



Dear Resign DPS Board Supporters:

This will be our final email! Last Friday, the [three new Board members elected in November were sworn in to office, and the Board then held its own election for leadership positions:](#)

- Dr. Carrie Olson - District 3, President
- Marlene DeLaRosa - District 5, Vice President
- John Youngquist - At-Large, Secretary
- Kimberlee Sia - District 1, Treasurer

What do we make of this?

The leadership election reflects another fantastic blow to the old, dysfunctional order. All three members from the old leadership "team" (Gaytan, Esserman and Quattlebaum) were ousted from leadership. Esserman tried in vain to be Vice President, and then Treasurer, but was defeated in both.

Carrie Olson, part of the old Board, was elected President, but we are still cautiously optimistic. Many agree that Olson was the "least problematic" of the old guard. That being said, she was still complicit in the disastrous last two years and was bizarrely silent throughout. However, Olson represents the best chance to bring old and new members together in the interest of Denver's kids, and that is the thing we must now support. It is our sincere hope that Olson will use her leadership role to communicate honestly and transparently with parents as we know we can't trust Marrero to do so.

See [here for other things to watch for in the first few months](#) of this new Board.

Ways to Stay Informed and Engaged

As we noted in November, we are committed to **not** outliving our usefulness and will be shutting down our website and social media mid-month. But we plan to stay engaged, and we hope you do too:

Stay informed:

- Local and even national media followed the drama and mis-steps of the last 9 months in DPS, but no one told the actual story better than [Chris Vanderveen](#) and [Kyle Clark](#) at [9News and Next w/ Kyle Clark](#). [Jimmy Sengenberger](#) has also been tireless in his coverage and candid critiques. We hope they will continue their interest and coverage of Colorado's largest school district.
- [Alan Gottlieb](#) at BoardHawk does a phenomenal job bringing transparency, data and a thoughtful number of perspectives to the issues of DPS and the Board in particular and we highly encourage you to follow him on social and [sign up for his newsletter](#).



- Finally, one of the education advocacy organizations in town just [produced a pretty cool tool](#) that enables parents to view data and information about Denver Public Schools at a citywide or regional level. It is worth exploring given the inane lack of transparency over the last two years.

Stay engaged:

- We encourage you to follow parent-led efforts like [PSAG](#) and the [Recall Facebook](#) groups for the latest news on efforts to right the DPS ship. There are **very few organizations in Denver that are truly led by parents demanding change**. Be on the lookout for the groups who authentically represent what you care about.
- Volunteer: there is no better way to stay engaged than to [volunteer at your child's school or any school in need](#). Especially with the influx of migrants our schools are strapped for time and resources. Relieving a teacher for even an hour of lunch duty gives that teacher time to plan, grade and focus on their most critical job - teaching our children.

Be Prepared:

- We've said from the beginning that the last Board of Directors and the current Superintendent have damaged DPS, and especially vulnerable populations, in ways that **will take years to un-do**. While we are hopeful that the new Board will take strong strides in restoring trust and credibility, it will take time. We hope you will stay prepared to stand up again, and again, to make your voice heard.

Finally, we must close by thanking YOU, our community that showed up, participated and most importantly voted for change. When we first started many of you said that you didn't realize the importance of the school board and your vote. We hope you are now inspired to stay vigilant and vocal in these matters. Our kids and educators need us.

Best wishes for a warm and safe winter,
The Resign DPS Board Team