

Minneapolis Public School Board candidates square off

Written by Ivan Phifer
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The Minneapolis Urban League, 2100 Plymouth Ave. N, hosted a forum for Minneapolis Public School Board candidates.

The forum was moderated by newly-elected NAACP Minneapolis Chapter President Booker T. Hodges and NAACP staffer, Al Flowers. The candidates running to serve on the school board are Carla Bates, Kim Ellison, Eli Kaplan and Doug Mann.

Mann, a former member of the NAACP, was previously active on the Education Advocacy Committee for a year and a half. Mann is endorsed by the Green Party, the Democratic Socialists of America and the New Progressive Alliance.



"I ran several times for the school board to address chronic problems with it," said Mann.

Bates is an incumbent, elected in 2008 to the school board. She has three children, one who graduated from South High School and two currently enrolled. "I ran for the school board after 10 years of being a parent-advocate and being frustrated with the system," said Bates.

Bates pointed out that the school district's operating budget is as large the city's operating budget, about \$725 million, with over 3,000 employees.

"Running that school district and making sure it is working for the students of Minneapolis is very crucial," said Bates. "It is about the future of our city."

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