



DPS School Board Candidate Brief

***The organization logos included in this DPS School Board Candidate Brief are not endorsing any of the candidates for the school board races.

DPS Candidate Youth-led Event: October 20th, 2023

About

YAASPA, Movimiento Poder, and Student Voice & Leadership partnered to create an event open to learn more about DPS Board Candidates and where they stand on issues that students care about. This event ensured there was a non-partisan, youth-centered school board candidate opportunity for learning and engagement. As the end users of education, youth are a key constituency for school board candidates. Candidate briefs built from YAASPA student fellows and researchers who pulled from candidate websites.

Special thanks to Donnell-Kay Foundation and Montessori on Wheels for funding and providing food and childcare.

NOTE: YAASPA did not record nor stream this the event. Thank you to Movimiento Poder for streaming of the event.

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



Kwame Spearman

Attended our collaborative youth-led candidate event: **Y**



John Youngquist

Attended our collaborative youth-led candidate event: **Y**

Kwame Spearman is a proud Denver native and a Denver Public School graduate. Kwame is running for School Board because he believes in academic excellence for our students and will always put our students and teachers first.

John Youngquist has been an educator for 35 years in Denver, Aurora, Breckenridge, and Cherry Creek schools. John is running for a seat on School Board to push for student safety, learning and district transparency.

Endorsements:

- DCTA
- SMART
- CWA
- Colorado Education Association
- UFCW
- DFPCNSE
- Denver Area Labor Federation

Endorsements:

- Denver Families Action
- Denver Metro Association of Realtors

Camping Issues:

- Supporting our Teachers
- School Safety
- Great Schools in Your Neighborhood
- Mental Health Supporting and Wrap Around Services
- Teacher Housing

Camping Issues:

- Integrity, Equity, and Synergy
- Safety
- Mental Health
- Transparency in the Organization
- Teaching and Learning



Scott Baldermann

Attended our collaborative youth-led candidate event: Y



Kimberlee Sia

Attended our collaborative youth-led candidate event: Y

Scott Baldermann is a Colorado native who is a community builder, and teacher advocate. Scott is currently on School board and is running to push the hire and retention of the best teachers, he will advocate for reduced class size.

Kimberlee Sia has been a Lifelong educator and passionate advocate for quality education. Kimberlee is running for School Board in order to help students thrive academically, improve enrollment.

Organizational Endorsements:

- DCTA
- CWA
- SMART
- Denver Federation for Paraprofessionals and nutrition service employees
- Colorado Education Association
- Denver Metro Association of Realtors
- Denver Area Labor Federation

Organizational Endorsements:

- Denver Family Action
- The Denver Gazette
- Blueflower Fund Endorsed

Campaign Issues:

- Recruit and Retain the best Teachers
- Reduce Class Sizes
- Increase Student Safety
- Expand Technical and Vocational training
- Immediately improve academic outcomes

Campaign Issues:

- Ensure all students thrive academically
- Improving School Safety
- Compressive mental health Supports
- Addressing Decline enrollment
- Preparing for the coming Fiscal Crisis
- Creating educator stability & sustainability
- Addressing Transportation Challenges



Marlene De La Rosa

Attended our collaborative youth-led candidate event: Y



Register to Vote!

Marlene De La Rosa is a mother of two DPS graduates who believes that DPS students deserve better. Marlene is running for School Board because she believes it is time for a change, and to focus on educational equity.

Denver Elections Division
Call: [720-913-VOTE \(8683\)](tel:720-913-VOTE)
Text: 56003

Endorsements:

- No Organizational Endorsement

Hearing Impaired only (TTY):
[720-913-8657](tel:720-913-8657)

Camping Issues:

- Time For a Change
- Educational Equity
- Hiring Diverse Teachers and staff
- School Safety
- School Funding
- Declining Enrollment
- Board Dysfunction

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