



# Youth-led APS School Board Candidate Brief



APS Candidate Youth-led Workshop: October 11th, 2023

## About

YAASPA has partnered with youth organizations across the Denver Metro area in order to ensure there are non-partisan youth centered school board candidate engagements. As the customers of education, youth should be at the focal point for school board candidates. Candidate briefs built from YAASPA student fellows and researchers who pulled from candidate websites.

NOTE: While the candidate workshop was recorded, there were technical difficulties.

Media: Thank you Chalkbeat for featuring our work. Read the recent news story here: [Youth-led workshops push school board candidates to address student needs](#)

# Meet The Candidates

<p><b>Danielle Tomwing</b></p>  <p><b>Attended YAASPA candidate workshop: Y</b></p>	<p><b>Max Garcia</b></p>  <p><b>Attended YAASPA candidate workshop: N</b></p>	<p><b>Maria Saucedo</b></p>  <p><b>Attended YAASPA candidate workshop: N</b></p>
<p><b>Endorsements</b></p> <p>Moonshot edVentures Rhonda Fields Naquetta Ricks Paster/Dr. Thomas Mayes Dan Jorgensen</p>	<p><b>Endorsements</b></p> <p>N/A</p>	<p><b>Endorsements</b></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Issues of Concern</b></p> <p>Creating a true culture of inclusion and equity touches upon the importance of educators of color.</p> <p>Stress and negative experiences contribute to a decrease in academic performance. Tomwing argues that we must prioritize the voices, well-being, and safety of students.</p> <p>Providing more resources to APS students through community-centered engagement</p>	<p><b>Issues of Concern</b></p> <p>Max believes that the classroom should be a safe environment for opinions. He sees competition between schools as a way to promote excellence.</p> <p>He wants to ensure students have a diverse learning space and have an expectation of learning. He highlights the concerns of parents and makes sure their concerns are heard.</p>	<p><b>Issues of Concern</b></p> <p>Saucedo has an emphasis on fiscal responsibility, strong schools, school safety, and inclusion &amp; diversity.</p> <p>Saucedo also believes that APS should have clear goals in place to support the educational needs of the students.</p>

## Vicki Reinhard



Attended YAASPA candidate workshop: Y

## Tiffany Tasker



Attended YAASPA candidate workshop: Y

### Endorsements

N/A

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Colorado Working Families Party

Aurora Education Association (AEA)

### Issues of Concern

Vicki has served on the BOE for the past three years and is running for re-election.

Vicki is a believer in equitable access to education, building college and career readiness and reducing standardized testing. She also believes in building community partnerships and expanding vocational and technical training.

### Issues of Concern

Putting educators and students first

Equity in education


Tasker is dedicated to creating a more culturally responsible school district.

For Tasker, culturally responsive environment is a “healthy, and safe learning and teaching environment for leaders, educators, and students.”

## Youth Priorities

Issue of Concern	Supports needed/ Goals for Issue
Mental Health Resources	For youth to be able to feel that their school can be a support system for them.
Lack of educators of color	More emphasis must be placed on hiring and retaining teachers of color, so that they feel valued and humanized. Although this issue may stem from BIPOC educators not applying, the district can be more transparent to at least acknowledge the contributions that these educators make for our students.
Mismanagement and taking advantage of schools limited resources	The former principal of Gateway high school was found embezzling money from the school. Previous leadership in APS said that they were unaware of the issues happening at Gateway and other APS schools that had historically similar problems. There is a pattern of leadership and principals in Aurora Public Schools taking resources from their students with little awareness of the district and the school board.
Teacher Turnover	Ensuring that students will have consistency throughout the whole school year with their teachers. Building connections and trust with teachers is very important and can be difficult to do so when teachers leave.

## Voting Information and Resources

<p><b>Aurora voting resources:</b></p>  <p><b>Voter Resources</b> Which county do you reside in? City of Aurora Political Districts... auroragov.org</p>	<p><b>Aurora voting polls:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Arapahoe County VSPC Locations</a></p>	<p><b>Ballot Drop off locations:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Arapahoe County Ballot Drop-off Locations</a></p>
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