



**For Immediate Release**

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## **EduPAC Announces Endorsed Slate Of Atlanta School Board Candidates**

ATLANTA – A nonpartisan, independent political organization representing more than 30 of Atlanta’s most influential organizations announced its endorsed slate of nine candidates today for the Atlanta Board of Education.

**The EduPAC-endorsed candidates are:**

- District 1            Brenda J. Muhammad
- District 2            Khaatim S. El
- District 3            Cecily Harsch-Kinnane
- District 4            Mark B. Riley
- District 5            LaChandra Butler Burks
- District 6            Yolanda K. Johnson
- District 7            Courtney Dean English
- District 8            Reuben R. McDaniel
- District 9            Emmett D. Johnson

“The EduPAC-endorsed candidates for Atlanta School Board are the most qualified to lead,” said William “Sonny” Walker, founder and principal of Sonny Walker Group and co-chairman of EduPAC. “After exhaustive interviews with all candidates, we believe the endorsed candidates possess the intellect, capability and passion to support Atlanta Public Schools’ ambitious school reform agenda focusing on student achievement.”

This year’s EduPAC campaign theme is “Keep Reform Alive.”

EduPAC is a nonpartisan, independent political organization governed by a board of directors composed of volunteers from the business, civic and faith-based community. Members include the Metro Atlanta Chamber, 100 Black Men of Atlanta, the Atlanta Business League, YMCA, Atlanta Education Fund, Atlanta Urban League, Georgia Aquarium, Leadership Atlanta, Georgia-Pacific, H.J. Russell & Company, Bank of America and others. **A full list of board members is below.**

“Atlanta Public Schools is one of the top-performing urban systems in the country,” said Paula Lawton Bevington, principal in Bevington Advisors, LLC, and vice chairman of EduPAC. “Our students, parents, teachers, all in our community, deserve the most capable and the most committed school board members to keep the progress moving.”

Since 1993, the EduPAC board has reconvened every four years to endorse and support a slate of nine candidates who will provide effective governance to the Atlanta Public Schools system and to educate the public on the important role of school board members. For 15 years, between 80 to 100 percent of EduPAC-endorsed candidates have been elected or re-elected to the school board.

EduPAC is always led by some of Atlanta’s top business and civic leaders. In previous election cycles, notable leaders such the legendary baseball great Hank Aaron helped with EduPAC’s public awareness campaign and former Ambassador Andrew Young assisted with phone banking.

For more information about EduPAC, visit [www.edupacatlanta.org](http://www.edupacatlanta.org). You can also follow our progress on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/edit/?id=111093784655#/pages/EduPAC-Atlanta/111093784655>, and Twitter at <http://twitter.com/EduPACAtlanta>.

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**Following is EduPAC’s 2009 board of directors:**

**William "Sonny" Walker, co-chairman of EduPAC;** founder & principal, Sonny Walker Group

**Curley Dossman, Jr., co-chairman of EduPAC;** president, Georgia-Pacific Foundation

**Paula Lawton Bevington, vice-chairman of EduPAC;** principal, Bevington Advisors, LLC

**Sam A. Williams, secretary treasurer of EduPAC;** president, Metro Atlanta Chamber

**Donna Aldridge,** business development consultant

**Clara Axam,** project director, Enterprise Community Partners Atlanta

**Leona Barr-Davenport,** executive director, Atlanta Business League

**Veronica Biggins,** partner, Hodge, Niederer, Cariani, & Lindsay

**Jim Breedlove,** vice president, Fernbank Museum of Natural History

**Rep. Roger Bruce,** vice president, Atlanta Life Financial Group

**Samra Coote,** director, community relations, Atlanta Education Fund

**John Grant**, CEO, 100 Black Men of Atlanta

**Joseph Handy**, vice president, education & guest services, Georgia Aquarium

**Eston Hood**, senior vice president of operations, YMCA of Metro Atlanta, Inc.

**Angie Howard**, senior human resources director, Hyatt Regency Atlanta

**Nancy Flake Johnson**, CEO, Atlanta Urban League

**Milton Jones**, president, Georgia Bank, Bank of America

**Mary Long**, community activist

**Thelma Malone**, second vice president, The Atlanta Council of PTA's

**Kent Matlock**, president, Matlock Advertising & Public Relations

**Esther Michaels**, CEO, Vital Resources International, LLC

**Pat Upshaw-Monteith**, president & CEO, Leadership Atlanta

**Greg Pridgeon**, chief of staff to the mayor, The City of Atlanta

**Jerome Russell**, president, H.J. Russell & Company

**Michael Russell**, CEO, H.J. Russell & Company

**Stewart Williams**, president & CEO, Butler Street YMCA

**Yvonne Wiltz**, member, National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc., Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter

**The Very Rev. Robert C. Wright**, rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

#### **Ex-Officio**

**George Goodwin**, retired, Manning Selvage & Lee

**Penelope McPhee**, president and trustee, Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

#### **Legal Advisor**

**Dewitt Rogers**, attorney, Troutman & Sanders LLP

#### **Staff**

**Rene Webb Pennington**, vice president, Atlanta Education, Metro Atlanta Chamber

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