Terry Grier became the Houston Independent School District’s superintendent of schools after a unanimous vote of the district’s Board of Education in September 2009. Under his watch, HISD’s graduation rate has increased to its all-time high (81.7 percent). Scholarship dollars offered to HISD seniors have increased from $51 million to $186 million. And the number of students scoring three or higher on Advanced Placement exams has increased by 45 percent, from 4,915 to 7,106.

Dr. Grier is widely recognized for his leadership in turning around failing schools. The district’s Apollo 20 program has received state and national recognition—effectively eliminating the math achievement gap in Apollo elementary schools and reducing it by one-half in Apollo middle and high schools. He is committed to placing an effective teacher in every HISD classroom and an exemplary principal in every school. To help ensure this, the district’s teacher and principal evaluation models contain indicators of student success.

In 2013, under his leadership, HISD became the first district in America to win the Broad Prize for Urban Education a second time (the district won the inaugural award in 2002). HISD received high marks for its progress in decreasing achievement gaps and increasing the number of minority students taking and doing well on advanced placement tests.

In November 2012, Houston voters approved a $1.89 billion school construction bond—the largest in the history of Texas—with an amazing 69 percent voting in favor. These funds will be used to rebuild 28 of the district’s high schools, making HISD the only major school district in the country with all high school buildings being re-built since 2000.

HISD’s PowerUp initiative, one of the nation’s largest digital conversion projects, will provide all high school students with a laptop computer to be used in school and at home. The program is changing how and what students are taught in HISD’s high schools, meanwhile setting an example of digital transformation done right.

Dr. Grier has received numerous awards in recognition of his accomplished leadership. He has received “Outstanding Alumni” awards from East Carolina University, where he received his Bachelor of Science and Masters Degrees, and from Vanderbilt University, where he received his Educational Doctorate.

In 2014 Dr. Grier was awarded Educator of the Year, Green-Garner Award, by the Council of the Great City Schools. Also in 2014, he was named a finalist for the National Superintendent of The Year Award by the American Association of School Administrators. In addition, he is among a handful of superintendents named “State Superintendent of The Year” in two different states—Texas and North Carolina. The American Association of School Administrators presented him with the prestigious Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award for his support of women and minorities in education. And the Southwestern Regional Forum of the College Board presented him with their Martha H. Salmon Leadership Award for his role in expanding advanced placement opportunities for disadvantaged students.

He and his wife, Nancy, have four grown children.
Juliet K. Stipeche, President (District VIII)

Juliet K. Stipeche was elected to the Board of Education in November 2010 to complete an unfinished term. She was re-elected in 2011 and currently serves as board president. She believes that public education is a human right, is the great social equalizer, and is the foundation for a prosperous community.

Ms. Stipeche was born and raised in Houston and is the daughter of immigrant parents from Argentina and Mexico. She grew up in the diverse East End neighborhood of Houston where she continues to reside today. She was the valedictorian of her graduating class at HISD’s High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. She received an academic scholarship to Rice University, earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science, policy studies, and religious studies, graduating magna cum laude, and was awarded the Joseph Cooper Prize as the most outstanding policy studies student in her graduating class. Ms. Stipeche received her law degree from The University of Texas School of Law and is a civil litigation attorney and a certified mediator.

In 2013, Ms. Stipeche joined Rice University as Associate Director for the Richard Tapia Center for Excellence and Equity where she serves as project manager for various programs including the XSEDE Scholars Program, iAAMCS, and Empowering Leadership Alliance – Rice. She remains of counsel at the law firm of Nagorny & Stipeche, P.C.

Ms. Stipeche is a member of various professional organizations including the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, National Hispanic Professional Organization, and Houston Hispanic Bar Association. Over the years, Ms. Stipeche has also mentored, tutored, and volunteered at HISD schools. She has been active in her community, serving on the IdylwoodCivic Club, volunteering for organizations such as YaEsHora, the Human Rights Campaign, the American Heart Association, Barbara Jordan Ambassadors’ Program for Disabled Youth, the American Red Cross, TalentoBilingüe de Houston, and the Urban Souls Dance Company. In 2013, she was nominated and admitted as a Fellow in the Texas Bar Foundation -- an honor reserved only for the top 1/3 of 1% of Texas attorneys – based on her dedication to the administration of justice and her high professional standing among her peers. Ms. Stipeche is also a Fellow for the American Leadership Forum – Houston/Gulf Coast Chapter’s Core Class XXXI.
Rhonda Skillern-Jones, First Vice President (District II)

Rhonda Skillern-Jones was elected to the Board of Education in 2011. She was sworn in as Trustee in January 2012 and served as board secretary in 2012 and 2013, and First Vice President in 2014. She also represents HISD on the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Board of Directors.

Ms. Skillern-Jones, a wife and mother of five children, is a native Houstonian. She earned both a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a master’s degree in clinical sociology from Texas Southern University.

In recognition of her community and district efforts to enhance the lives of Houston children and citizens, she has received numerous achievement awards and honors, and holds membership in several civic and community organizations.

Manuel Rodríguez, Jr., Second Vice President (District III)

Manuel Rodríguez Jr. was first elected to the Board of Education in 2003 and reelected in 2007. He served as assistant secretary in his first year as a trustee, second vice president in 2005 & 2013, first vice president in 2006, and president in 2007.

A graduate of Stephen F. Austin High School, class of Jan. ’70, he received an associate of arts degree in social sciences from Solano Community College and studied organizational behavior management and marketing at the University of Houston. He served as a part-time community-relations specialist in the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department’s Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations from 1998 through December 2004.

A computer specialist in the U.S. Air Force from 1970 to 1977, he served the Air Training Command in Lubbock, Texas. The 601st Tactical Command Wing and was attached to NATO in Lindsey Air Station, in Wiesbaden, Germany and finished his tour at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif. Rodriguez's primary carrier responsibility was as a computer programmer and operation specialist; he was also the Airman Training NCO and was the EEOC/Drug & Alcohol Relation Liaison.

Trustee Rodríguez is also the founder and President of the MARVAA Corporation, which provides assistance in education, housing, and community involvement. Rodríguez served from 2008-2011 as the HISD Director for Houston on the Board of Directors of the Texas Association of School Boards and in 2010 he was elected President of the Mexican American School Board Members Association. In 2013 he was inducted in the “National Hispanic Institute Hall Of Fame,” and was the recipient of the Houston East End Chamber “2008 Education Impact Award.” He has been awarded an HISD Commendation for Meritorious Service as well as a Community Service Award from the Texas House of Representatives for his long-time dedication in working with Houston youth. He was named a James Deady Middle School Volunteer of the Year and been named one of the Outstanding Young Men of America.

In 1997 Rodriguez served on HISD’s task force to review the state comptroller’s audit of the District, and he has been a member of Parents for Public Schools and a national board member for the organization from 2000 through 2005. He was a board member for the Gulfgate Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone and the Hispanic Housing Education. Rodriguez was also alumni president for Austin High School and is a lifetime member, he is currently serving as the SFA Alumni Association Newsletter Editor, and is an active member of the Pecan Park Civic Association and St. Christopher Catholic Church.

Rodríguez and his wife, Virginia, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in May 2013 and have four children. Rodríguez, his wife and all four of their children graduated from HISD schools.
Anna Eastman, Secretary (District I)

Anna Eastman was elected to the HISD Board of Education in 2009. She served as assistant secretary in 2010, second vice president in 2011, and currently serves as secretary.

A product of public schools in Richardson, Texas, she graduated from the University of Texas in 1992 with a bachelor of fine arts degree in art history and earned a master of social work degree in 1993 from Our Lady of the Lake University. After receiving her degree, Ms. Eastman worked as a lead social worker for Communities in Schools in San Antonio.

In 2002, Ms. Eastman and her husband, Brad, co-founded the 11½ Street Foundation, which has recognized outstanding veteran teachers with monetary awards. Today, the foundation provides college scholarships to at-risk children who have graduated from HISD’s John Reagan and Jefferson Davis High Schools.

In 2003, Ms. Eastman headed up the William Travis Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Ad Hoc Transition Committee, which facilitated the move of students to temporary buildings while the school was closed for major renovations. From 2005 to 2007 she was the PTA president at Travis.

Ms. Eastman serves on the leadership team of the Community Advisory Group to the University of Texas School of Public Health Prevention Research Center, whose focus is adolescent sexual health. As a volunteer for Recipe for Success, a nonprofit organization dedicated to combating childhood obesity, Ms. Eastman has served in various capacities, including chair of the 2009 fall fundraiser. She serves as a Senior Fellow of American Leadership Forum, on the Board of Advisors of the Holocaust Museum of Houston, and is a member of HGOco, the Houston Grand Opera’s education and community outreach committee.

Wanda Adams, Assistant Secretary (District IX)

Wanda Adams was elected to the HISD Board of Education in 2013 after serving the limit of three two-year terms as Houston City Council member for District D.

Ms. Adams is a native Houstonian and product of HISD, graduating as a basketball standout from Kashmere High School. She received an athletic scholarship to Texas Southern University, where she earned her bachelor of science degree in public affairs and a master’s degree in public administration.

She is a professor of political science at her alma mater, bringing to her classroom not only experience as an elected official but a long career in public service for organizations and agencies including the Houston Housing Authority, Harris County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Association, and the Mayor’s Assistance Office.

The HISD trustee has traveled throughout the world – Africa, Europe, and South America – as an international ambassador for the City of Houston.

As a public servant, Adams has been committed to support for the homeless, veterans, the disabled, and mentally ill, and is a strong advocate for breast cancer awareness. Among the organizations for which she volunteers are the Houston Area Women’s Center, YMCA, YWCA, Keep Houston Beautiful, and Meals on Wheels in the Sunnyside community.

She serves as a trustee for the Museum of Fine Arts Houston and a national officer for the Social Action Commission for Delta Sigma Theta sorority. Ms. Adams is also a member of Leadership Houston Class 30.
Ms. Harris was elected to the Board of Education in November 2007 and re-elected in 2011. She served as Board president in 2011.

Ms. Harris is a graduate of Texas A&M University and holds a degree in Petroleum Engineering. In her 20-plus year career with a large oilfield service company, Ms. Harris has held a variety of positions, from field engineer where she managed operations on offshore rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, to sales engineer and North American recruiting manager. As worldwide training manager, Ms. Harris developed business opportunities and teams in Europe, Africa, the Soviet Union, China, South America, and Australia.

She currently holds the position of Director of Community Affairs at Schlumberger. In this role, she is responsible for the corporation’s community and civic involvement and educational initiatives, which focus on math, science and engineering programs for children.

Greg Meyers, Trustee (District VI)

Greg Meyers was elected to the Board of Education in 2004 and reelected in 2009. He served board president in 2010. In his first year of service, he was appointed to chair the Board Monitoring Committee, which developed an expanded system for district accountability that was adopted as policy in August 2005.

Mr. Meyers is active in many areas of community service. He has been the honorary chairman of the Boy Scouts of America Scout Fair, chairman of the board of directors of the Houston West Chamber of Commerce, and chairman of the governmental affairs committee as well as a board member of the Joint City/County Commission on Children. He received the HISD Apple Pin Award for extraordinary service to schools, and served on his neighborhood association board and as a Cub Scout den leader. Today, he serves as a board member of the Gulf Coast School Board Association, and also coaches youth soccer, basketball, and baseball.

Mr. Meyers earned a bachelor of business administration degree from Texas A&M University, with a double major in management and marketing, and a master of business administration degree from St. Mary’s University, with an emphasis in finance. In 1999, after 12 years in the dental-products industry, Mr. Meyers founded his own company. Currently Mr. Meyers works on the leadership team at Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School of Houston.

The son of an Air Force veteran, Mr. Meyers grew up in several U.S. cities, as well as in Okinawa, Japan. A Houstonian since the age of 15, he has developed a tremendous pride in and an understanding of the diversity and people that make Houston great. Mr. Meyers has two sons who attend HISD schools.
Harvin C. Moore, Trustee (District VII)

Harvin Moore was elected to the Board of Education in November 2003 and reelected in 2005 and 2009. He served as a board president in 2008.

Mr. Moore grew up in Houston's Briarcroft and River Oaks neighborhoods and attended HISD's Henry Grady Elementary School. He also attended River Oaks Elementary School and Sidney Lanier Junior High School during their first years as Vanguard schools. Active in scouting, Mr. Moore attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1980. After graduating from St. John's School in 1982, he earned a bachelor's degree in economics and political science from Northwestern University and a master's degree in business administration from New York University. A former national bank examiner for the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Mr. Moore has worked in finance, marketing, and consulting in Houston for the last 20 years. He now serves as senior vice president for finance and operations at Sentinel Satellite, Inc., a Houston aerospace company.

Mr. Moore, who began volunteering his time and expertise on behalf of public education in the mid-1980s, has tutored and taught at-risk students in the East Harlem Tutorial Program in New York City and in HISD through Communities in Schools, Junior Achievement, and Kids Hope USA. From 2004 to the present, he has served as a Kids Hope Mentor at River Oaks Elementary School. He has served on the board of directors or advisory boards of Teach for America–Houston, KIPP Academy, the Houston Teachers' Institute, the Neuhaus Education Center, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Reading Institute for Teacher Excellence, Preschool for ALL, the Texas Lyceum, the HISD Foundation, and the Powell Foundation. Mr. Moore has also served as grant director for public education at the Powell Foundation, where he led a six-month research project on reading curricula and teacher training for at-risk elementary students. After that review, he completed teacher training in four of the largest reading methodologies used in HISD. He currently serves on the board of the Texas Education Reform Foundation.

Mr. Moore is the publisher of The Transformation Times, an electronic newsletter which provides current news and opinion on educational issues, trends and initiatives. It can be found at www.harvinmoore.com.

Mr. Moore and his wife Janet have an eight-year-old son and a thirteen-year-old daughter and are active members of the Church of St. John the Divine, which Moore has attended since he was a child.
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