



**Reid Goldstein  
School Board Organizational Meeting – July 1, 2021**

First, thank you to my colleagues for the honor of their vote and their trust in me to be the Vice Chair for this coming year.

I want to particularly say thank you to the outgoing Chair, Monique O’Grady, who has provided the steadiest of steady leadership when we needed it the most this past year. I want to welcome Dr. Barbara Kanninen as the new Chair, second time around. This will be the first time that we have had a second timer I think in quite a while, and because of that I know that she has the interest, skills, and passion to do an outstanding job and I look forward to supporting her in that.

I want to say thank you – kind of a late belated welcome - to my colleagues David Priddy and Cristina Diaz-Torres. I have had the pleasure of working with them and learning from them in the past six months as they have brought a fresh perspective to the Board and to our discussions and issues.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Durán and his staff who provided an outstanding performance under the most difficult and challenging of circumstances this last year. Their effort in support of all our students, is something that I think will and should certainly go down in history. Thank you to all the staff and Dr. Durán for that.

I want to close by letting people know that I am going to be focused on a few priorities this coming year. Dr. Durán’s #1 priority is literacy, and of course that will be mine also. I am going to do my best from this table to support him and the efforts of the staff in improving literacy. Another of my priorities will be compensation for the APS workforce. As everybody knows, this is a topic that has been fraught with difficulty and challenges, and I am committed to working through those and making substantial gains and improvements. And last but not least, I think one of my colleagues already said it, is getting students back on track. That is, every student, not the just the students who are struggling or slipping, but those needing to get reacquainted with how we deliver the complete educational experience.

I look forward to this coming year, I have a lot of hope for it, and I am grateful to be supported by an excellent group of colleagues, and the Superintendent and his staff, and I will close by saying “Let’s get to it!”