
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MEMBERS:				
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GOTHARD, JOE	St. Paul Public Schools 360 Colborne St. 5th Fl St. Paul, MN 55102-3299	District (651) 767-8150 Cell (612) 965-4838	District (651) 290-8331	joe.gothard@spps.org

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FY 2022-23

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WILKERSON, JOYCE S.	The Sch Dist of Philadelphia 440 N. Broad St. Ste 101 Philadelphia, PA 19130	District (215) 400-5118	District (215) 400-4012	jwilkinson@philasd.org
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS				
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COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS
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Austin	Matias Segura (Interim)	David Kauffman
Baltimore	Sonja Santelises	Ronald McFadden
Birmingham	Mark Sullivan	Jason Meadows
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New York City	David Banks	N/A

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Winston-Salem/Forsyth County	Tricia McManus	Deanna Kaplan

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Staff

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Michael Casserly, Strategic Advisor
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Alisa Adams, Finance Manager
Marilyn Banks, Administrative Assistant
Michell Yorkman, Manager of Conferences and Partnerships
Alexis Vann, Manager of Conferences
Gregory Bacon, Administrative and Conference Specialist
Manish Naik, Director of Legislation
Moses Palacios, Manager of Legislative Services
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David Chi-Wai Lai, Special Projects Manager
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Kalin Hicks, Communications Specialist
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Brian Garcia, Research Manager
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Robin Hall, Chief of Schools
Farah Assiraj, Chief of Teaching and Learning
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Willie Burroughs, Director of Management Services
Robert Carlson, Senior Advisor for Management Services
AJ Crabill, Director of Governance
Cindy Elsbernd, Governance Manager
Michael Hinojosa, Superintendent in Residence
Amanda Corcoran, Special Projects Manager