



For Immediate Release: Sept. 28, 2018

Contact: Stephaan Harris | (202) 357-7504 | stephaan.harris@ed.gov

Five Educators and Community Leaders Appointed to Board That Oversees The Nation’s Report Card

(WASHINGTON) – Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos today appointed a chief state school officer, a principal, a science and technology engagement expert, and two classroom teachers to the National Assessment Governing Board, which oversees the only continuing, nationally representative evaluation of U.S. students’ knowledge.

The Governing Board is a nonpartisan body that works independently from the U.S. Department of Education to set policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as The Nation’s Report Card. NAEP makes objective information on student performance in nearly a dozen subjects publicly available and compares student achievement among states, large urban districts, and various student groups. The 26-member Governing Board is responsible for deciding which subjects NAEP assesses, determining the assessments’ content, setting achievement levels that describe student performance, and pursuing new ways to make NAEP results meaningful to the public.

“I’m pleased to welcome this diverse group of leaders from across the country to the National Assessment Governing Board,” Secretary DeVos said. “The Board plays an important role in assessing student achievement, and I am confident that their collective experience will be a valuable asset as we work to ensure that all students have equal access to a great education that gives them the opportunity to reach their fullest potential.”

This year’s Governing Board appointees include four new members and one re-appointed member—Tonya Matthews, the Board’s current vice chair. The appointees’ terms begin on Oct. 1, 2018, and end on Sept. 30, 2022. The appointees and the roles they represent on the Board are:

- **Paul Gasparini, Secondary School Principal:** Gasparini is the principal of Jamesville-DeWitt High School in Dewitt, N.Y., a position he has held for 17 years. Gasparini chairs the Central New York High School Principals Consortium, and his accolades include being named state high school principal of the year by the School Administrators Association of New York State.
- **Julia Keleher, Chief State School Officer:** Keleher was appointed as Puerto Rico’s secretary of education in December 2016. She has more than 20 years of experience in education at the federal, state, district, and school levels. Keleher is also an adjunct professor at The George Washington University’s Business School and Graduate School of Education and Human Development.

- **Tonya Matthews, General Public Representative:** Matthews joined the Governing Board in 2014. She is the founder of The STEMInista Project—an initiative to engage girls’ interest in science and technology careers. Mostly recently, Matthews served as president and chief executive officer of the Michigan Science Center, a science museum for children and young adults in Detroit.
- **Mark Miller, Eighth-Grade Teacher:** Miller is a mathematics teacher and chair of the mathematics department at Cheyenne Mountain Junior High School in Colorado Springs, Colo. Miller has more than 20 years of experience teaching mathematics at the junior-high level. Miller is a National Board Certified Teacher and serves on a standard-setting panel for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. His accolades include being nominated for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science.
- **Nardi Routten, Fourth-Grade Teacher:** Routten is a fourth-grade teacher at Chester A. Moore Elementary in Fort Pierce, Fla. She has taught third- and fourth-graders in St. Lucie County for more than 20 years. Routten, a National Board Certified Teacher, has received local and national recognition for her excellence in teaching, including the Milken Educator Award in 2014.

“We are excited to have such a breadth of talent and expertise join the Board and contribute to a group of leaders who are dedicated to maintaining NAEP’s rigor and quality, while making the assessment useful and relevant for the public,” said Lisa Stooksberry, deputy executive director for the Governing Board.

Every year, the Governing Board conducts a nationwide search for Board nominees. After the nominations period ends, the Governing Board narrows the pool of nominees to a list of finalists from which the Education Secretary selects Board members.

The Governing Board is now accepting nominations for Board members whose terms will begin Oct. 1, 2019. To learn more about the open Board positions and the nomination process, visit <http://bit.ly/JoinTheBoard11>. Nominations are due by 5 p.m. EST on Oct. 31, 2018.

###

The National Assessment Governing Board is an independent, nonpartisan board whose members include governors, state legislators, local and state school officials, educators, business representatives and members of the general public. Congress created the 26-member Governing Board in 1988 to set policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress. For more information about the Governing Board, visit www.nagb.org.