



Hennepin Schools

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Board of Directors
Charlayne Myers, Board Chair
Christina Lacina
John Slavik
Ruqia Abdi
Ahmed Mullah
Lucy Pinataro

2026 Board Candidate Biographies

February 4, 2026

Dear Parents, Staff, and Board Members:

On February 11, 12, and 13, 20256, the Board members, parents/guardians, and staff of Hennepin Schools will have the opportunity to vote in an election of the following candidates. You may vote by mail-in ballot.

For Non-Parent Community Board Member:



Ms. Christina Lacina

My name is Christina Lacina and I am running for the Non-Parent Community Member school board position. As a licensed educator, I taught third grade at Hennepin for six years. I currently serve as treasurer of the 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.

For Non-Parent Community Board Member:



Ms. Ruqia Abdi

Ms. Ruqia Abdi was born in Mogadishu, Somalia and came to the US in 2000. She is an author and speaker. Her mission is to transform the lives of parents and youth by educating them to be better. It takes a village to raise a child. Ms. Abdi wants to re-create that village by providing cultural training to educators, social workers, and counselors and by engaging Somali parents in culturally relevant parenting workshops. Ms. Abdi earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Child Development from Walden University in 2016. Since then, she has been working as an advocate for women and children in the Somali community. Ms. Abdi is a published author of the book, *Better Parenting*, and the Somali version, *Ilmakorinta Habboon*. She has served on and off the HS Board since 2021.

For Parent Board Member: **No Applicant/Vacant**

Please note: If you are a Hennepin Schools parent and are interested in serving on the HS School Board, please email Dr. Char Myers, HS Board Chair, at cmyers@hennepinschools.org

For any questions or concerns, please email hselections@hennepinschools.org or call at 612-843-5050.

Best regards,

Dr. Julie M. Henderson, 2026 Election Commissioner/Executive Director