

Guide to the Denver Public Schools Board of Education



Discover a World of Opportunity™

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS



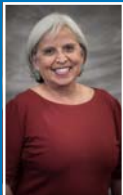
Happy Haynes
At Large
Secretary
Term 2015—2019



Barbara O'Brien
At Large
Vice President
Term 2013—2017



Anne Rowe
District 1/Southeast
President
Term 2015—2019



Rosemary Rodriguez
District 2/Southwest
Term 2013—2017



Mike Johnson
District 3/Central East
Treasurer
Term 2013—2017



Rachele C. Espiritu PhD
District 4/Northeast
Term 2016—2017



Lisa Flores
District 5/Northwest
Term 2015—2019

Our Vision: Every Child Succeeds

The Denver Public Schools Board of Education welcomes you to its meeting. We appreciate your interest in the work of the board and value your participation.

Board Goals

- Great Schools in Every Neighborhood
- A Foundation for Success in School
- Ready for College & Career
- Support for the Whole Child
- Close the Opportunity Gap

What is a Board of Education?

The Board of Education is the official governing body of the school district. There are seven members on the Denver Public Schools Board of Education: five are elected by voters within five regions; two are elected at-large by voters across the entire city. Board members' terms are four years and are staggered so no more than four board members are elected in any one election. Board of Education members are volunteers and receive no paid compensation for their service.

What are the responsibilities of the Board of Education?

Some of the responsibilities of the Board are to:

- Establish a vision for the community's schools and participate in strategic planning.
- Develop effective policies and review them periodically.
- Provide accountability to the community on student achievement.
- Advocate for the needs of all students at the local, state and national levels.
- Hire the Superintendent and negotiate contract.
- Evaluate the Superintendent annually.
- Conduct student and employee appeals.
- Develop, approve and manage budget.
- Adopt the annual school calendar.

When and where does the Board of Education meet?

The Board of Education meets typically three times per month. The meetings are held at the Emily Griffith Campus building at 1860 Lincoln St. unless otherwise stated. Please refer to our website for updated information regarding the schedule for board meetings. <http://board.dpsk12.org>

Regular Meetings

The Board of Education holds one regular meeting on the third Thursday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted), followed by a public comment session at 5:30 p.m. At these meetings, the board votes on each month's action items.

Work Sessions

On the Monday prior to the regular meeting, the board holds work sessions. These meetings are to prepare for the regular meetings and study issues before voting.

Focus on Achievement Study Sessions

The board also meets for Focus on Achievement study sessions. These meetings are typically held the first Thursday of each month for discussions related to the Denver Plan.

GET INVOLVED!

In some cases, school boards are required to involve committees of various people to make recommendations to the Board of Education. These committees include teachers, students, parents and community members.

Watch for public notices on the website and listen for announcements at school board meetings for opportunities to get involved.



How are board meetings conducted?

The President of the Board of Education calls the meeting to order and follows an agenda. Agenda items typically include recognitions, superintendent reports, financial reports, policy review and adoptions, and consent agenda items. The board will be asked to approve the consent agenda with the exception of any items held by board members for further discussion. Those items held for discussion will be deliberated and voted upon after the conclusion of public comment, which typically begins at 5:30 p.m. Following public comment and voting on the consent agenda items that were held, the Board President will adjourn the meeting.

Don't worry if you have to leave early from the board meeting. The board won't be offended. At times, recognitions involve teachers, parents and students, and they often leave to attend other functions. Speakers during public comment often leave after they have addressed the board.

How can I address the Board of Education?

The board is here to serve you. At any time you can call or email board members. To address the board publicly, one may sign up to speak at a board public comment session. The board holds public comment sessions to listen to comments about student achievement, budget policy or matters currently under consideration by the board.

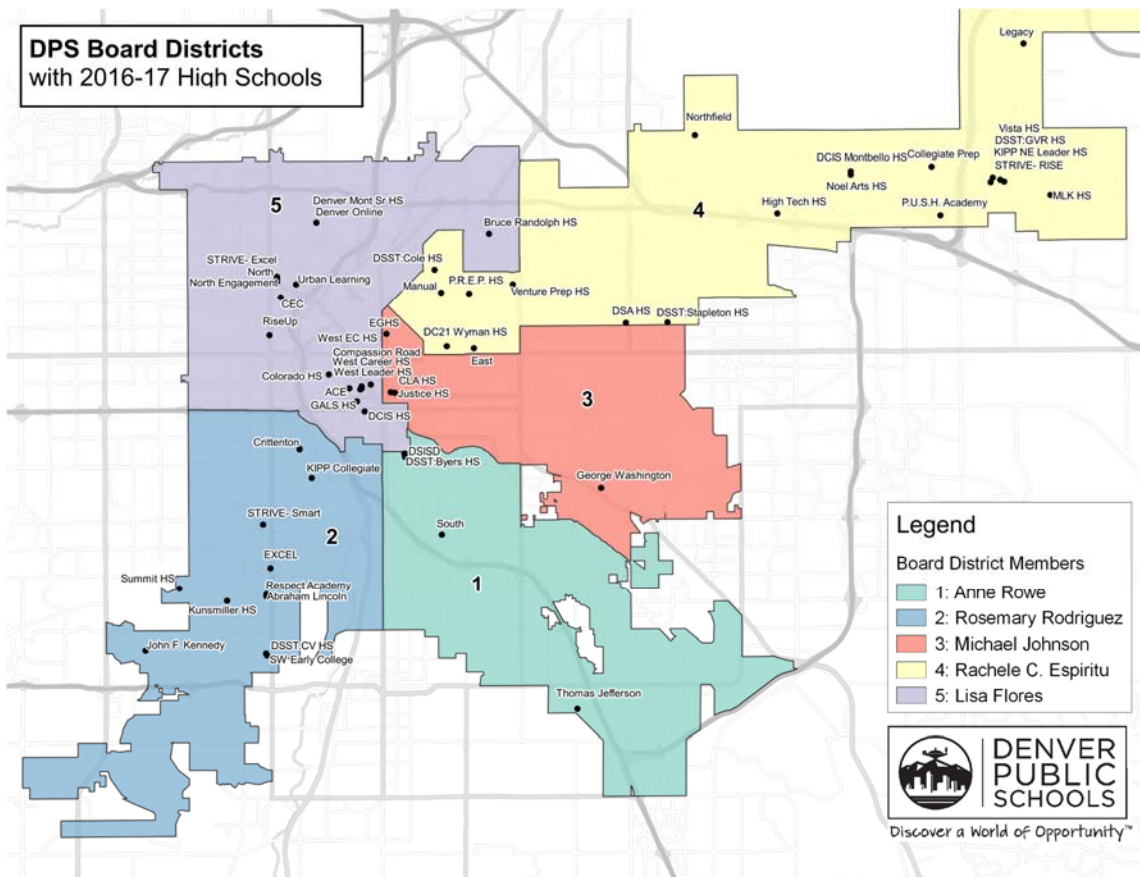
Each speaker will have three minutes to speak, and groups of four or more people speaking on the same topic will have 10 minutes collectively. **NO INDIVIDUAL IN A GROUP WILL BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK FOR MORE THAN THREE MINUTES.** Substitutes are not allowed—only the person who signed up to speak may address the board. In order to address the board, you must sign up to speak. Please call the board office at 720-423-3210 by **5 p.m.** the day before the public comment session. A list of speakers will be posted the day of the public comment session.

The Board of Education members will not engage in dialogue with the public during the public comment session. Instead, board or staff members often follow up on specific issues at a later date. Comments relative to personnel or students are inappropriate to address in open session.

What is an executive session?

The board may recess from a board meeting to a closed executive session for discussion. Topics to be discussed are limited to matters under the law such as personnel, real estate acquisitions, security or consultation with attorneys. All executive sessions are closed to the public. Board members may not vote during executive session.

Denver Public Schools—Board of Education Districts



Denver Public Schools boundaries are comprised of the city and county of Denver. The district is divided into five director districts, each represented by a board member. There are two board members who serve at-large and represent the entire school district. The map can be accessed at: <http://board.dpsk12.org/boardmembers/dps-board-district-map/>

The Board of Education encourages families to work to resolve issues at the school level first. If you cannot come to a positive agreement, please contact the Family Constituency Services department at 720-423-3054.

The Board of Education is here to serve you. At any time you may contact your board members at:

Board of Education
Emily Griffith Campus
1860 Lincoln St.
Denver, CO 80203
720-423-3210

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