



THE ATLANTA BOARD OF EDUCATION

130 Trinity Avenue, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303 • 404-802-2200 (P) 404-802-1204 (F)

September 25, 2019

CHAIRMAN JASON ESTEVES

As the Chair of the Board of Education, I want to take a moment to thank you for all that you do to support the 52,000 students who walk through the doors of our schools every weekday. We are proud of the progress APS continues to make—progress that is a direct result of the shared efforts of so many working together to make this school system one of which families in Atlanta can be proud.

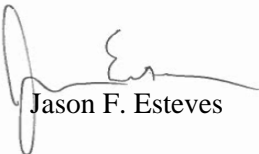
Last Friday, the Board participated in a strategic planning session, led by Angela King Smith and her team, related to the creation of the 2020-2025 plan. Board members came out of the session excited about the work that has been done on the future plan and committed to working with staff to ensure a strong finish to our current plan. We overwhelmingly believe APS needs a plan grounded in equity, where the District supports and empowers our teachers and school leaders to provide our students with engaging, supportive and rigorous learning environments.

As you know, the Board recently announced that it will not extend Dr. Meria Carstarphen's contract for a fourth time. As a Board, we thank Dr. Carstarphen for leading APS through a difficult time. Her hard work, alongside a team of strong leaders throughout the District, has ensured that APS is in a better place than when she arrived over five years ago. We look forward to working with her as we transition to our next Superintendent.

We all can agree that students are our main focus. For this reason, the Board believes it is critical for APS to move forward now in addressing the challenges ahead. We are confident we have many of the pieces in place to take APS to a new level and close the achievement gap that holds back many of our students.

During Friday's work session, the Board began to map out the Superintendent search process. More details will be shared in the coming weeks, but I want to reassure you that the Board is committed to engaging staff in this process. Through a number of meetings and surveys, we will ask you to help us design the leadership profile of the next Superintendent. We will also include a number of staff to assist in the interview process. You are a critical stakeholder in the success of APS and we want to hear your voice.

We look forward to your continued engagement with the Board and moving APS forward, together.


Jason F. Esteves

