

## **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**

**2025-2026**

### **OFFICERS**

Chair of the Board:	Sonja Santelises, Baltimore CEO
Chair-Elect:	Valerie Davis, Fresno School Board
Secretary/Treasurer:	Jill Baker, Long Beach Superintendent
Immediate Past-Chair:	Marcia Andrews, Palm Beach County School Board

### **MEMBERS**

Sabrina Bazzo, San Diego School Board  
Margo Bellamy, Anchorage School Board  
Brandon Craig, Cincinnati School Board  
Sara Elaquad, Cleveland School Board  
Stephanie Elizalde, Dallas Superintendent  
Lewis Ferebee, District of Columbia Chancellor  
Joe Gothard, Madison Superintendent  
Shavonna Holman, Omaha School Board  
Aleesia Johnson, Indianapolis Superintendent  
Deanna Kaplan, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School Board  
Roger León, Newark Superintendent  
Alex Marrero, Denver Superintendent  
Christina Martinez, San Antonio School Board  
Matias Segura, Austin Superintendent  
Mary Skipper, Boston Superintendent  
Joyce Wilkerson, Philadelphia School Board  
Darryl Willie, Duval County School Board  
Stacey Woolley, Tulsa School Board  
*Vacancy*  
*Vacancy*

### *Ex Officio*

Deborah Shanley, Brooklyn College School of Education  
Sharon Contreras, North Carolina Central University

# COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS

## Board of Directors (July 2025)

CITY	SUPERINTENDENTS	BOARD MEMBERS
Albuquerque	Gabriella Blakey	Courtney Jackson
Anchorage	Jharrett Bryantt	Margo Bellamy
Arlington	Matt Smith	Justin Chapa
Atlanta	Bryan Johnson	Erika Mitchell
Aurora	Michael Giles	Anne Keke
Austin	Matias Segura	David Kauffman
Baltimore	Sonja Santelises	Khalilah Slater Harrington
Birmingham	Mark Sullivan	Jason Meadows
Boston	Mary Skipper	Michael O'Neill
Bridgeport	Royce Avery	Christine Baptiste-Perez
Broward County	Howard Hepburn	Allen Zeman
Buffalo	Will Keresztes	Sharon Belton-Cottman
Charleston	Anita Huggins	Keith Grybowski
Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Crystal Hill	Stephanie Sneed
Chicago	Macquiline King	Jessica Biggs
Cincinnati	Shauna Murphy	Brandon Craig
Clark County	Jhone Ebert	Irene Bustamante Adams
Cleveland	Warren Morgan	Sara Elaquad
Columbus	Angela Chapman	Michael Cole
Dallas	Stephanie Elizalde	Sarah Weinberg
Dayton	David Lawrence	Chrisondra Goodwine
Denver	Alex Marrero	Carrie Olson
Des Moines	Ian Roberts	Kimberly Martorano
Detroit	Nikolai Vitti	Angelique Peterson-Mayberry
District of Columbia	Lewis Ferebee	N/A
Durham	Anthony Lewis	Bettina Umstead
Duval County	Christopher Bernier	Darryl Willie
East Baton Rouge	LaMont Cole	Shashonnie Steward
El Paso	Martha Aguirre	TBD
Fayette County	Demetrus Liggins	Tyler Murphy
Fort Worth	Karen Molinar	Camille Rodriguez
Fresno	Misty Her	Valerie Davis
Guilford County	Whitney Oakley	Bettye Jenkins
Hawaii Department of Education	Keith Hayashi	Ken Kuraya
Hillsborough County	Van Ayres	Jessica Vaughn
Houston	Mike Miles	Rolando Martinez
Indianapolis	Aleesia Johnson	Allissa Impink
Jackson	Errick Greene	Barbara Hilliard
Jefferson County	Brian Yearwood	Gail Logan Strange
Jersey City	Norma Fernandez	Noemi Velazquez
Kansas City	Jennifer Collier	TBD
Little Rock	Jermall Wright	Joyce Walker Wesley
Long Beach	Jill Baker	Douglas Otto
Los Angeles	Alberto Carvalho	Kelly Gonez
Madison	Joe Gothard	Nichelle Nichols
Memphis-Shelby County	Roderick Richmond	TBD
Miami-Dade County	José Dotres	Steve Gallon III
Milwaukee	Brenda Cassellius	Marva Herndon
Minneapolis	Lisa Sayles-Adams	Sharon El-Amin
Nashville	Adrienne Battle	Berthena Nabaa-McKinney

New Orleans  
New York City  
Newark  
Norfolk  
Oakland  
Oklahoma City  
Omaha  
Orange County  
Palm Beach County  
Philadelphia  
Phoenix Union  
Pinellas County  
Pittsburgh  
Portland  
Providence  
Puerto Rico  
Richmond  
Rochester  
Sacramento  
St. Louis  
St. Paul  
San Antonio  
San Diego  
San Francisco  
Santa Ana  
Seattle  
Toledo  
Tulsa  
Washoe County  
Wichita  
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County

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Melissa Aviles-Ramos  
Roger León  
James Pohl  
Denise Saddler  
Jamie Polk  
Matthew Ray  
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Mike Burke  
Tony Watlington  
Thea Andrade  
Kevin Hendrick  
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Javier Montañez  
Eliezer Ramos Parés  
Jason Kamras  
Eric Jay Rosser  
Lisa Allen  
Millicent Borishade  
Stacie Stanley  
Jaime Aquino  
Fabiola Bagula  
Maria Su  
Lorraine Perez  
Brent Jones  
Romules Durant  
Ebony Johnson  
Joe Ernst  
Kelly Bielefeld  
Catty Moore

Olin Parker  
N/A  
Hasani Council  
Tanya Bhasin  
Jennifer Brouhard  
Paula Lewis  
Shavonna Holman  
Teresa Jacobs  
Marcia Andrews  
Joyce Wilkerson  
Ceyshe Napa  
Lisa Cane  
Gene Walker  
Michelle DePass  
Ty'Relle Stephens  
N/A  
Stephanie Rizzi  
Camille Simmons  
Taylor Kayatta  
Karen Collins-Adams  
Jim Vue  
Christina Martinez  
Sabrina Bazzo  
Supriya Ray  
Alfonso Alvarez  
Sarah Clark  
Bob Vasquez  
Stacey Woolley  
Elizabeth Smith  
Hazel Stabler  
Deanna Kaplan

# **COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS**

## **Staff**

Raymond Hart, Executive Director  
Michael Casserly, Strategic Advisor  
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  
Olivia Shaw, Operations Administrative Specialist  
Manish Naik, Director of Legislation  
Mary Stablein Lawson, General Counsel  
David Chi-Wai Lai, Director of ELL Policy & Research  
Delina Phicadu, English Learners Policy Summer Fellow  
Alka Pateriya, Director of Strategy and Partnerships  
Delisa Nuñez, Partnership Specialist  
Tonya Harris, Director of Communications  
Joanne Coley, Communications Manager  
Kalin Hicks, Communications Specialist  
Akisha Osei Sarfo, Director of Research  
Chester Holland, Research Manager  
Brian Garcia, Research Manager  
Eric Vignola, Manager of Software Engineering  
Nicole Mancini, Chief of Academics  
Denise Walston, Chief of Curriculum  
Robin Hall, Chief of Schools  
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