

DESA Name Change Committee members

Name	Role	Student At DESA	Bio/Info
Ms. Whitney McGinnis	Board Member (Required)	No	
Ms. Deirdre Pierce	Board Member (Required)	No	
Dr. Michelle Jones	Area Superintendent (Required)	No	
Dr. LaTonya Donald	Principal (Required)	No	
Dr. Keith Jones	DSA Principal (Required)	No	
Ms. Bianca Hamilton	Visual Arts Coordinator	No	
Ms. Jennifer Durham	Community Stakeholder	No	My name is Jennifer Durham. I am a native of Atlanta, Georgia. I am the oldest of 7 siblings. I attend Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church (GTRBC)/ House of Hope Atlanta (HOHA). I have been a faithful member of GTRBC/HOHA for 54 years. I attended elementary (Wesley Elementary and Alfred Blalock Elementary) and high school (Henry Grady High) in Atlanta Public Schools. After high school, I attended Morris Brown College for 3 years. I worked in the Dekalb County School System for 40 years; 5 years as a part-time employee and 35 years as a full-time employee. I started as a part-time paraprofessional at Forrest Hill Elementary School where I worked 3 years. I worked at Hooper Alexander Elementary School/ Elementary School of the Arts at Hooper Alexander/ Dekalb Elementary School of the Arts for 37 years. From 1984-2002, I worked at Hooper Alexander Elementary School as a paraprofessional. Starting in 2002, until retirement in 2021, I worked as a secretary. Finally, I worked as the Afterschool Director for several years.
Ms. Bri'el Gordon	PTA	Yes	Bri'el K. Gordon is the parent of a 6th grader attending Dekalb Elementary School of the Arts. She currently serves as the Vice President of DESA's PTA and has served as a Junior Board member and volunteer at Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta and is a member of the Junior League of Atlanta. Bri'el resides in the Gresham Park community and works as a Sales & Marketing Coordinator for a landscape supply company. Her daughter participates in Dance, Art, and Cheer at DESA.

Ms. Allison Mulkey	PAC	No	Allison Mulkey has been an educator in DeKalb County for 20 years. She is currently in her 8th year at DESA. She teaches 5th grade science and social studies. Allison also dedicates her time as a coach for the 6th grade Lego League Team, the digital liaison for the school, and currently serves on the DESA PAC. She has a son in 7th grade at Chamblee Middle School. She is passionate about teaching and understands how important it is for students to find their voice and learn how to advocate for themselves
Mr Darryle Gayle	Student	Yes	Darryle Gayle has Attended DESA for 9 years.
Ms. Zandra Taylor-Ayoko	Performing Arts Teacher	No	Zandra Taylor-Ayoko is a performing arts teacher who teaches dance. She is in her 35 th year of teaching. She is also one of the original staff members of DESA.
Mr. Marquis Jackson	Parent	Yes	Marquis Jackson, a prolific author, captivations speaker, and devoted father of four, is a product of Dekalb County schools. He calls the vibrant Stonecrest community home, where he's committed to giving back. Marquis's heart lies with his alma mater, Bob Mathis Elementary, where he mentors young black males, instilling core principles and guiding them towards success. His 10-year-old daughter, L. Jackson, attends the electric DESA and is a member of the band. Mr. Jackson & his family are active members and supporters of DESA's PTA.
Ms. Danielle Bostein	Parent	Yes	Danielle Botstein Tamez and her 6th grade student have been active members of the DESA community for 7 years Since her daughter started at DESA, Ms. Botstein served for 3 years as Vice President of the PTA, Co-chair of the DESA beautification committee and has spearheaded various fundraising events and community service activities for the school
Dr. Samantha Fitts	Parent	Yes	Dr. Samantha Fitts has a 3 rd grader attending Dekalb Elementary School of the Arts (DESA). She is an active member of the PTSA. Samantha resides in Ellenwood and works as a Special Education Coordinator with a local school district. Her daughter has attended DESA since kindergarten.
Mr. Josh Stifter	Parent	Yes	Josh Stifter has two children who attend DESA, a 2nd grader and a 5th grader. Him and his family live in the Morningside community. He is the lead producer for the video department of an automated systems company, as well as an independent filmmaker. His children love taking part in the plays and activities at DESA.