

Board & Superintendent

Culturally Aware Effective Communicator Efficient
Efficient Technology-User Responsible Citizen Proficient Problem-Solver
Culturally Aware Efficient Technology-User
Independent Thinker Effective Communicator Culturally Aware
Proficient Problem-Solver Responsible Citizen



Superintendent of Schools- Biography

Houston Independent School District

Dr. Abelardo Saavedra was appointed Superintendent of Schools for the Houston Independent School District on December 9, 2004, to replace Dr. Kaye Stripling, who retired effective, August 31, 2004. Dr. Saavedra joined HISD in February 2001 as the Southeast District Superintendent. Beginning in August 2002, until his appointment as Interim Superintendent in



June 2004, he served as the district's Executive Deputy Superintendent for School Support Services. Prior to joining the HISD family he was the Superintendent of Schools in his native Corpus Christi from 1993 to 2000.

Dr. Saavedra began his career in Corpus Christi as a public school teacher and rose steadily through the ranks, serving as an assistant principal, as a principal, and in numerous administrative roles in both the instructional and business divisions. During his tenure as Superintendent, Corpus Christi ISD received state and national recognition for the development and adoption of "real-world academic standards" in all grade levels, and owing to those standards, it was accorded "recognized" status by the Texas Education Agency. He has also taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Houston and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Dr. Saavedra earned Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees at Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Texas in 1972 and 1974, respectively, and completed his doctorate in School Administration at the University of Michigan in 1976. He has served as cochairman of the Texas Business and Education Coalition, on the board of directors of the Texas Academic Decathlon, as a member of the Governor's Task Force on Juvenile Justice, and on the legislative committee for the Texas Association of School Administrators. While in Corpus Christi, he served on the boards of the United Way, Boy Scouts of America, and South Texas Educational Research and Development Center and on the advisory board of the South Texas Public Broadcasting System. Since coming to Houston, he has been appointed to the boards of the Greater Houston Chapter of the Red Cross and the March of Dimes and was recently appointed to serve on the Work-Source Board of Directors by Houston Mayor Bill White. He participated in the fall 2003 class of the Center for Houston's Future and is in the American Leadership Forum's 2004-2005 class.

Dr. Saavedra is married to an elementary-school teacher. His older daughter is a senior at the University of the Incarnate Word and his younger daughter is a high-school senior.



Board of Education - Biographies

Houston Independent School District



Diane Johnson, President (District V)

Dianne Johnson was elected to the Board of Education in 2001 and elected by her peers to the position of assistant secretary for 2002, second vice president for 2003, first vice president for 2004, and president for 2005.

A native Texan and a product of the public school system, Johnson holds a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from the University of Texas and a Master of Education degree from the University of Houston. Johnson worked with the UT Ex-Students' Association before launching her teaching career in the Spring Branch Independent School District. A winner of national awards as a teacher and a Licensed Professional Counselor, she helped high-school students secure financial aid, scholarships, and the stipulated requirements for college admission.

A longtime volunteer, Johnson served on the PTO boards of Condit Elementary, Pershing Middle, and Bellaire High Schools and was elected to the Shared-Decision-Making Committees at both Condit and Bellaire. She was a member of the HISD Superintendent's PEER Committee on Decentralization, the HISD Superintendent's Advisory Committee, and the HISD Southwest Area Advisory Committee. Johnson has also held the position of board chair for the School for Little Children, Bellaire United Methodist Church, and second vice president of the Gulf Coast School Board Association. She is currently on the board of directors of the Texas Education Reform Caucus and Foundation and serves as board vice president for the I Have a Dream Foundation. She is also on the program committee of the Asia House Project for the Asia Society.

Johnson and her husband David have a daughter, Beth, and a son, Drew. Both are graduates of Bellaire High School.

Diana Dávila, First Vice President (District VIII)



Diana Dávila, a former HISD teacher, was elected to the Board of Education in 2003 and was chosen by her colleagues to serve as second vice president in her first year as trustee. In 2005, she was elected as first vice president. A product of HISD, she attended Park Place and Lewis Elementary Schools and Deady Middle School and graduated from Milby High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis on bilingual education and a minor in Mexican-American studies. She is currently working on a master's degree in educational management and principal certification at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Dávila is a member of the Hispanic Education Leadership Committee, for which she has assisted in raising more than \$100,000 in scholarship money within two years. In 1993 she was the recipient of an Outstanding Student Volunteer/Organization Award from HISD's Volunteers in Public Schools for a tutorial program she and her husband helped coordinate at Tijerina Elementary School.

Dávila and her husband Abel Dávila, who serve on the Houston Community College Board, are the parents of a son, Abel and a daughter, Diana Luz. They are also the youngest and the only Latino couple elected to educational boards in Houston. Through their partnership, Dávila will focus on creating a seamless transition from kindergarten through grade 14 and ensure a more educated workforce.



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

Manuel Rodríguez, Jr., was elected to the Board of Education in 2003 and was chosen by his colleagues to serve as assistant secretary in his first year as a trustee and second vice president for 2005. A graduate of Austin High School, 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. Since 1998 he has served as a part-time Community Relations Specialist in the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department's Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations. A computer specialist in the U.S. Air Force from 1970 to 1977, he is also the founder and president of the MARVAA Corporation, which provides assistance in education, housing, and community involvement.

He has been awarded an HISD Commendation for Meritorious Service and a Community Service Award from the Texas House of Representatives for his long-time dedication in working with Houston youth. He has also been named a Deady Middle School Volunteer of the Year and 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 is a Parents for Public Schools national board member and was a board member for the Gulfgate TIRZ and the Hispanic Housing Education Committee. He is also alumni president for Austin High School, a PTO member at Lamar High School, and active in the Pecan Park Civic Association and St. Christopher Catholic Church.

Manuel and his wife Virginia have been married 32 years and have four children. All have attended HISD schools, and the youngest is an eleventh-grader at Lamar High School.



Arthur M. Gaines, Jr., Secretary (District IV)

Arthur M. Gaines, Jr., elected to the Board in 1991 and to his fourth term in 2003, is a Houston native who attended Crawford Elementary and Wheatley High Schools. He earned Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Texas Southern University and pursued advanced study at the University of Colorado. He has served as a teacher at Douglass Elementary School and the principal of Holden Elementary School, Reynolds Elementary School, and Woodson Middle School. Other HISD positions held before his retirement in 1990 include those of assistant superintendent, deputy superintendent, and district superintendent.

Among his many professional affiliations are memberships in the Phi Delta Kappa and Kappa Delta Pi honor societies in education. Gaines is a deacon at the Mount Corinth Baptist Church and participates in civic organizations such as the YMCA.

By appointment of the governor, Gaines served on the Board of Regents of Texas Southern University from 1983 through 1989. Two mayors of Houston have appointed him to the Higher Education Finance Corporation Board (in 1988 and 1995), and in 1990, President George Bush appointed Gaines to the Intergovernmental Advisory Council on Education.

Gaines was president of the Board of Education for 1995, first vice president for 1994, and secretary for 1993. He has served as secretary since 1998.



Harvin C. Moore, Assistant Secretary (District VIII)

Harvin C. Moore, elected to the Board of Education in November 2003, grew up in Houston's Briarcroft and River Oaks neighborhoods and attended HISD's Grady Elementary School. He also attended River Oaks Elementary School and Lanier Junior High School during their first years as Vanguard schools. 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, Moore has worked in finance, marketing, and consulting in Houston for the last twelve years. He now serves as head of finance and operations for STE, Inc., a Houston aerospace company.

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. He has served on the boards or advisory boards of the KIPP Academy, Teach for America—Houston, the Houston Teachers' Institute, the Neuhaus Education Center, the Reading Institute for Teacher Excellence, and the Powell Foundation. 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 was trained in four of the largest reading methodologies used in HISD. He currently serves on the board of the HISD Foundation and on the steering committee of Preschool for ALL.

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



Karla Cisneros, Trustee (District I)

Karla Cisneros earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia and a Master of Architecture degree from Rice University. A 24-year resident of Houston, Cisneros has dedicated her adult life to working to improve public schools.

As a school activist in the Woodland Heights, she organized numerous community efforts to make improvements at Travis Elementary School. While serving as the assistant director of the City of Houston's SPARK Program, Cisneros worked with parents and community members to develop approximately 20 school parks all over the city. She has worked for the Houston Independent School District both as an elementary-school science teacher and as the Title I Parent Involvement Specialist for the North Central District. Cisneros has also served as the Director of Neighborhood Education for the New/Nuevo Heights Healthy Community Initiative. She is currently the Business Development Manager for the architectural firm Cisneros Design Studio.

Cisneros was first appointed to the Board of Education in December 1999 and was elected assistant secretary for that year. She held the position of assistant secretary again in 2001, second vice president in 2002, and first vice president in 2003. Cisneros served as president of the board for 2004. She and her husband Tim have three children, one attending college, and two attending HISD schools.



Kevin H. Hoffman, Trustee (District II)

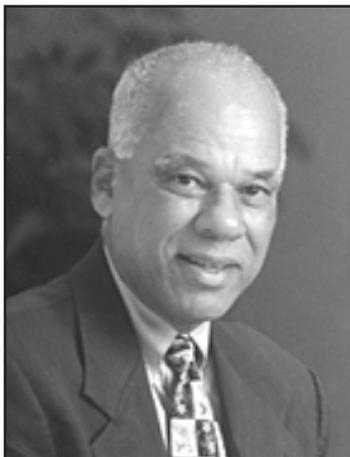
Kevin H. Hoffman was elected to the Board of Education in 1999 and reelected in 2003. He was the first District II trustee to serve as president of the Board of Education (2003). Currently, Hoffman is the board liaison for state and federal legislative matters. During his tenure, Hoffman has established and participated in many educational and community-based efforts. In 2000, he established the first District II Community Advisory Committee and Ministers' Advisory Council. In 2001, he created the Barbara Jean Hoffman Memorial Foundation (bjhfoundation.com), a nonprofit organization named in honor of his late mother, which has provided scholarships and school supplies to thousands of economically-disadvantaged children in Houston. In 2002 he helped rally community support for the successful \$808-million dollar bond election that resulted in seven rebuilt schools in District II (Bruce, Coop, Highland Heights Charter, Oak Forest, and Sanderson Elementary Schools and Wheatley High School). As board president in 2003, Hoffman introduced the HISD Board of Education's Monitoring System. This reform-driven board policy measures

HISD's progress in achieving district goals and core values. In 2004, he initiated a successful campaign to name an HISD school after civil-rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hoffman's educational and community affiliations include serving as HISD board representative to the Council of the Great City Schools, regional vice president of the National Caucus of Black School Board Members, and advisory board member of the Neuhaus Education Center and the Main Street Coalition. Hoffman currently holds memberships in the Houston Branch of the NAACP, Houston Area Urban League, Kashmere Gardens Super Neighborhood Council, and Pleasantville Civic Club and has sponsored many youth-based community programs.

Hoffman has been recognized for his community service by the City of Houston, Harris County, the State of Texas, the United States Congress, and the United States Department of Education. He is also a recipient of the 2003 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's Trailblazer Award, as well as the Texas Association of Black School Educators Leadership Award.

Hoffman and his wife Angela are both Prairie View A&M University graduates. They have two children who are HISD students.



Lawrence Marshall, Trustee (District IX)

Lawrence Marshall, a former HISD educator, was elected to the Board of Education in 1997. His colleagues named him first vice president for 1999 and president for 2000. He was reelected for a second term in 2001.

A native Houstonian, Marshall received bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Southern University and pursued advanced studies at the University of Houston and Texas A&M University. He joined HISD as a teacher in 1955 and subsequently served as a principal, area superintendent, assistant superintendent, associate superintendent, and deputy superintendent before retiring in 1991. Marshall also served as interim superintendent of the Kendleton Independent School District.

As president of M Associates of Houston, a nationally known consulting firm, Marshall makes frequent presentations about issues in urban education. His current professional and civic affiliations include memberships on the boards of directors of the John P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science, American Heritage Education Foundation, Southeast Coalition of Civic Clubs, and the Harris County Appraisal District. He also serves as Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators.

(Marshall Cont'd)

Marshall has received awards and other honors from numerous leading organizations, including the 2003 Texas Legislative Black Caucus (Outstanding Texan Award for Education), Texas Counseling Association (the 2002 Layperson Exemplary Service Award), South Central YMCA Century Club, Texas Southern University School of Education, Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering, Office of the Mayor, and Boy Scouts of America. In addition, he was a pioneer in the development of Magnet programs and alternative schools that have enjoyed nationwide recognition and replication.

Greg Meyers, Trustee (District VI)

Greg Meyers was elected to the Board of Education in 2004. Born the son of an Air Force veteran in 1963, he grew up in several cities in the U.S., as well as in Okinawa, Japan. A Houstonian since the age of 15, he has developed a tremendous pride in and understanding of the diversity and people that make Houston great.



Meyers earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Texas A&M University in 1987, with a double major in management and marketing. In 1992 he received a Master of Business Administration degree from St. Mary's University, with an emphasis in finance. After 12 years in the dental-products industry, Meyers started his own company, which works with more than 160 representatives and 8,000 dentists in three states.

Meyers, who has served on the board of his neighborhood association, is chairman of the Board of Directors of the Houston West Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the HISD Board Monitoring Committee. He is also a member of the Joint City/County Commission on Children. Involved in many activities at Bush Elementary School and HISD's West District, he received the HISD Apple Pin Award for extraordinary service to schools. He also coaches soccer and baseball and has served as a Boy Scout Pack Den Leader.

Meyers and his wife Sandie are members of Pines Presbyterian Church and have two sons, one of whom attends an HISD elementary school.