

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



BOARD AND
SUPERINTENDENT SECTION

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ADOPTED DISTRICT BUDGET 2016-2017



Superintendent of Schools - Biography

Houston Independent School District



Richard A. Carranza was named superintendent of the Houston Independent School District on August 18, 2016.

Since 2012, Carranza has served as superintendent of the 58,000-student San Francisco Unified School District. He is a fluent Spanish-speaker and lifelong educator, having served as a bilingual classroom teacher, a campus principal, and a senior-level administrator in Las Vegas and Tucson. *Education Week* profiled Carranza as a national 2015 **Leader to Learn From**.

In San Francisco, Carranza championed many equity-focused strategies for driving student academic achievement that also have been a priority in HISD - preparing graduates who are globally aware, culturally competent and multilingual. Further, Carranza worked at San Francisco USD to reduce student disciplinary suspensions while emphasizing practices that help students remain in their classrooms, a practice that HISD is embracing.

Carranza, 49, was San Francisco USD's deputy superintendent of Instruction, Innovation, and Social Justice for three years before being named superintendent. Before moving to San Francisco, Carranza served as Northwest Region superintendent for the Clark County School District in Las Vegas, where he oversaw 66 schools with more than 66,000 students. He was a high school principal in Tucson, Arizona, and Las Vegas, Nevada. Carranza also has worked as an assistant principal and teacher of bilingual social studies and music.

Carranza chairs the Board of Directors for the Council of the Great City Schools, serving as a national spokesperson on significant issues facing urban school districts. Carranza also has served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents, the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, the American Association of School Administrators Executive Committee, the San Francisco Symphony Board of Governors, the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco Board of Trustees and the K to College Advisory Board.

Carranza earned a bachelor of arts in Secondary Education from the University of Arizona and a master of education with distinction in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University. He has completed his doctoral coursework through Northern Arizona University and is currently pursuing a doctorate of education from Nova Southeastern University in Educational Leadership.



Board of Education - Biographies

Houston Independent School District



Manuel Rodríguez, Jr., President (District III)

Manuel Rodríguez Jr. has served consecutive terms on the Board of Education since he was first elected in 2003. He has held every office on the Board, including assistant secretary, second vice president, first vice president, and president. He is currently president of the Board of Education.

Trustee Rodriguez has been an advocate for dual-credit programs, blended learning with laptop computers for high-school students, and credit recovery grad-labs, and he has facilitated discussions for the establishment of the Maritime Academies at Austin and Yates high schools, along with Liberty High School for older immigrant students.

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 in the Air Training Command in Lubbock, Texas, the 601st Tactical Command Wing and was attached to NATO in Lindsey Air Station, in Wiesbaden, Germany. He finished his tour at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California. Rodríguez's primary career 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 to 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 to working with Houston youth. He was named a James Deady Middle School Volunteer of the Year and has been named one of the Outstanding Young Men of America.

In 1997 Rodríguez 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. Rodríguez 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 43rd wedding anniversary in May 2016 and have four children. Rodríguez, his wife and all four of their children graduated from HISD schools.



Wanda Adams, First Vice President (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 Councilmember for District D. Adams' commitment as a Board of Education Trustee is to continue to incorporate strong literacy programs, strengthen parent and community engagement, and decrease the number of low-performing schools in District IX.

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. Ms. Adams is also the first African-American woman to be appointed to serve on the Harris County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

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.

As a proud member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Adams had the honor of being appointed to national committees, including the Social Action Commission and the National/ Regional Housing Task Force. 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.



Diana Davila, Second Vice President (District VIII)

Diana Davila was elected to the Board of Education in 2015. She previously served on the board from 2003 to 2010. She believes that every student in HISD should be provided with a high-quality education to ensure their future success.

A former teacher, Davila is a native Houstonian and life-long resident of the East End. She also is a product of HISD, attending Park Place and Lewis elementary schools and Deady Middle School before graduating from Milby High School. She went on to attend the University of Houston, where she earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies with an emphasis on bilingual education. She also earned a master's degree in educational management and principal certification from University of Houston- Clear Lake.

Davila has been recognized as an outstanding volunteer by HISD Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) for a tutorial program she initiated with her husband at Tijerina Elementary School and Houston Community College. Through this program, parents, and students received tutoring in reading and math while also gaining an appreciation for the college experience. A mentor with the Best Friends programs for girls, Davila has served as a community liaison for the Hispanic Educational Leadership Committee, for which she helped raise more than \$300,000 in scholarship money within four years. In 2015, she began volunteering weekly with M.D. Anderson Cancer Center to honor her father, who is a cancer survivor. When her father became ill five years ago, Davila resigned from the board to help care for him. She is married with two children.



Jolanda Jones , Secretary (District IV)

Jolanda Jones was elected to the Board of Education in November 2015 after serving as a Houston City Council member for four years. She is a firm believer in public education and is committed to strengthening the district's collaboration with the community to improve schools across the district.

Jones is a native Houstonian from Houston's Third Ward and a product of HISD. She attended Lockhart and Forester elementary schools and Lanier Middle School. Jones later moved and graduated from Alief ISD's Elsie High School, where she finished magna cum laude and was an All-American athlete in track and field and basketball. She went on to attend the University of Houston (UH), where she was voted "The Most Outstanding Senior" and was nominated for the Rhodes Scholarship. Jones also earned three NCAA heptathlon championships.

Jones graduated from UH magna cum laude, with a bachelor's degree in political science. She later earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Houston Law Center. She owns a law practice, the Law Office of Jolanda Jones, which focuses heavily on criminal justice reform.

Jones has served as a volunteer in several HISD schools. She also has volunteered with the SHAPE Community Center Legal Clinic and NAACP Houston, providing free legal representation to members of underserved communities. She organizes charity events to bring awareness to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome in honor of her niece, who died from the condition.

Jones is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Through her sorority's emerging Leaders program for students, she has awarded several Attucks Middle School students with scholarships for academic achievement.

Jones was a member of the United States Track & Field Team and a national champion. She was also inducted into numerous halls of fame for athletics and academics. Jolanda has earned three "Jolanda Jones Days"™ two from the City of Houston and one from the City of Galveston. Jones absolute proudest accomplishment is her son, Jiovanni.



Rhonda Skillern-Jones, Assistant Secretary (District II)

Rhonda Skillern-Jones was elected to the Board of Education in 2011 and is currently serving her second consecutive term. She has held several positions on the board, including secretary, first vice president and president. She also represents HISD on the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Board of Directors, and is a member of the Steering Committee for the National School Boards Associations's Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE).

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, including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated.

Ms. Skillern-Jones has a strong faith in God and cites her parents as her heroes and role models. She served HISD in a volunteer capacity for 20 years before joining the school board. She has a passion for education and children, and believes that all children deserve an equitable and quality education for a fair start in achieving their life goals.

Anna Eastman, Trustee (District I)



Anna Eastman's involvement as parent leader in public education and her passionate advocacy for the arts, public health, and social justice led to her election to the HISD Board of Education in 2009 and re-election in 2013.

An HISD parent since 2002, she spearheaded and led the William Travis Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Ad Hoc Transition Committee in 2003, which facilitated the move of students to temporary buildings while the school was closed for major renovations. From 2005 to 2007 she served as PTA president at Travis.

A product of public schools in Richardson, Texas, Ms. Eastman 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, cofounded 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 Reagan and Jefferson Davis high schools.

As a trustee, she has consistently been involved in board leadership, and has held each leadership position: president, second vice president, secretary, and assistant secretary.

In addition to her commitment to public education, Ms. Eastman currently serves on the advisory boards for Holocaust Museum Houston and the Recipe for Success Foundation, is a member of the Undies for Everyone Board of Directors and serves on the Houston Grand Opera HGOCO Committee. Twice, she has been nominated as Ally Grand Marshal for the Houston Gay Pride Parade because of her support of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issues. She is an American Leadership Forum Senior Fellow.

Michael L. Lunceford, Trustee (District V)



Michael Lunceford was elected to the HISD Board of Education in November 2009, and served as president in 2012. He is a longtime volunteer with HISD, having held leadership positions within the district for the past 17 years. He served on the HISD Bond Oversight Committee, the HISD District V Leadership Team and the HISD Parent Visionaries. He also served on the school building committees for Henry Longfellow Elementary, Pin Oak Middle and John Pershing Middle, and he chaired the Master Plan Building Committee for Paul Horn Elementary School.

Mr. Lunceford received a Bachelor of Science degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1981 and is currently the vice president of engineering for Pedernales Energy. He built a career in the field of energy with Mobil Oil, Montex Exploration, Metfuel, and Penwell Energy prior to accepting his current position.

Mr. Lunceford's two children attended Horn Elementary and Pershing Middle Schools and are graduates of Bellaire High School. As a parent volunteer, Mr. Lunceford served as the Horn Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) treasurer and auction co-chair. He was also a member of the PTO Auction Committee and the sports Booster Club at Pershing Middle School and the football and volleyball Booster Clubs at Bellaire High School.

A native Texan, Mr. Lunceford is a product of HISD schools, having attended Ila McNamara and Horace Elrod Elementary Schools, Walter Fondren Middle School, and Westbury High School. He and his wife, Erin, reside in Bellaire and are members of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church.



Greg Meyers, Trustee (District VI)

Greg Meyers was elected to the Board of Education in 2004 and reelected to subsequent consecutive terms. He served as 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 for the University of St. Thomas School of

Education and as a delegate for the Texas Association of School Boards. He is also active in his son's Boy Scout Troop.

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 is the executive director of Citizen Schools-Texas and previously served 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.



Harvin C. Moore, Trustee (District VII)

Harvin Moore was elected to the Board of Education in November 2003 and reelected in 2005, 2009 and 2013. 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 a son and 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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