



## Hennepin Schools

1001 E. 46<sup>th</sup> Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407  
OFFICE: (612) 843-5050 FAX: (612) 871-2406  
EMAIL: [info@hennepinschools.org](mailto:info@hennepinschools.org)  
[www.hennepinschools.org](http://www.hennepinschools.org)

**Board of Directors**  
Charlayne Myers, Board Chair  
Kaltun Abdi  
Christina Lacina  
John Slavik  
Mahdi Nur  
Khalid Omar  
Nancy Vintimilla

### 2025 Board Candidates Biographies

January 31, 2025

*Dear Parents, Staff, and Board Members;*

On February 12, 13, and 14, 2025, the Board members, parents/guardians, and staff of Hennepin Schools will have the opportunity to vote in an election of the following candidates.

For Community Board Member:

**Dr. Charlayne Myers**



I have served on the Hennepin Schools Board for 9 years, 8 of those years as President of the Board. I would like to be elected for another term. Working with school staff and students has been my career the past 40 years. I was a teacher and administrator in public schools. My experience has shown me effective ways students learn and ideas to increase the staff's knowledge of student learning. I would like to continue supporting staff and students as we focus on the Hennepin Schools goals. Those goals highlight strong academic achievement, fiscal responsibility, and supporting positive relations within the school, with parents and the broader community.

My time on the Hennepin Schools Board has provided me the opportunity to work collaboratively with others on balancing the school budget and approving policies that support a strong community for students, staff and parents. I want to continue working to help Hennepin Schools be successful. Please vote for me.

For Teacher Board Member:

**Ms. Christina Lacina**



My name is Christina Lacina and I am running for the teacher school board member position. I have been teaching at Hennepin since 2019. In addition to my teaching position I am currently serving as a teacher member, and treasurer of Hennepin Schools school board. After the purchase of our beautiful new building, I had the opportunity to serve on the New Building Task Force where I was able to help support the process of remodeling and moving to the new building. I would like to continue to support the mission of Hennepin Schools by continuing to advocate for students, families, and staff.



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### **Mr. John Slavik**

John Slavik is a dedicated physical education teacher with 12 years of experience inspiring students to embrace fitness and wellness. Born and raised in a small town, John developed a love for outdoor activities at a young age. He spent his childhood hiking, biking, and playing various sports, which sparked his passion for promoting active lifestyles to others. After earning a degree in Physical Education, John began his teaching career, where he quickly became known for his energetic and engaging approach to the classroom.

Throughout his career, John has fostered a positive environment that encourages students to explore their physical abilities while also teaching them the importance of teamwork, perseverance, and healthy habits. His commitment to his students' well-being extends beyond the gymnasium, as he often organizes outdoor activities, such as nature walks and team-building exercises, to connect students with the natural world.

In addition to his teaching role, John served on the school board for six years, where he worked tirelessly to advocate for programs that support both physical and mental health for students. His tenure on the board allowed him to have a broader impact on the community, where he championed initiatives that provided resources for physical education and wellness programs. Outside of work, John enjoys hiking, camping, and kayaking. He remains an enthusiastic supporter of outdoor education, believing strongly in the positive impact nature has on personal growth and development.

For Parent Board Member:

### **Ms. Kaltun Abdi**

My name is Kaltun Abdi and I am a graduate of Minneapolis Community and Technical College with an Associate degree in Nursing LPN/RNA. I have years of experience in the private and public sector. I am a candidate for Hennepin Schools Board member for this year. I have decided to support our schools and seek parents, staff and students support and endorsement for the 2025 term. In order to earn that support, I will work very hard on your behalf and wish to take this opportunity to outline some of goals I want accomplish as school board member if elected:

- I want to increase equity among students and improve instructional programming
- I want to help increase academic proficiency for all students including English Language Learners.
- I want help to increase teacher diversity through intensive recruitment efforts and by retaining many of our culturally diverse staff.
- I want to help Hennepin Schools be welcoming and safe for immigrants and all families, ensuring school values of cultural diversity and linguistic assets for our communities.
- I will support Hennepin Schools new building, sports and extracurricular activities for our students.
- I will strongly support developing a balanced Hennepin Schools budget.
- I will work hard for an improved, culturally-responsive instructional programming.
- Finally, I want to support the Special Education program.



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With your help and support, I will do my best to demonstrate as a dedicated school board member, I will appreciate and support administration's great leadership and teachers' great work in the classrooms. I will progress in our educational offerings allowing even more students to feel welcomed and respected. I wish to work with other board members as well and will do all I can to continue making our schools better than ever!

### **Mr. Ahmed H. Mullah**

Ahmed H. Mullah is a dedicated community advocate with extensive experience in supporting diverse populations. Currently serving as an employment counselor at African Community Services in Minnesota. Ahmed assists refugees and immigrants in securing meaningful employment, fostering self-sufficiency and community integration. With a background in computer science, Ahmed brings a unique perspective to educational initiatives, emphasizing the importance of technology in modern learning environments. As a parent of three children attending Hennepin Elementary School, Ahmed is deeply invested in the school's success and is committed to promoting policies that support student achievement, teacher development, and community engagement. By joining the Hennepin Elementary School Board, Ahmed aims to leverage professional expertise and personal passion to contribute to the school's mission of providing a high-quality education for all students.

For any questions or concerns, please email [hselections@hennepinschools.org](mailto:hselections@hennepinschools.org) or call at 612-843-5057.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Yusuf Mohamed, Election Commissioner, Hennepin Schools Director of Operations.