

## **Community Fights to Save Harris County Department of Education Leaders and Organizations to Hold Press Conference on County Issues**

**WHO:** #HoustonStrong Community, Parents, and Organizations including Indivisible Houston, Black Lives Matter Houston, Pantsuit Republic Houston, FIEL, Gulf Coast AFL-CIO, Harris County Young Dems, Sharpstown Democrats, Katy Area Democrats, Indivisible Katy Huddle

**WHAT:** Press conference before Harris County Department of Education Meeting (HCDE)

**WHEN AND WHERE:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 12 PM in front of HCDE (6300 Irvington Dr.)

Advocates are calling to:

- Restore the department's representation in Austin by rehiring HillCo; Four board members, George Moore, Don Sumners, Josh Flynn, and Michael Wolfe voted in the January meeting to cancel the contract for representation in Austin. During the last legislative session, Paul Bettencourt put forth two bills to sunset the department of education, which would effectively end funding for all programs and services. Paul Bettencourt is now on the education committee, and expected to send more sunset bills.
- Maintain current legal representation on the board; The current legal counsel is an unbiased education specialist. The quorum of four is working to replace her with partisan political players. We are here to tell the board we want no more political games with public education funds.
- And Save the Department and all of the services it brings to 25 ISDs. Low-income, single-parent, and ESL families will be most affected by HCDE being defunded. We have to protect the most vulnerable among us from efforts to privatize education.

At the January meeting, in a surprise move, the board selected rookie trustee Josh Flynn to be President. Josh Flynn called an emergency meeting February 11<sup>th</sup> to replace PFC board members and award the attorney's contract. The meeting was adjourned early.

### **SPEAKING:**

Andrea Duhon- Parent and Community advocate.

Cesar Espinosa- Director of FIEL, Familias, Immigrantes, y Estudiantes en la lucha

Zeph Capo- President, Houston Federation of Teachers

Jennifer Dorning- President, Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO

Fran Watson- Attorney, sociopolitical activist

You must sign up to speak AT LEAST 10 minutes prior to the 1pm board meeting. Arrive to the fourth floor with ample time as there may be a line to sign up. Please let your voice be heard.