



For Immediate Release

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Citizens' Advocacy Group A+ Denver releases results from DPS board candidate survey

Direction of school district could hinge on appointment

A+ Denver released results today from a survey designed to identify the positions and values of the nine candidates vying for a single DPS board vacancy. A+ Denver surveyed candidates about education issues ranging from teacher evaluations and recruitment strategies to the role that the candidates believe the kind of governance role the district should play in school management.

"The position being filled will be the swing vote on the DPS school board, which is why there are so many people jockeying for the seat," said A+ CEO Van Schoales. "The direction of the district - whether it continues to make progress or slides backward - could depend on this appointment."

About the candidates

Candidates were surveyed about: the current state of the district; school choice and charters; accountability; interventions for failing schools; and school finance. In most areas, seven of the nine candidates appeared to be aligned. The most disagreement among the field was in the areas of turnaround plans for northeast Denver, whether teacher performance ratings should be public, how to determine teacher pay (based on performance or years in the classroom), and charter school funding.

At least seven of the respondents agreed on issues that have been controversial in the past. (The outliers for most of the questions were Fred Franko, who chose not to answer many of the questions, and Mary Sam, whose positions differed from most of the other candidates). For example,

- 9 of 9 favor accountability measures requiring schools to demonstrate student growth;
- 8 of 9 support turnaround strategies that include new school creation; and
- 6 of the 9 supported a funding formula that would allow money to follow students.

The complete survey, along with each candidate's bio, priorities, and complete survey responses, can be found at www.aplusdenver.org.

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