

## **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

### MEMBERS

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Siad Ali, Minneapolis School Board  
Marcia Andrews, Palm Beach County School Board  
Juan Cabrera, El Paso Superintendent  
Richard Carranza, New York City Chancellor  
Linda Cavazos, Clark County School Board  
Sharon Contreras, Guilford County Superintendent  
Susana Cordova, Denver 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  
Sonja Santelises, Baltimore CEO  
Elisa Vakalis, Anchorage School Board  
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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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COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
FY 2020-21

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**COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS  
Board of Directors (October 2020)**

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Aurora	Rico Munn	Kyla Armstrong-Romero
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Baltimore	Sonja Santelises	Martha James-Hassan
Birmingham	Mark Sullivan	Daagye Hendricks
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New Orleans	Henderson Lewis Jr.	N/A
New York City	Richard Carranza	N/A
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Oklahoma City	Sean McDaniel	Paula Lewis
Omaha	Cheryl Logan	Shavonna Holman

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Portland	Guadalupe Guerrero	Amy Kohnstamm
Providence	Harrison Peters	Nicholas Hemond
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Toronto	Kathy Witherow	N/A
Tulsa	Deborah Gist	Shawna Keller
Washington, D.C.	Lewis Ferebee	N/A
Washoe County	Kristen McNeill	Marlena Raymond
Wichita	Alicia Thompson	Ron Rosales

# **COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS**

## **Staff**

Michael Casserly, Executive Director  
Teri Trinidad, Director of Administration, Finance & Conferences  
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  
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Robin Hall, Director of Language Arts and Literacy  
Robert Carlson, Director of Management Services  
AJ Crabill, Director of Governance  
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