



Dear Candidate,

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the questions of parent leaders from across the Denver Metro Region. We believe that collaborative leadership and authentic partnership is critical to the success of students across the district. By engaging in our questionnaire and speaking with leaders you are already demonstrating that community leadership is a priority for your campaign and potential tenure as an elected leader.

Following this letter is the 2021 TEN Collective Impact Candidate Questionnaire; the following questions were created by the TEN Collective Impact Parent Leader Council. The TEN Collective Impact Parent Leader Council is a leadership team of engaged, experienced and deeply knowledgeable Parent Leaders from across the district representing multiple schools and grade levels. Completion of the survey is a prerequisite for consideration for endorsement.

We will be publishing all answers to the following questions on our TEN Collective Impact website in because we believe that parents have power when they have access to information.

If you have any questions please contact Nicholas Martinez at [Nicholas.martinez@tencollectiveimpact.org](mailto:Nicholas.martinez@tencollectiveimpact.org) or 720-862-7414.

We look forward to continued conversation and appreciate your service to all students.

Sincerely  
Nicholas Martinez  
Executive Director and Co-Founder  
TEN Collective Impact



Vernon Jones Jr.

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\_ NAME

JonesforDPS@gmail.com

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\_ E-MAIL

DPS Board of Education

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\_ OFFICE SOUGHT

At-Large

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\_ DISTRICT

The committee to elect Vernon Jones Jr. to the DPS BOE

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\_ NAME OF CANDIDATE COMMITTEE

Jennifer Torress

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\_ CAMPAIGN MANAGER/CONTACT

www.jonesfordps.net

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\_ CAMPAIGN WEBSITE

@JonesforDPS

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\_ FACEBOOK PAGE

@JonesforDPS5280

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\_ TWITTER HANDLE



**1. Please share your background, professional experience, and why you would be an asset to the Denver Public Schools community?**

I have served students, families, and staff in traditional, innovation, and charter schools within DPS. In addition, I have led and served in community for 25 years advocating and fight for the right things to happen for our children and our neighborhoods that have been neglected by design.

**2. Why are you running for the Denver Public Schools Board of Education? How are you impacted by the policies and decisions of the DPS Board?**

I am a father of five children, son and nephew of retired DPS educators, a Denver resident, and neighbor that seeks the good of my community. I am running because we deserve representation on the DPS board that is deeply rooted in community and seeking to element the inequalities and inequities that have been present for generations.

**3. As a candidate for the DPS Board of Education what are the three priorities and desired outcomes you are focused on and how will you ensure that we reach those outcomes? My priorities are equity, wellness, achievement, and responsibility. We create a reality where equity and wellness are the seed and water for achievement when all persons and parties are engaged in the work and taking responsibility for how they contribute to a better and best reality.**

**4. If you are elected to the DPS Board of Education describe the role that parents play in decision making processes and how will you ensure that parent voice is a key part of the direction of the district?**

There should be no decision made where the voice of parents have not been included. Parents trust their children to the district and the district must honor that trust by operating with parents in transparent partnership.

**5. Covid has drastically impacted the learning of students across our district, how will you ensure that student academic needs are being identified and how will you ensure that they are receiving strategic interventions?**

The board's responsibility is to hold regular achievement sessions/data reviews with the Superintendent. We need to set goals, benchmarks, and regulary review progress toward those goals so that we and all stakeholders know how we are doing.

**6. What do you believe are indicators of a great school?**

Great schools are places where equity is practiced, wellness is a baseline expectation, achievement reflects year over year growth and gains for all students, and responsibility is taken by all to ensure that students, families, and staff thrive.

**7. Will you commit to ensuring that all kids and families have access to great schools regardless of school model?**

Yes.

**8. How will you work to improve the educational outcomes for historically and systemically marginalized communities? Specifically, Black, Latino, Indigenous and Working class students?**

Acknowledging that this failing is by design and working with our Superintendent to bring about a new reality, by design. We can't make this work. We have to imagine, innovate, and intentionally do differently if we truly want a different destiny for our children.

**9. School choice has become a polarizing topic as of late, what are your views on school choice? And as a board member who will you work to bridge the polarization and put the needs of students first?**

1995, Colorado as a state affirmed that we would be a choice state, empowering families to make the best educational choices for their children. I have done it with my five and will

ensure that we continue to honor the choices of families and our responsibility to give them great choice.

**10. The DPS teaching force is largely white, how will you work to attract and retain a teaching force that is more reflective of our student population?**

Multiple important approaches. We have to create environments that are attractive to work in. We have to incentivize people to come. We have to grow our own.

**11. One issue we have seen is large rates of attrition across the district but particularly of Black educators. Why do you think that is happening and what can you as a board member do to retain Black Educators?**

The structures and the systems are racist. We must deal with the racism and we will then retain Black leaders, teachers, & staff members who are passionate about serving students in DPS. The Bailey Report must be an action plan not a diary of what has happened.

**12. What are your views on accountability for schools and districts? How will you ensure that DPS is transparent in communicating academic progress with parents and the wider community?**

We must set goals, benchmarks, and timelines for public review of progress. Once we establish a clear vision for achievement, we need to resource it and regularly review where we are and relationship to where we need to be for children now. Parents, in all languages, must know where we are, and how they can help us to get to the desired place.