

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
WITNESS LIST**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

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**CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING**

on

**Teacher and Principal Retention**

on

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.**

**Hearing Room 412 (Track B)  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
DC Council Website ([www.dccouncil.gov](http://www.dccouncil.gov))**

Teacher Support Panel (PD's, Induction, LEAP)

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|----------------------|--|
| 1. Laura Maestas     | DC Prep, CEO   |
| 2. Elise Pas         | Research Professor at the Johns Hopkins<br>Bloomberg School of Public Health |
| 3. Catherine Peretti | CitySchools Collaborative, Executive<br>Director                             |

Principal Panel

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|----------------|---|
| 1. Jake Lappi  | DC Public Schools, Instructional<br>Superintendent  |
| 2. Mekia Love  | KIPP DC, Chief of Schools   |
| 3. Robert Bies | Professor of Management and Founder of<br>the Executive Master's in Leadership<br>Program at the McDonough School of<br>Business at Georgetown University |
| 4. Erica Beal  | School Leader Lab, Executive Director   |

PUBLIC WITNESSES

1. Robert Henderson DC SBOE, Ward 5 Representative
2. Ben Williams Dc SBOE, Ward 1 Representative
3. Hannah Mason D.C. Policy Center, Senior Education Research Analyst
4. Noah Dougherty DC Charter School Alliance, Director of Special Projects
5. Scott Goldstein EmpowerEd, Executive Director
6. Ashley Bryant EmpowerEd, DC Educator
7. Laura Fuchs Washington Teachers Union, President
8. Salim Adofo Public Witness
9. Dr. Kenya C. Ramey Public Witness
10. Allison Denny Public Witness
11. Belicia Reaves Public Witness
12. Justin Lessek Sojourner Truth PCS, Executive Director
13. Raymond Weeden, Jr. Thurgood Marshall Academy PCHS, Executive Director
14. Lanette Bacchus Public Witness
15. Cara Schiavone EmpowerEd, Teacher
16. Kerry Savage PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education), Chief of Policy
17. Russ Williams Center City PCS, CEO
18. Peter Anderson Washington Latin PCS, Head of Schools/CEO

19. Jessica Giles	Center for Strong Public Schools Action Fund, Executive Director, DC
20. Caroline Pryor	EmpowerEd, Director of Policy and Power-Building
21. Dr Jeffrey Grant	Monument Academy Public Charter School, CEO
22. Charlette Butler-Strickland	DCPS, Principal, Hart Middle School
23. Salim Adofo	Public Witness
24. Gracy Obuchowicz	EmpowerEd, Director of Educator Wellness
25. Elizabeth Weiss	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
26. DaVaughn Montgomery	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
27. Marlena Mitchell	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
28. Jordan Daugherty	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
29. Anita Middleton	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
30. Chandler Dennard	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
31. Nathaniel McVey-Finney	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
32. Armand Cuevas	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
33. Gabe Mernoff	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
34. Emily Griswold	11:11 Wellness, Founder
35. Caleb Franklin	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
36. Carlie Fisherow	Public Witness
37. Ange Pirko	EmpowerEd, DC Educator

38. Jody Peltason	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
39. Dylan Craig	Washington Teachers' Union, Teacher
40. Shawn SN	STEMPower International, President
41. Fabiana Perera	Truesdell Family Teacher Organization, President
42. Dr. Ashley Tucker	Public Witness
43. Kathryn Procope	Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science, Executive Director
44. Carlos Richardson	Friendship Public Charter School
45. Pat Brantley	Friendship Public Charter School, CEO
46. Shalini Shybut	Mundo Verde Bilingual PCS, Executive Director
47. Sophia Baratta	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
48. Alfons Prince	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
49. Angenette Planter	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
50. Toi Witcher	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
51. Celia Daughtridge	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
52. Michael Lake	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
53. Fareha Ahmed	Public Witness
54. Elizabeth Foley	Public Witness
55. Martita Fleming	Washington Latin Public Charter School, Director of Operations

56. Clarisse Mendoza-Davis	Maya Angelou Public Charter School & See Forever Foundation, CEO
57. Cielo Contreras	Public Witness
58. Adrian Dhanaraj	Maya Angelou Public Charter School & See Forever Foundation, Principal
59. Leila Ali	Maya Angelou Public Charter School & See Forever Foundation, Teacher
60. Jamia Thurman	EmpowerEd, DC Educator
61. Anise Walker	PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education), Parent Leader
62. Sherry McDaniel-Thomas	PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education), Parent Leader
63. Robert Allen	Public Witness
64. Eduardo Canedo	WTU, Teacher
65. Melissa Jeanty	Maya Angelou Public Charter School & See Forever Foundation, Assistant Principal
66. Eliasib Yakx	Public Witness
67. Christina Hanson	WTU, Educator
68. Andrew Hinshaw	Carlos Rosario School, Teacher
69. Pauline Azore	Carlos Rosario School, Teacher
70. Tiffany Fuller	Public Witness
71. Sandra Gonzalez	Carlos Rosario School, Vice-Principal
72. Kimberly De Jesus	Carlos Rosario School, Teacher

73. Ebraheem Bannister Jr.	Public Witness
74. Dr. Jermal Sewell	Public Witness
75. Ste'Niya Williams	Public Witness