

# PHILLY SCHOOL BOARD 101



# ABOUT URBED INC.



## Mision

UrbEd is a non-profit based in Philadelphia that advocates for fully-funded, safe, and healthy public schools in order to provide students with an equitable and quality education we deserve. We are an organization led by those who are and have been most affected by the issues facing urban public schools. Through political education and community organizing we are amplifying our voices--the voices of public school students—to give students the education they deserve and are owed. We are students, advocates, and reformers!





# Who is the school board?



The school board in Philadelphia is the governmental body that is appointed by the mayor made up 9 members and 2 nonvoting student members. The school board forms most of the policies that govern the school district, from discipline policies, to school closures, to budgeting they are the ones ultimately able to make many decisions.

# Why testify at a meeting?



The school board meets multiple times a month to hear and make decisions on many pieces of policies in the district. These meetings are public and are on a calendar on [philasd.org](http://philasd.org). A large part of this meeting is a space where the public can voice their opinion, each speaker has 3 minutes to talk in front of the board. This is a clear and specific place for you as a student to voice your opinion!

# SPEAKING AT A BOARD MEETING

## BEFORE

1. Make sure you are registered to speak at the board meeting. Call (215) 400-5959 or register at [philasd.org](http://philasd.org).
2. Prepare a statement! Have a written piece with strong research and experience based points.

## DURING

1. Deliver your message loudly and clearly.
2. Be prepared to make edits to your statement while listening to the board meeting.

## AFTER

1. Connect with people in the room, talk to some of the organizations there, maybe some board members will hang around.
2. Reflect, do you plan on returning to another board meeting, and if not what are your next steps?





# THE TIPS

## DO RESEARCH

Locate data and stories of people around the city of Philadelphia.



## WRITE YOUR TESTIMONY

Take your time, try to start with a story and slowly input data.



## BRING A FRIEND

Bring your support system, who will cheer you on and support you.



# LEADERS OF THE BOARD



PRESIDENT  
**Joyce Wilkerson**



VICE PRESIDENT  
**Wayne Walker**



SUPERINTENDENT  
**William R. Hite**



STUDENT REP  
**Doha Ibrahim**



STUDENT REP  
**Imere Williams**

The board is headed by Joyce Wilkerson and Wayne Walker. Dr. William Hite is the superintendent of the district. What this means is while the board handles the overarching policies and budget Dr. Hite handles the day to day operation and oversees the function of the district. While Dr. Hite does not vote on any items he can respond to students and is there most of the time.

## URBED'S ADVOCACY

The school board is now a group of members suggested by a committee and appointed by the mayor. It used to be a 5 member board with 3 appointed by the state called the School Reform Commission, UrbEd was key to shifting the control back to Philadelphia for more accountability. UrbEd now advocates for voting student board members to allow real student input. Join the movement for advocating for voting students at [urbedadvocates.org/campaigns4change](http://urbedadvocates.org/campaigns4change)

# MORE BOARD MEMBERS



Julia  
Danzy



Leticia  
Egea-Hilton



Malloy  
Fix-Lopez



Lee  
Huang



Dr. Maria  
McColgan



Dr. Chris  
McGinley



Angela  
McIver

The school board puts all policy suggestions to a democratic vote. This section will come at the end of the meeting overall and each board member will be called to vote yea or nay to the policy as read by name. Stick around for this part and after to see how they vote and what gets done in the meeting.

UrbEd's team members advocating to get rid of the state imposed School Reform Commission in 2017 with Our City Our Schools coalition.







## **SPEAK OUT TODAY!**

Speaking out on what's happening to our schools and our experiences of students is critical. It's important to reclaim and reform our education. If you see an issue in your school in your community take it to the board! Please reach out for our support and assistance.

## **CONTACT US**

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(484) 222-0279

[urbedadvocates.org](http://urbedadvocates.org)

[@urbedadvocates](https://www.instagram.com/urbedadvocates)