

Community 11 Connections

News from Council Member John Quincy



Contact John:

350 S. 5th Street
Suite 307
Minneapolis, MN
55415

Phone: (612) 673-2211

Fax: (612) 673-3940

[John.Quincy@
ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:John.Quincy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

Inside this issue:

Quincy's Corner	1
Special Ballot Question	2
Fall Street Sweeping	2
School Board: At Large Candidates	3
School Board: At Large Candidates, cont.	4
School Board: District 5 Candidates	5
Calendar	6

Volume 1, Issue 12

November 2010

Quincy's Corner

This year's election often garners its press from the high-level races, including governor and state legislators. As a parent who has put two children through the Minneapolis Public Schools, I believe our school board races are just as important. On November 2, Minneapolis has the additional responsibility of electing two at-large and three district-specific school board directors. I am dedicating the bulk of this issue to allowing you to hear from the candidates themselves, as they answered questions posed by Ward 11 residents at October's *Community Coffee Hour*.

Although the Minneapolis Public School District is independent of the City and run by the State, our schools are deeply enmeshed in the fabric of what it means to live in Minneapolis. Undoubtedly, whether you're a single person, part of a young family, or an empty nester, you care about the quality of the schools in your city. Appropriately, all of our strategies for the goal **Many People, One Minneapolis** can be applied to our relationship with the public schools.

School is where **family-friendly opportunities and amenities abound**. It is often the place where **new arrivals first feel welcomed, diversity is embraced**, and their contributions make Minneapolis a stronger, safer, and more global community.

Our schools also bring people together across the generations. **Seniors stay and talents are tapped** at the same time as we work to ensure our **tots are school-ready and teens are on course**.

Our attention to the quality of our community's education will be rewarded as **race and class gaps are closed in employment and housing** and **teen pregnancy becomes a thing of the past**.

To grow and succeed as a community, everyone's potential must be tapped. In celebration of our democratic process, I invite you to focus on how, out of many people, we can make one Minneapolis.



November 2, 2010

Election Day Approaches: Special Ballot Question

The general election is Tuesday, November 2. Before heading to your polling place, find out if you're registered to vote and make sure you know what's on your ballot.

You can find out if you're registered to vote by going to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections and clicking on "voter registration lookup." Enter your name, birthday and address and you'll be able to tell immediately whether you're registered at that address.

If you're not pre-registered, you can still register to vote on Election Day by providing one of the forms of identification required by Minnesota law. For more details, visit [Elections](#) and select "Election Day Registration."

The general election ballot includes races for U.S. representative, governor and Lt. governor, secretary of state, state auditor, attorney general, state senators, state representatives, county and judicial offices, and the Minneapolis school board. To find out where to vote and see which candidates are on your ballot, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections.

Ballot Question

In addition to these races, there's also the following Minneapolis City Charter ballot question on the handling of redistricting in the city:

PROPOSAL TO MAKE THE CHARTER COMMISSION RESPONSIBLE FOR REDISTRICTING

Should the City of Minneapolis adopt a change in its charter by eliminating the Redistricting Commission and giving the responsibility for redistricting of city wards, park board districts and Minneapolis school board districts to the Charter Commission, with input from an advisory group appointed by the Charter Commission?

Minneapolis 311 will stay open one hour later so that voters can be served the entire time the polls are open, 7 am to 8 pm. Minneapolis voters can call 311 for information on how to register and where to vote, as well as questions about other city services. From outside the city limits, dial (612) 673-3000 or TTY/TTD 612-673-2157.

Street Sweeping Season Begins

Fall street sweeping has begun. That means crews will be cleaning the 1,100 miles of Minneapolis streets, curb to curb. Help them do their job by following the street sweep parking rules. Those who park on the street will need to follow these rules or their car may be ticketed and towed.

- **"No Parking" signs** – City crews will post "No Parking" signs at least 24 hours before sweeping any streets. Parking will be banned from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the day a street is swept. The "No Parking" signs will be removed as soon as possible after a street has been completely swept to allow people to resume parking. Vehicles not in compliance with "No Parking" signs will be ticketed and towed to the Minneapolis Impound Lot.

- **Phone calls to residents** – In addition to the "No Parking" signs, the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day. There's no guarantee that everyone will get a call, so residents should be sure to use all means available to stay alert and be prepared to move their car.

- **Interactive web feature and social media**

- This [Street Sweep Tool](#) on the City's website will tell residents when sweepers are coming through their neighborhood.

- [Facebook](#): Become a fan of the City of Minneapolis Facebook page.

- [Twitter](#): Follow the City's Twitter account.

Visitors to the City web site will be able to find out which week their street is scheduled to be swept. Then, on the weekend before, the schedule for the upcoming week will be broken down to show which day of the week streets are scheduled to be swept.

Minneapolis streets are swept completely curb to curb once in the spring and once in the fall. Residents should not push leaves, grass clippings, or other debris into City streets – it's bad for our lakes and waterways, can cause safety hazards, and is against the law. Anything that goes down a storm drain flows directly into our lakes and river, and decomposing plant material in the water encourages the growth of harmful aquatic plants and algae.

City Links

[Minneapolis Home Page](#)

[Hennepin County Libraries](#)

[Minneapolis Public Schools](#)

[City of Minneapolis Jobs](#)

[Garbage Service](#)

[Maps of Minneapolis](#)

[Separating Your Recycling](#)

[Snow Emergency](#)

Online Services

[Apply for Block Party Permit](#)

[Home Improvement Permits](#)

[Pay Your Utility Bill](#)

[Property Information](#)

[Report Graffiti](#)

Address-Based Lookups

[Council Ward Finder](#)

[Garbage](#)

[Recycling Schedule](#)

[Police Precinct Finder](#)

[Property Information](#)

[Spring & Fall Street Sweeping Schedule](#)

[Snow Emergency Parking Rules](#)

[Voting Precinct Finder](#)

School Board Elections — At-Large Candidates



Name: Rebecca Gagnon

Campaign Phone Number:
(612) 865-9465

Campaign Website:
<http://sites.google.com/site/rebeccagagnon2010/>

Biographical information:

As a "professional" volunteer, I serve in my children's three schools (SWHS, LHCS, & Whit-tier IB), in Zone 3 as co-chair of the Steering Committee, at a policy level on three MPS Par-

ent Advisory Councils (District-wide, Title 1, and Special Ed) and extensively within my neighborhood, church, and city-wide community.

What is a primary challenge facing Minneapolis Public Schools in the next two years, and how do you see the Minneapolis School Board addressing that challenge?

Achievement remains our greatest challenge. However, MPS is at a "tipping point" as described by author Malcolm Gladwell. Combining seemingly small factors can "tip" MPS towards increasing achievement for ALL students. Individually, stakeholder collaboration, transparent communication, involved parents, early childhood education, strong curriculum, rigorous instruction and high expectations would have little impact. Simultaneously, we tip towards substantive change. I believe every child

CAN succeed, but all stakeholders must be held accountable when our children fail.

Do you support the current strategic plan for Minneapolis Public Schools?

Partially.

Why or why not?

The stated goals of the strategic plan reflect the needs of MPS. However, how thoroughly have we completed the tasks on our timeline? Have we considered the changes that occur over time in MPS, especially our CSO implementations? The success of our strategic plan requires that we implement with integrity.

What is your view of the need for education reform in Minneapolis?

Maintaining the status quo will not increase achievement. Equitable outcomes for our struggling students requires

Rebecca Gagnon

nothing less than a cultural shift in MPS. We must reform our attitude in order to achieve college or work force readiness for all students. This reform includes believing that ALL children can achieve, building a positive learning environment with individual student assessments, where successes are emphasized but allowing for early intervention to prevent a child falling below grade level.

What is one tangible goal you will set for yourself as a school board member in your first year of office?

One of my immediate goals is to define and recommit to parent and community engagement in respect to the school board. School board members are merely stewards of MPS which requires that we build strong, respectful, and collaborative relationships with all stakeholders in the educational success of our students.



Name: Richard Mammen

Campaign Website:
www.richardmammen.org

Biographical information:

Life long resident of Minneapolis, graduate and parent of 3 MPS students. Youth worker and advocate for past 38 years. First director of Youth Coordinating Board and current director of citywide recreation

for the Park Board. Member of numerous community boards and commissions.

What is a primary challenge facing Minneapolis Public Schools in the next two years, and how do you see the Minneapolis School Board addressing that challenge?

Restoring trust, respect and confidence in our public schools through: inclusive community engagement; parent, student and staff empowerment; stronger collaboration with public partners and honest accountability. The achievement of all students must improve to attain a competitive, sustainable and equitable public school system.

Do you support the current strategic plan for Minneapolis Public Schools?

Yes.

Why or why not?

The plan is ambitious, responsible and doable if we continue to work deliberately, transparently and we honestly assess performance. We really do know what has to be done but must have the will and courage to do it. Let's focus on students and schools.

What is your view of the need for education reform in Minneapolis?

We need an outbreak of common sense and respect for educators. Reform is needed but we can't get paralyzed by the many "solutions" that have polarized practitioners and policymakers. Charter schools, alternative teacher licensure and tenure, merit pay and other initiatives are not "silver bullets" but we have to consider and discuss any strategy that will increase student learn-

Richard Mammen

ing and hope. I believe the teachers, principals, students, parents and community should lead in crafting reform.

What is one tangible goal you will set for yourself as a school board member in your first year of office?

I would like to set a new direction and plan for our high schools. A tangible goal would be to assure equity and balanced enrollment in all 7 high schools in 2011. Another would be to ensure that 50% of our Head Start eligible kids have access to quality Pre K programs.

Chanda Smith Baker



Name: Chanda Smith Baker

Campaign Web site:

www.chandaforschoolboard.org

Biographical information:

For 17 years, I have focused on improving the conditions for families. My background includes experience in early childhood education, special education, nonprofit, and parent engagement. I have served on several community boards and have volunteered in several MPS schools. I have focused on social justice and

equitable outcomes for students.

What is a primary challenge facing Minneapolis Public Schools in the next two years, and how do you see the Minneapolis School Board addressing that challenge?

Improving outcomes for students is a top priority. The board needs to:

- Ensure that all schools share the belief that all children can learn at high levels,
- Ensure that all students benefit from engaging and rigorous curriculum,
- Ensure that all schools build trust, relationships and partnerships with parents and the community, and
- Provide MPS leadership with consistent support and stability to succeed at the above factors—and holding them accountable for results.

Do you support the current strategic plan for Minneapolis Public Schools?

Yes.

Why or why not?

I support the strategic plan and applaud the current MPS board for their work. Does the plan address everything- No- It does however clearly articulate measurable outcomes for the district in key areas that need measurable improvements.

What is your view of the need for education reform in Minneapolis?

We talk about improving outcomes for students, yet spend little time discussing what reforms are needed. We need ambitious goals that will result in measurably better results for all students. I favor contextual learning and real-world experiences that connect classroom activities with community and work-based learning. Students will gain more of the skills they

need to navigate the complex demands of modern life, including problem solving, critical thinking, teamwork and effective communication.

What is one tangible goal you will set for yourself as a school board member in your first year of office?

I have studied the curriculum audit completed by the District in 2008. The audit is centered on curriculum and instruction, and any aspect of operations of a school system that enhances or hinders its design and/or delivery. The tangible goal I have set for myself is to concentrate on the recommendations made in this report, specific to governance, policy and accountability.

T. Williams



Name: T. Williams

Campaign Web site:

www.twilliamsforschools.org

Biographical information:

Incumbent member of the school board elected 2006. Retired senior research associate, Rainbow Research; Senior Fellow, Humphrey Institute where I did research and teach-

ing on community development & educational reform issues; Executive Director, Phyllis Wheatley Community Center; Bush Leadership Fellow; BA degree from University of Illinois; MSW University of PA.

What is a primary challenge facing Minneapolis Public Schools in the next two years, and how do you see the Minneapolis School Board addressing that challenge?

Developing and approving a comprehensive plan for high schools and using the plan as a guide to changing the structures of District high schools. This will require the District to make any actions taken in regards to North High or any other high schools to be consistent with the high school plan.

Do you support the current strategic plan for Minneapolis Public Schools?

Yes.

Why or why not?

We're moving in the right direction. Developing a portfolio of schools will enhance our capacity to improve the performance of our lowest performing students. A Principal's Academy along with an accountability system to assess administrators and principals' performance will enhance our capacity to more effectively teach all children.

What is your view of the need for education reform in Minneapolis?

The District needs increased flexibility in the recruitment, hiring and assigning teachers.

We need the capacity to retain and assign highly qualified teachers without regard to their seniority in the system. The key to improving the performance of our lowest performing students is to match the skills of the teachers to the learning styles of the students. We need teachers who believe all students can learn and who will challenge them to do so.

What is one tangible goal you will set for yourself as a school board member in your first year of office?

As an incumbent returning to office I will work to develop a policy and regulations that will establish criteria for closing schools or eliminating programs. What role will student utilization and student performance play in the process?

School Board Elections — District 5 Candidates



Name: Alberto Monserrate

Campaign Phone Number:
(612) 730-2071

Campaign Website:
<http://albertomonserrate.org>

Biographical information:

Originally from Puerto Rico, I am CEO and co-founder of the Latino Communications Network. LCN is the parent company of Spanish newspaper *La Prensa de Minnesota* and 24-hour Spanish radio station

La Invasora. A professional background that includes positions with Radisson Hotels International, the Minnesota State Senate, Ameriprise, and Wells Fargo Advisors with experience in management, finance planning and community relations. I volunteered for 15 years in schools and served Ed policy committees at the MN Dept of Education.

What is a primary challenge facing Minneapolis Public Schools in the next two years, and how do you see the Minneapolis School Board addressing that challenge?

The primary challenge is to increase learning achievement for all our kids, and to stabilize enrollment and finances for the district. We stabilize enrollment by building strong neighborhood schools that reach the expectations of our students and parents, surveying those that have left or are thinking of

leaving the district and addressing their concerns, and by forming a collaborative relationship between administration and teachers and provide the necessary training and support to increase achievement for all kids.

Do you support the current strategic plan for Minneapolis Public Schools?
Yes.

Why or why not?

I believe the current strategic plan is sound and based on thorough research on how to improve achievement for all our kids. I believe though that we have an implementation problem, and that we need more timely data to let us know how we're doing in reaching our achievement and financial goals.

Alberto Monserrate

What is your view of the need for education reform in Minneapolis?

I think real education reform entails hearing directly from front line employees, getting their input on how to increase achievement, getting a strong buy-in on how to do it, and then working together on implementing reform. We need to develop jointly with teachers effective ways of evaluating their work and to measure student achievement accurately so that we know if we are making progress on improving learning for all our kids.

What is one tangible goal you will set for yourself as a school board member in your first year of office?

I would like to do extensive surveying of parents that have taken or are thinking of taking their kids out of the district, and a clear understanding on how to address their concerns.

John Saulsberry



Name: John Saulsberry

Campaign Phone Number:
(612) 325-1384

Biographical information:

Security Director for Saint Mary's University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus (17 years). Has worked in MPS as Administrator, Associate Educator and is presently a Reserve Teacher part-time. Over the 10 years he has worked with MPS, he has accepted many difficult

long-term assignments throughout the district. His range of duties in areas of teaching, administrating, and monitoring school safety has given him a practical view on understanding what is happening in our schools, classrooms, and how we apply district policies.

What is a primary challenge facing Minneapolis Public Schools in the next two years, and how do you see the School Board addressing that challenge?

Minneapolis is challenged to extinguishing the negativity in the race dialogue and bring the focus back to student achievement. They are challenged with ensuring that our schools are safe learning environments and keeping a consistency in staff. The school board is the

governance in the district; they should lead the way in building a strategy to positively redirect this conversation. The school board should re-evaluate policies and make sure that they are consistent for all involved.

Do you support the current strategic plan for Minneapolis Public Schools?
Partially.

Why or why not?

Safety needs to be a major component in this strategy.

What is your view of the need for education reform in Minneapolis?

I believe that MPS needs to ensure that the district policies are consistent. Make sure that our schools are safe. Ensure that our classrooms are academic learning environments

where students are being prepared for their future choices. Finally, MPS needs to ensure that teachers and administrators are held accountable for student achievement. I am committed to building stronger communication and relationships between all stakeholders that foster commitment to children. It is all our responsibility to ensure all students have a safe learning environment and are college ready upon graduation.

What is one tangible goal you will set for yourself as a school board member in your first year of office?

One tangible goal I set for myself is to actively communicate with the stakeholders in the district, i.e. students, teachers, administrators, parents, and the community.

Calendar

November 2	Election Day: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections
November 9	6:30–8 pm: Windom Policing Plan Meeting at 5th Precinct House (3101 Nicollet Avenue S)
November 10	8–9 am: Community Coffee Hour at Sister Sludge (4557 Bloomington Avenue S) 7–8:30 pm: Kingfield Neighborhood Association Meeting at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S)
November 11	Veterans Day Holiday: Government offices closed 7–8:30 pm: Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Meeting at the NENA office (3000 50th Street E) 7–8:30 pm: Windom Community Council Meeting at Windom Community Center (5843 Wentworth Avenue S)
November 13	9:30–11:30 am: Second Saturday with Representative Jean Wagenius at Mayflower Church (106 Diamond Lake Road E) 10:30–1 pm: Crosstown Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Pearl Park (414 Diamond Lake Road E)
November 15	7–8:30 pm: Tangletown Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S) 7:15–8:30 pm: Hale Page Diamond Lake Neighborhood Policing Plan Meeting at Pearl Park (414 Diamond Lake Road E)
November 16	7–8:30 pm: Tangletown and Kingfield Neighborhood Policing Plan Meeting at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S)
November 17	6:30–8:00 pm: Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46th Street E)
November 18	6:05 pm: Public Comment on Levy and 2011 City Budget at City Hall Room 307 (350 5th Street S)
November 22	7–8:30 pm: Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association Meeting at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (5144 13th Avenue S)
November 25	Thanksgiving Holiday: Government offices closed
November 26	Observance of Thanksgiving Holiday: Government offices closed