



## **2018-2019 Community Member Board Candidates Biographies**

On March 7 and 8, 2019, all parents, staff, and board members of Hennepin Schools will have the opportunity to vote in a contested election. You will vote for two candidates only. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to the two open seats. Below are the biographies of the three candidates running for HS Board. Ballot boxes will be located at both schools in the main conference area. Each family may cast two votes, but each parent may only vote once.

### **Mr. Miguel Mendez, incumbent**

Mr. Mendez grew up in California and Mexico until he went to Europe to further his education. In 2007 he graduated from the University of Westminster in London with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. After living in Madrid, Munich, Barcelona, and Miami, he made his way to Minnesota in 2014.

Mr. Mendez began his involvement with Hennepin Elementary School in 2014. He worked as a Spanish interpreter and educational liaison for HES Spanish speaking families. Because of his positive personality and passion for the well-being of all students, he became involved in the administration of the healthy lunch program and a classroom educational assistant. He has proudly represented HES at multiple Twin Cities events. Currently, he is a Business Analyst at United Healthcare Group. However that has not stopped him from being involved with the school, the students, and the school's activities. Mr. Mendez is an active member of various organizations and cultural societies here in the Twin Cities, and has donated to Hennepin Schools through his company matching funds program. Mr. Mendez is a current board member of Hennepin Schools, elected in 2016, and serves as the Board's Vice President.

### **Dr. Charlayne Myers, incumbent**

Dr. Myers is a retired educator and administrator, and is currently a part-time professor at Hamline University in the Graduate School of Education. . She is committed to a strong public education system, essential to maintain our community, and to ensure every person enjoys a quality life. A well-educated citizenry also contributes to the community's future growth and economic stability. She and her husband live in Minneapolis where they raised three children. In addition to working part-time, Dr. Myers volunteers at the Advocates for Human Rights.

Dr. Myers is deeply knowledgeable about schooling and best practices to support student learning. She has a broad range of administration expertise in curriculum and assessment, state and federal grants management, and school finance. Dr. Myers is a current board member of Hennepin Schools, elected in 2016, and serves as the Board's President and Board Chair.

**Mr. Abdi Mahamed**

Mr. Mahamed earned his Bachelor's degree in science from St. Mary's University and his Master's Degree in social work from Western Governor's University in Utah. Mr. Abdi has worked in urban schools for over ten years in the Twin Cities in a variety of capacities including Academic and Behavioral Dean, Social Worker, and Teacher Assistant. He has also served as a community liaison to support families, as their children complete their K-12 education. Mr. Mahamed currently works at Minnesota Internship Center, where he serves as the Dean of Students and Social Worker. Among his many responsibilities, Mr. Abdi conducts meetings for school community members to educate families on student needs and to obtain feedback on how the school can enhance its programming for students.