

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DPS Community Slate Candidates for 2021 in District 4 and At-Large*****

We are excited to announce the candidacy of **Vanessa Quintana for DPS District 4** and **Scott Esserman for DPS At-Large**. Our community slate is running to unify and restore the community through **educational freedom**. With a focus on the community school model, Scott and Vanessa will take their classroom experience, policy expertise, and community connections to create a new type of governance that centers the people's voice and will serve every child in DPS.

Vanessa Quintana (for District 4) is a policy expert with a Master's of Public Policy from UC-Berkley. Vanessa grew up in Denver and is a proud DPS graduate. Vanessa attended ten schools from kinder to graduation from Colorado High School Charter and was directly impacted by two school closures, Manual and Cole. These experiences propelled her passion to work in education policy. Upon her return to Colorado in 2020, it was clear that her five nieces and nephews are dealing with many of the same struggles in DPS she had many years ago. Vanessa has worked in all three levels of government, including the Colorado Department of Education and DPS. She uses her qualifications to bring an intersectional analysis to find solutions that address the root causes of education injustice. Vanessa brings an understanding of policy and community governance to the board that will elevate its ability to serve the community and help create a school district that serves all children.

Scott Esserman has been an educator for over 20 years and is a proud dad of two DPS students, 7th (DSST Montview) and 12th grade (Manual). Esserman has a life-long passion for breaking down barriers and access to education and beyond. Esserman is a devoted advocate in DPS for all students by accompanying the community to preserve Manual, has served on several district task forces, and has been a loyal ally to communities of color for racial equity. Scott has served on many boards ranging from the newly formed Tattered Cover Advisory Board, the regional board for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). Currently, he serves as chair of the DPS District Accountability Committee. Along with a bachelor's degree in history, focusing on African American Studies, he has a certificate in Education Finance from Georgetown University. Esserman brings his classroom experience combined with his longtime work in the community to transform the current systems to ensure the promise of high-quality education for all DPS students.

You can reach each candidate individually with questions:

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