

2012-2013
ADOPTED DISTRICT BUDGET

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT SECTION

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT





Superintendent of Schools- Biography

Houston Independent School District

Terry B. Grier, Ed.D., became the Houston Independent School District's superintendent of schools after a unanimous vote of approval by the district's Board of Education in September 2009. His goal as superintendent is to make HISD the best public school district in the nation.

Before coming to Houston, Dr. Grier served as the superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District for eighteen months and superintendent of the Guilford County Schools in Greensboro, North Carolina for almost eight years.



While in San Diego, Dr. Grier led a school system that saw student test scores improve dramatically in a year when the district budget was cut by \$200 million, opened Southern California's first virtual online high school, increased the number of Advanced Placement exams taken by minority high-school students by 12.5 percent, passed a \$2.1-billion school construction/renovation bond package with 69 percent voter approval, and improved student performance on the California Standards Tests to an all-time district high, with scores rising more in one year than in the three previous years combined.

Under his leadership, Guilford County cut dropout rates in half, more than doubled the college scholarships available to high-school seniors, tripled minority-student enrollment in Advanced Placement classes, and increased the high-school graduation rate to 80 percent.

Dr. Grier is especially well-regarded for his work in reducing high-school dropout rates with innovative programs for at-risk students. Among them are special schools that boast classes of no more than 15 students and evening schools for working students. These successful programs have been implemented by several other North Carolina school districts.

To reduce the dropout rate in HISD, Dr. Grier launched the Online Credit-Recovery Initiative. This program created Grad Labs with special software for online credit recovery in the district's large, traditional high schools, and graduation coaches were placed at each of HISD's 27 comprehensive high schools to provide students with personalized opportunities to catch up on course credits needed to graduate. He also opened the High School Ahead Academy to serve 450 over-age middle-school students who are two or more years behind in school by speeding up their readiness for high school through immersion in core academic subjects, with a primary focus on math and English language arts.

Dr. Grier is also committed to placing an effective teacher in every HISD classroom and an exemplary principal in every school. He redesigned the district's process for selecting teachers and principals to identify individuals who embrace the values, beliefs, and goals that define HISD. He also reorganized the district's senior staff and organizational structure for maximum efficiency and effectiveness in supporting schools with services and resources. Selected on the basis of their knowledge and experience, five chief school officers and 25 school-improvement officers aligned with grade levels (elementary, middle, and high) help principals create high-quality instructional teams and programs focused on student academic growth, to establish and achieve bold and measurable goals, and to work with their school communities.

Dr. Grier has received numerous awards in recognition of his accomplished leadership, including the North Carolina Association of School Administrators and the North Carolina School Boards Association's 2008 North Carolina Superintendent of the Year Award, the American Association of School Administrators' Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award, the North Carolina Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development's Distinguished Educator Award, and the Congressional Black Caucus's ET3 Tech Champion Award.

Dr. Grier earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from East Carolina University and his doctorate in education from Vanderbilt University.



Board of Education - Biographies

Houston Independent School District



Michael L. Lunceford, President (District V)

Mike Lunceford was elected to the HISD Board of Education in November 2009 and currently serves as president. He is a long-time 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. Both children are currently attending college. 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 Clubs 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.



Anna Eastman, First Vice President (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 first vice president.

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, 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 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.

Today, 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 is also a member of HGOco, the Houston Grand Opera's education and community outreach committee.

Ms. Eastman and her husband, an attorney with Cameron International, are avid supporters of public education. They have three children, all of whom attend HISD schools.

Juliet K. Stipeche, Second Vice President (District VIII)



Juliet 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 second vice president.

A Houston native, Ms. Stipeche grew up in Houston's East End, where she continues to live today. She was the valedictorian of her graduating class at the High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, and went on to receive an academic scholarship to Rice University. There she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, policy studies, and religious studies, graduating magna cum laude, and was awarded the Joseph Cooper Prize for the most outstanding policy studies student in her graduating class. A certified mediator, Ms. Stipeche received her law degree from the University of Texas School of Law and is a partner at Nagorny & Stipeche, P.C.

Ms. Stipeche is active in many areas of community service. She is a past secretary and current member of the Idylwood Civic Association Board of Directors, and is also a member of the Human Rights Campaign's Diversity Committee and the Barbara Jordan Ambassador's Program for Disabled Youth. She was the captain of the American Red Cross's 2010 Heroes Campaign and has been a volunteer for the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, and Ya Es Hora program.

In the field of education, Ms. Stipeche has served as a mentor at Jefferson Davis High School and a mentor and speaker at the High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.



Rhonda Skillern-Jones, Secretary (District II)

Rhonda Skillern-Jones was elected to the Board of Education in 2011. She was sworn in as Trustee and elected to serve as board secretary in January 2012. A native Houstonian and a product of HISD, she attended River Oaks Elementary School and Lanier Middle School. She graduated from Eisenhower High School in Aldine ISD.

Ms. Skillern-Jones earned both a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in clinical sociology from Texas Southern University. After college, she worked with teen mothers for five years as a state social worker, and she continues to serve as a volunteer social worker today at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church.

A full-time volunteer at HISD for 19 years, Ms. Skillern-Jones has served on the District Advisory Committee, Parent Engagement Committee, Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee, Budget Advisory Committee, and the Gifted and Talented Committee. She is an active member of the Parent Visionaries Group and has served on five separate PTO/PTA boards over the years in various capacities, including president. She has also served as the legislative chair of the PTA Council and the national liaison for Parents for Public Schools.

Ms. Skillern-Jones is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and has served on the Board of Pilgrim Federal Credit Union. She works as a manager for the U.S. Bureau of Census during each ten-year census and has also served as a precinct clerk, an alternate judge, and a national delegate for presidential elections.

In recognition of her efforts, the HISD Police Department presented her with a service award in 2011.

Ms. Skillern-Jones and her husband, Jerold have five children, all of whom have attended HISD schools.



Greg Meyers, Assistant Secretary (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 for the University of St. Thomas, where he enjoys the ability to pursue his passion for education full time.

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. 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, which currently works with more than 160 representatives and 8,000 dentists in three states.

The son of an Air Force veteran, he 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.



Paula M. Harris , Trustee (District IV)

Paula Harris was elected to the Board of Education in November 2007 and re-elected in 2011. She served as Board president in 2011.

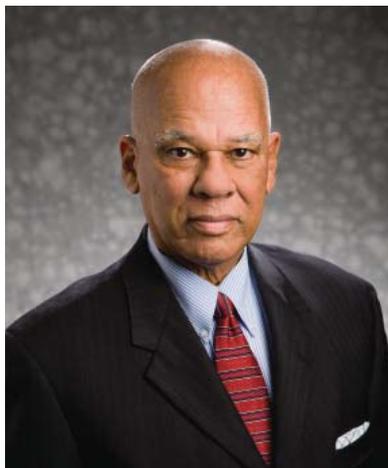
Ms. Harris is a graduate of Texas A&M University and holds a degree in Petroleum Engineering. In her 20-plus year career with a large oilfield service company, Ms. Harris has held a variety of positions, from field engineer where she managed operations on offshore rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, to sales 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.

Ms. Harris wrote the book *For Sister: The Guide for Professional Black Women*, published in 2003. She formed her own publishing company, MadisonHouse Publishing, and in 2007 published her children's book *When I Grow UP I Want to Be an Engineer*.

Ms. Harris is a recipient of the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce Woman of Distinction Award, and was a state appointee to the Texas Energy Planning Council. She serves on the Board of Directors for Space Center Houston, where she chairs the education committee. Ms. Harris has been profiled in a number of publications including *Money Magazine*, *Black Engineer*, *Graduating Engineer*, *Houston Style Magazine*, *Houston Women*, *Houston Defender* and *Forward Times*.

Ms. Harris and her husband Dwayne are the owners of DPM Investments. They have one daughter who attends an HISD school.



Lawrence Marshall, Trustee (District IX)

Larry Marshall, a former HISD educator, was first elected to the Board of Education in 1997. He was reelected to a fourth term in 2009, and served as president in 1999 and 2009.

A native Houstonian, Mr. Marshall received both 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. Mr. Marshall also served as interim superintendent of the Kendleton Independent School District.

As president of M Associates of Houston, a management consulting firm, Mr. Marshall makes frequent presentations about issues in urban education. His current professional and civic affiliations include memberships on the boards of directors of the American Heritage Education Foundation, the 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 and is a member of the Brays Oaks Redevelopment Advisory Committee.

Mr. Marshall has received awards and other honors from numerous organizations, including the Council of Urban Boards of Education (the Benjamin Elijah Mays Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006), 2003 Texas Legislative Black Caucus (Outstanding Texan Award for Education), Texas Counseling Association (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 HISD Magnet programs and alternative schools that have enjoyed nationwide recognition and replication. In 2012 he was honored by the superintendent and fellow HISD Trustees as a Living Legend for his lifetime support of public 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.



Manuel Rodríguez, Jr., Trustee (District III)

Manuel Rodriguez Jr. was first elected to the Board of Education in 2003 and re-elected in 2007 and 2011. He has served as assistant secretary, second vice president, first vice president, and president.

A graduate of Stephen F. Austin High School, Mr. Rodriguez 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 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 is also the founder and president of the MARVAA Corporation, which provides assistance in education, housing, and community involvement.

Mr. Rodriguez served as the HISD representative to the board of directors of the Texas Association of School Boards from 2008-2011 and was president of the Mexican American School Board Association in 2010. 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 one of the Outstanding Young Men of America.

Mr. Rodriguez has been a member of Parents for Public Schools and a national board member for the organization

from 2000 through 2005. He has also served as a board member for the Gulfgate Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone and the Hispanic Housing Education Committee. Mr. Rodriguez was a past alumni president for Austin High School and is active in the Pecan Park Civic Association and St. Christopher Catholic Church.

Mr. Rodriguez and his wife, Virginia, have been married 39 years and have four children. All have graduated from HISD schools.

This Page Left Blank Intentionally