



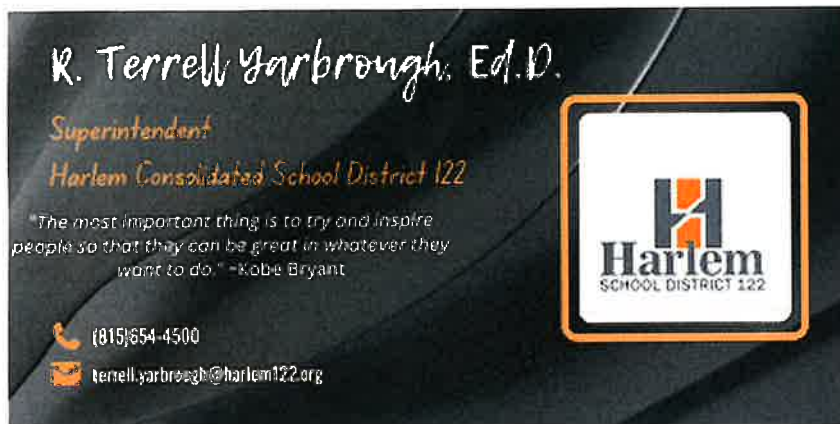
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## Fwd: School Board Meeting January 13 - Public Comment

2 messages

Terrell Yarbrough <terrell.yarbrough@harlem122.org>  
 To: Kris Arduino <Kris.Arduino@harlem122.org>

Mon, Jan 13, 2025 at 3:48 PM



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From: Paul Hofmann &lt;pdhofmann2020@gmail.com&gt;

Date: Mon, Jan 13, 2025 at 3:44 PM

Subject: School Board Meeting January 13 - Public Comment

To: boardofeducation@harlem122.org &lt;boardofeducation@harlem122.org&gt;

Paul Hofmann

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'My name is Paul Hofmann, and I'm a candidate for the Harlem School Board. I'm running alongside Katie Littlefield, Karen Bell, and Jeremy Hissong. Together, we bring a diverse set of experiences to the table—ranging from being a parent, grandparent of Harlem District students and a former school board member. This diversity of experiences and community relationships is part of our strength, as it allows us to approach challenges from multiple perspectives.

My candidacy also was objected to by Megan Hastings. Some will consider me an outsider so I feel that I should answer the question: *Why am I running for this office?* I sum it up as an acronym that has been in the news lately – H-1B Visas. H-1B visas are used to fill highly skilled worker positions in companies because of a lack of domestic supply. This problem has existed for decades and has been an issue for the Electrical Engineering society that I am a member of. This fact drives my concern for the current state of education in our community and our nation.

As you know our students face significant disadvantages because of poor English/Language Arts (ELA) and Math comprehension scores. Current and future generations of Harlem students will struggle to compete in an increasingly global and demanding workforce if this trend is not reversed. I don't believe that this is beyond our reach. Plus, we all know that Math and ELA skills are equally important to our vocational training programs.

Our platform centers on several key priorities that have worked in the past and can work in the future:

- Improving academic quality and supporting merit-based advancement,
- Protecting students, teachers, and administrators from violence and threats,
- Pushing back against mandates that detract from valuable instructional time, and
- Reducing spending and taxation rates to ensure fiscal responsibility.

I attended the Committee of the Whole meeting last week and I heard several important statements. First, several speakers' spoke of the importance at looking at each student as equally capable and having expectations for that student that are not lowered because of our perceptions. Second, 2020 was disastrous for Harlem students as Illinois School Board of Education statistics clearly show. Harlem is within 1 or 2% of 2019 scores as of 2024. But, even when 2019 levels are achieved, this still puts large numbers of Harlem students unprepared to compete.

That's why I am running.

Thank you.'

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