



Mission

The mission of the Worcester Education Collaborative is to advance excellence and equity in education for all Worcester Public School students.

Vision

WEC envisions a transformational education community that enables all Worcester Public School students to achieve their full potential.



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13TH ANNUAL MEETING



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Worcester Education Equity Roundtable (WEER)

WEER is a coalition of partners—colleges, universities, cultural organizations, nonprofits, businesses, youth, and families—working to align key programs, outreach, and advocacy efforts with a commitment to equity for historically marginalized people in the PreK-12 public education system in the City of Worcester.

The Roundtable is currently focused on cultivating a community-district partnership with the new Superintendent of Schools to promote excellence and equity in Worcester’s K-12 education system. Phase one of this work involves supporting the Superintendent’s transition to the district, laying the groundwork for a new strategic vision, and developing a shared community-district learning ecosystem to build capacity for fostering student-centered, equitable environments.

WEER Partners

Action! by Design
Adam Institute, Clark University
African Community Education
Black Excellence Academy
Boys & Girls Club of Worcester
City of Worcester / Division of Youth Opportunities
Community Legal Aid
Edward Street
Girls Inc
HOPE Coalition, Clark University
Latino Education Institute
Main IDEA
Mass Audubon
Mass Hire
No Evil Project
Parent/Prof Advocacy League Worcester
Shannon Initiative, Clark University
SHINE Initiative
Showing Up for Racial Justice
The Education Trust / MA Education
The Village
Equity Partnership
Together for Kids
United Way of Central Massachusetts
Worcester ACTS
Worcester Area Mission Society
Worcester Art Museum
Worcester Education Justice Alliance
Worcester Interfaith
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester Public Library
Worcester Regional Research Bureau
WPI STEM Education Center
YMCA of Central Massachusetts
Youth Connect
YWCA



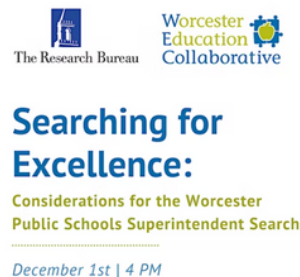
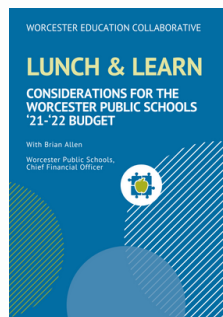
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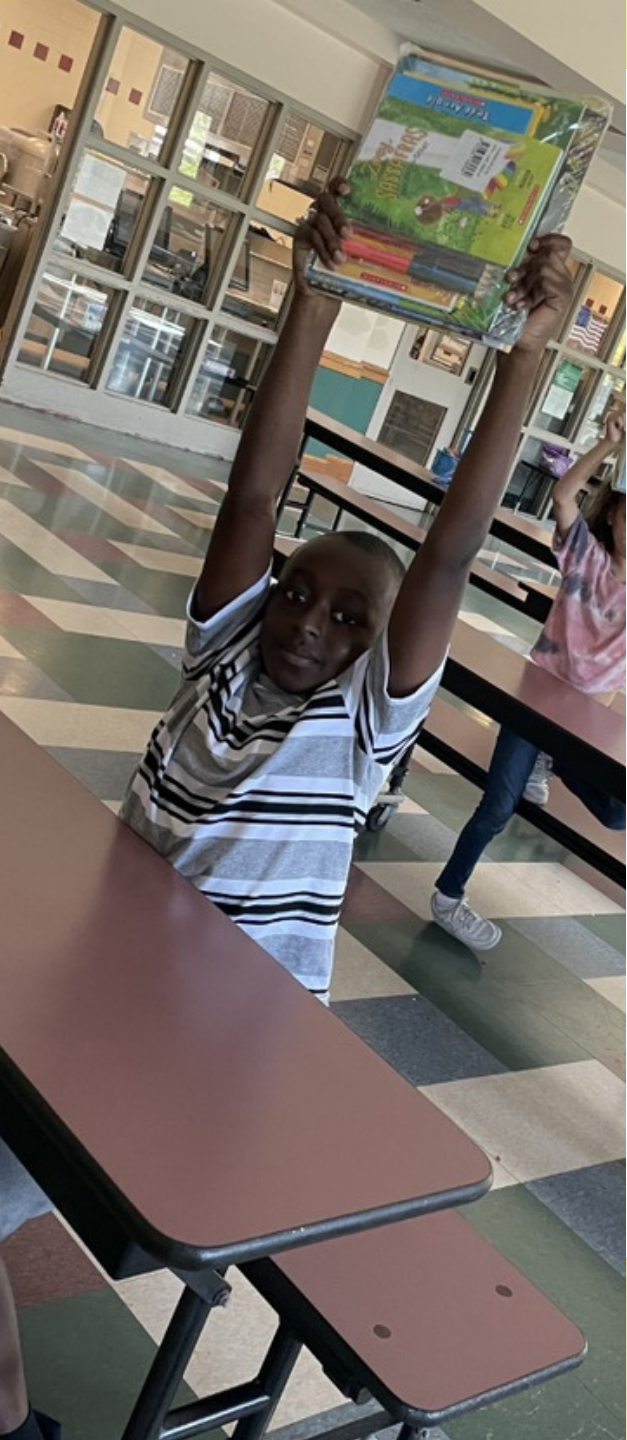
Community Capacity Building

WEC has a well-earned reputation as a knowledgeable contributor to the work of education in Worcester. WEC tackles issues by organizing regular events and producing resources to arm the public, along with state and local leaders, with information about key education equity issues. Some of our work in this area includes:

- 3 Community briefings on the WPS budget and effective district leadership
- Co-hosting a Worcester School Committee debate
- Contributing to the development of a Family Funding Toolkit
- Hosting the public education module of the Leadership Worcester program
- Running 6 sets of our Understanding Trauma Sensitive Practices training



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Reading Together

Funded by the AbbVie Foundation, WEC's Reading Together program reaches roughly 1,300 children at 7 Worcester elementary schools each year.

Students and families engage in reading activities and receive a selection of new, high-interest books.

During the Summer months, Reading Together distributed 11,000 books—intended to hedge learning loss during the school break.

Made possible by a generous contribution from

abbvie



1,300
STUDENTS
SERVED



11,000
BOOKS
PROVIDED



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Woo-Labs

Led by WEC, Woo-Labs is a network of partners advancing educational and racial equity by increasing their capacity to provide high-quality, culturally responsive, project-based learning in out-of-school time.

Woo-Labs' targets K-6 students experiencing persistent gaps in opportunity and achievement. WEC supports programs through professional development, assistance implementing a shared measurement-for-improvement data system, and the provision of a college student intern.



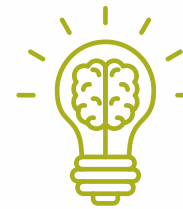
2,000
STUDENTS
SERVED



30+
HANDS-ON PBL
PROJECTS



11
HOST
PARTNERS



6 in 10
STUDENTS MADE SIGNIFICANT
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SKILL
GAINS



100%
IMPROVEMENT IN ALL 13
PROGRAM OBSERVATION
CATEGORIES





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Edwards Street Childcare Services

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Harvard-Pilgrim Health Care

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Assistant Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion
UMass Chan Medical School

Alex Richardson

Director of Baseball and Gameday Operations
WooSox

Joshua Croke

Founder
Action! by Design

Thomas Del Prete

Retired Professor of Education and Director of the
Adam Center for Urban Teaching and School Practice
Clark University

Patricia Eppinger

Consultant

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Ron Waddell

Founder/Executive Director
Legendary Legacies

Alex Zequeira

Headmaster
St. John's High School

Natasha Ushomirsky

State Director for Massachusetts
The Education Trust

Karen Pelletier

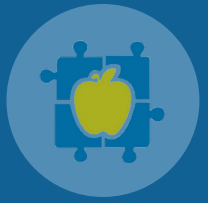
Executive Vice President
Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce

Elizabeth Wambui

Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Fontaine Brothers



**WORCESTER EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE
13TH ANNUAL MEETING**



WORCESTER EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVE'S

13TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 26, 2022



Agenda

Welcome | Jennifer Davis Carey, WEC Executive Director

Advocacy in Action | Kim Davenport, WEC Board Chair

Keynote Address | Ron Walker, Director, COSEBOC

Ron will share his lessons learned from supporting school leaders serving boys of color, and how relationship building, cultural relevance, and centering the student voice is critical to building an equitable education ecosystem.

Critical Conversation | Facilitated by Thu Nguyen

A guided conversation with Dr. Rachel Monárrez, Superintendent of Worcester Public Schools, and Ron Walker.

Audience Q&A | Facilitated by Thu Nguyen

Closing Remarks | Jennifer Davis Carey, WEC Executive Director

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FOUNDATION, CORPORATE, AND PUBLIC GRANT FUNDERS
THAT SUPPORT OUR WORK THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

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WORCESTER
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ESLER
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

EPPINGER FAMILY FOUNDATION

ALDEN TRUST
CENTENE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
COALITION FOR SCHOOLS EDUCATING BOYS OF
COLOR (COSEBOC)
DCU FOR KIDS FOUNDATION
FLETCHER FAMILY FOUNDATION
FRED HARRIS DANIELS FOUNDATION
FULLER FAMILY FOUNDATION
HOCHÉ-SCOFIELD FOUNDATION
MA DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION
MA DEPARTMENT OF EARLY EDUCATION AND
CARE
NELLIE MAE EDUCATION FOUNDATION
STODDARD FAMILY FOUNDATION
UNUM
WORCESTER RED SOX

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ESLER
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

EPPINGER FAMILY FOUNDATION



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Kim Davenport

*Board Chair, Worcester
Education Collaborative*



Advocacy in Action

Kim Davenport brings more than 25 years of experience in early education and non-profit management. Serving as Vice President of Initiatives & Aligned Programs at Edward Street, she leads city-wide birth to 3rd grade alignment efforts for educators, community organizations, and leaders to connect and strengthen the continuum of education for young children and families. She represents Central MA on several state-level advisories to impact policy solutions and systems change. Kim serves as the Chair for the Worcester Education Collaborative's Board and on the Executive Committee for the Worcester Education Equity Roundtable.



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ron Walker

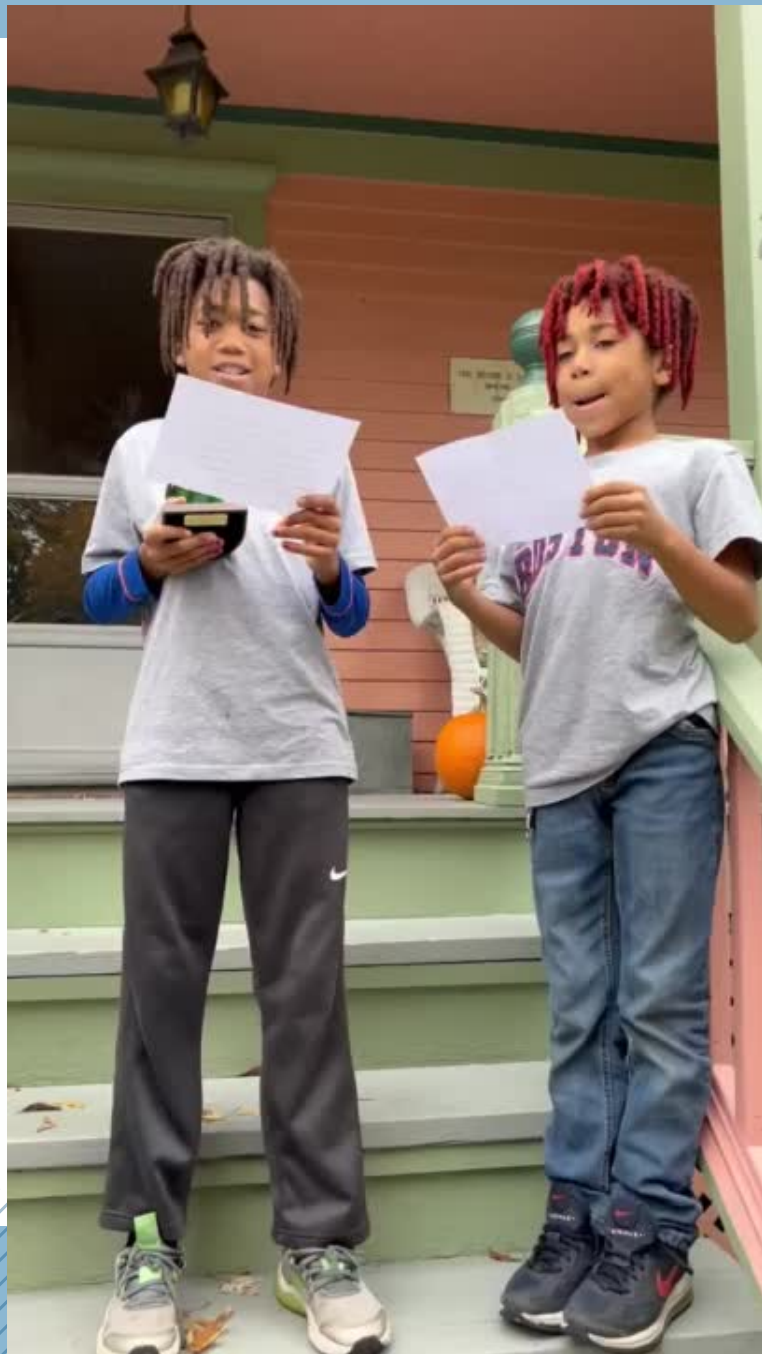
*Founder & Executive Director,
Coalition of Schools Educating
Boys of Color*

“There is a difference between schooling and education. Schooling too often leads one to compliant thinking, education leads one to liberation.”

- Ron Walker



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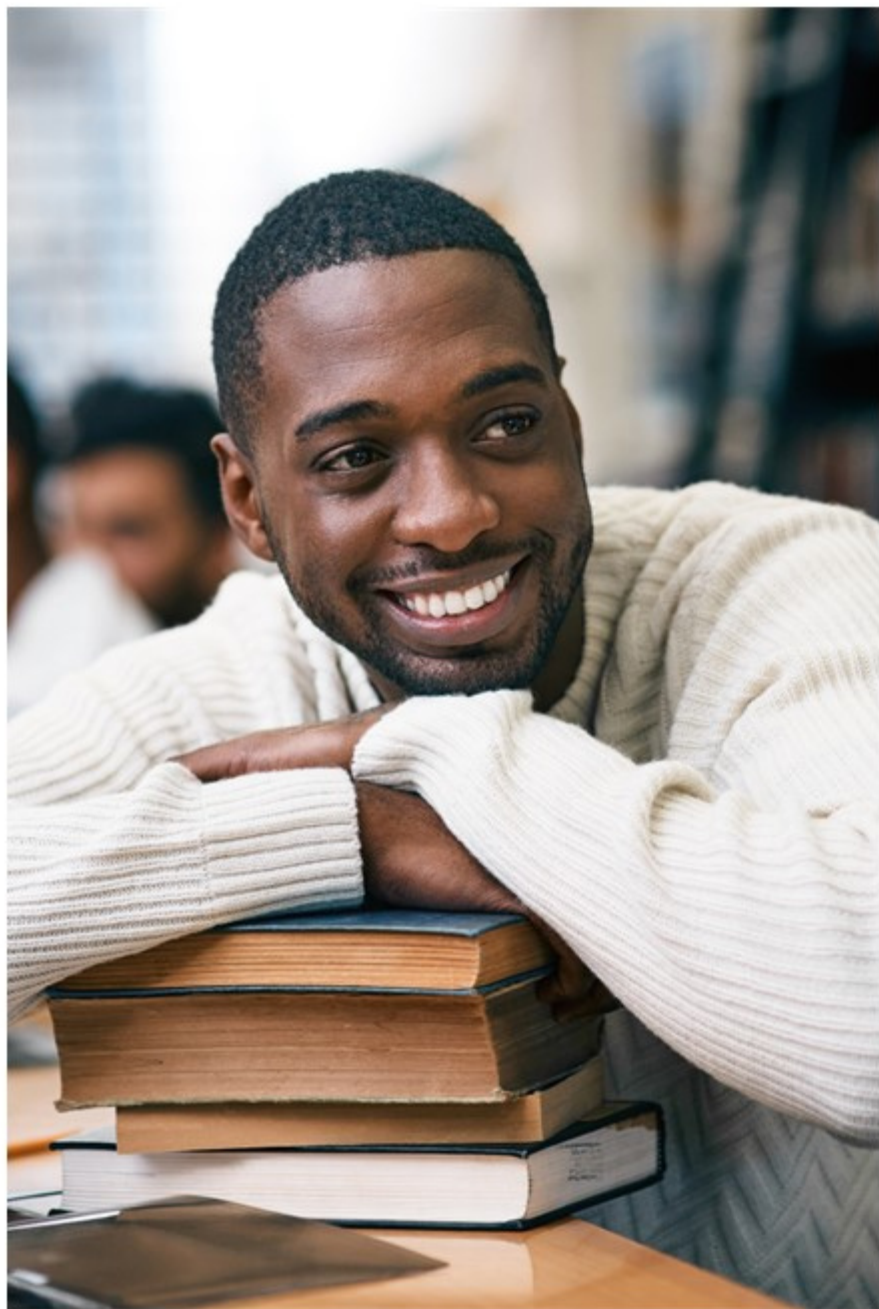


**APPLE
OF A DIFFERENT
COLOR**

Award



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Educating All Students in the Era of Pandemics

Introduction

Who is Ron Walker?



Solomon and
Delores
Walker



Solomon's Plan



Delores's Dream

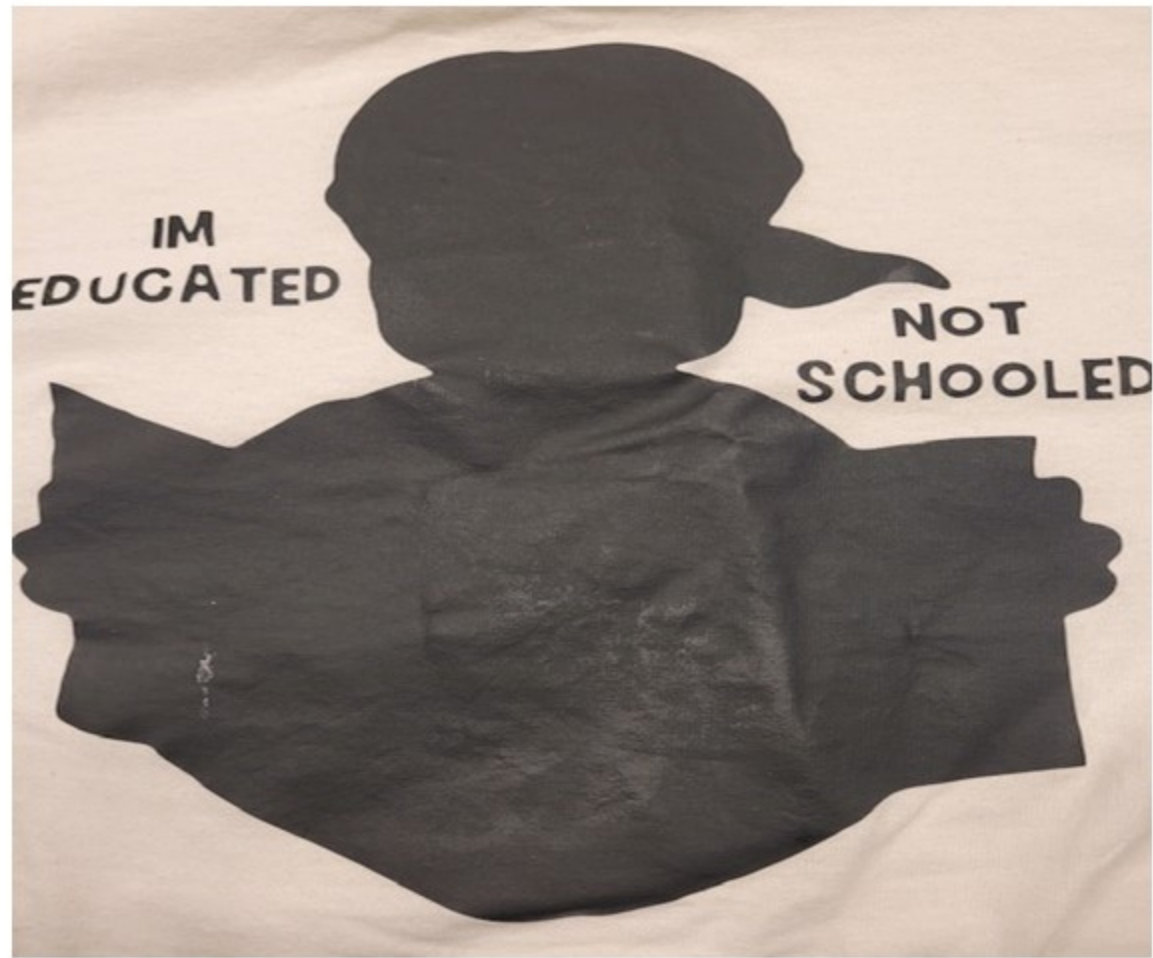


SOLOMON'S PLAN

*A Gift of Education from
a Father to His Son*

A Memoir by Ron Walker





Being educated is far different from being schooled and one must not consider them synonymous

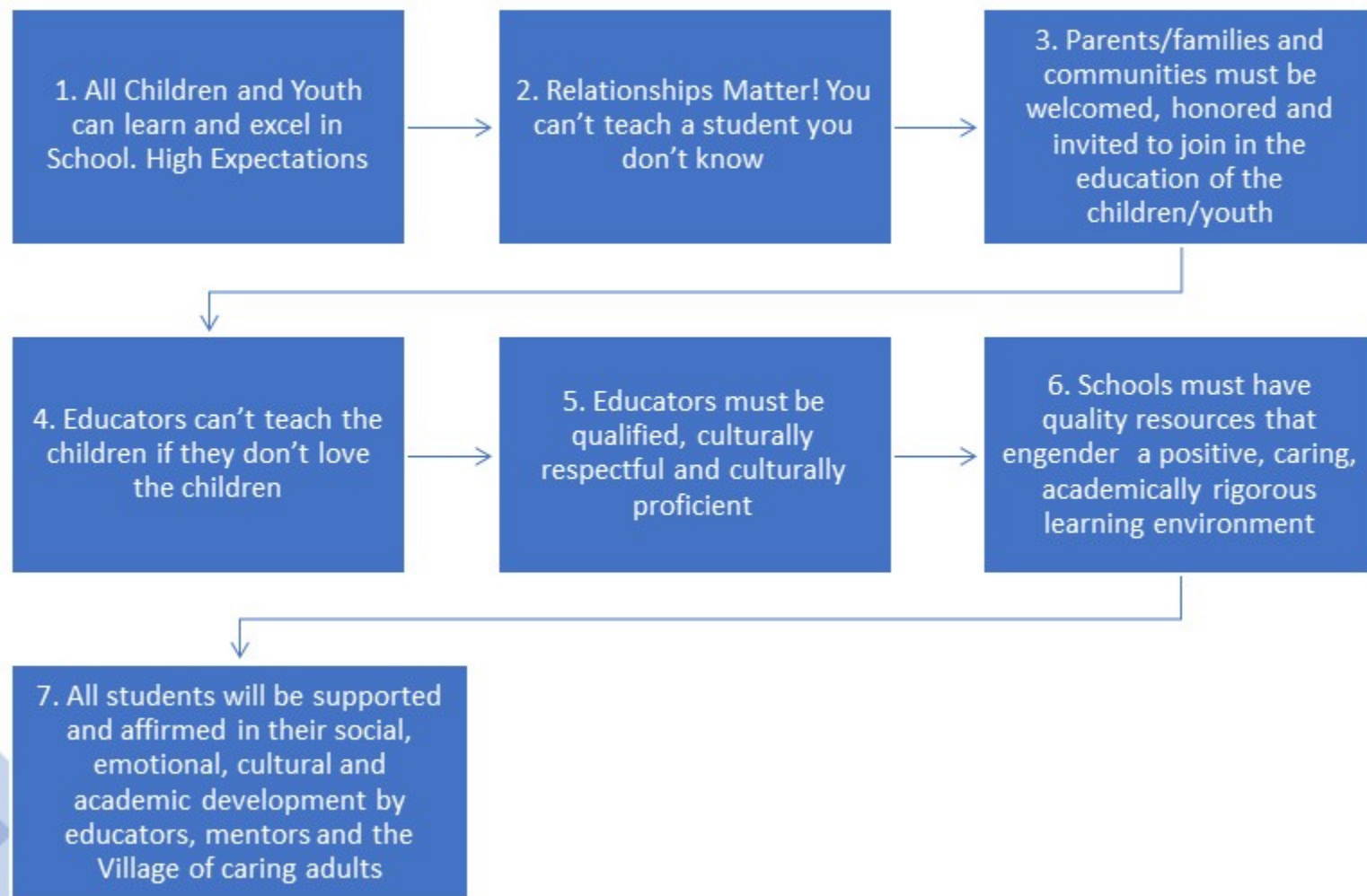
Ron as a Young Teacher





Ron as a Principal

My Education Core Tenents



What Inspired Me to Start COSEBOC?

My Mother's
encouragement- Mother to
Son poem

Memories of Emmett Till

Low expectations set for
me by my HS Guidance
Counselor

My Education at an HBCU
and study of Frederick
Douglass

My Travels to Mississippi in
1967 and experiencing
racism

The growing education gap
between boys and young
men of color and their
white counterparts

The rising suspension,
expulsion and drop of male
students of color especially
black males, leading to the
pathway to prison

The loss of 2 of Black male
students, Wendell Holiday
and Kevin Johnson, one to
gang violence and one to
prison



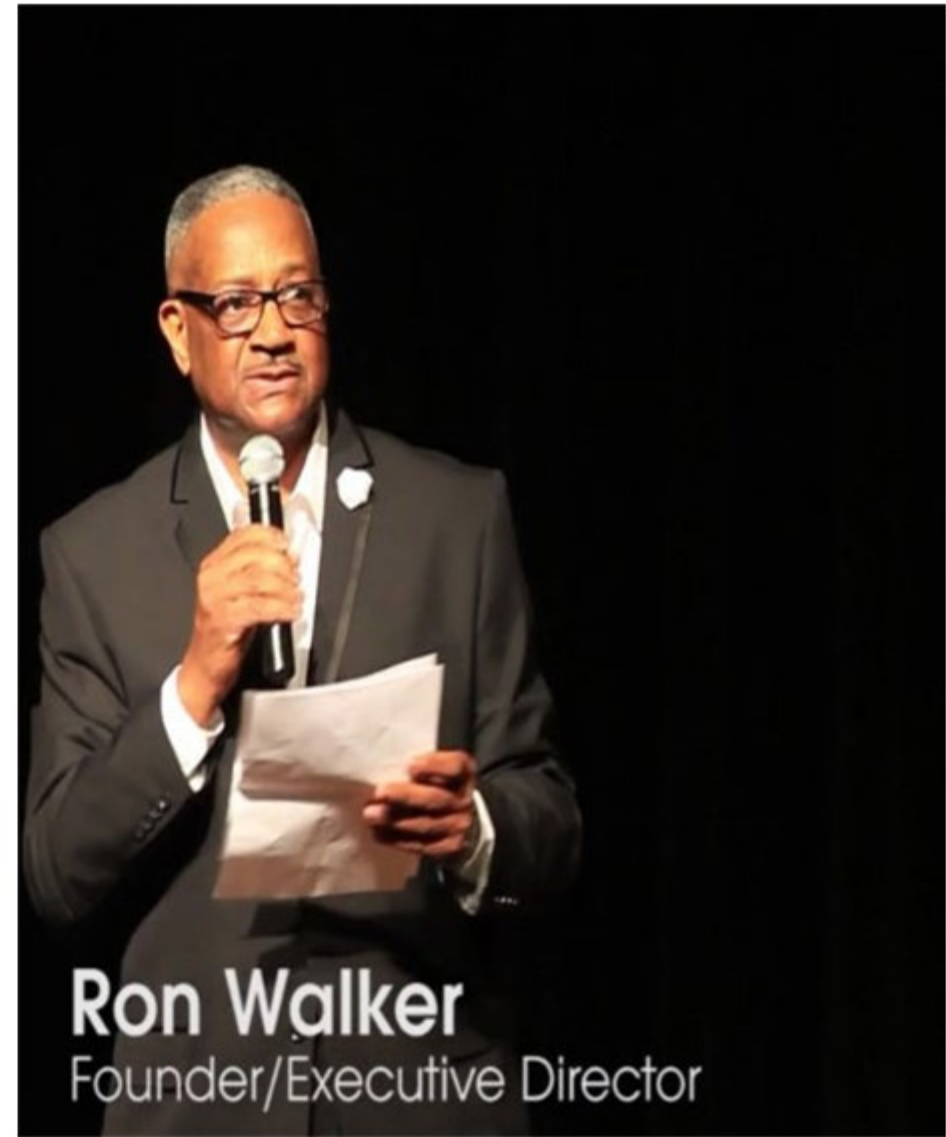
STANDARDS THE UNCOMMON CORE

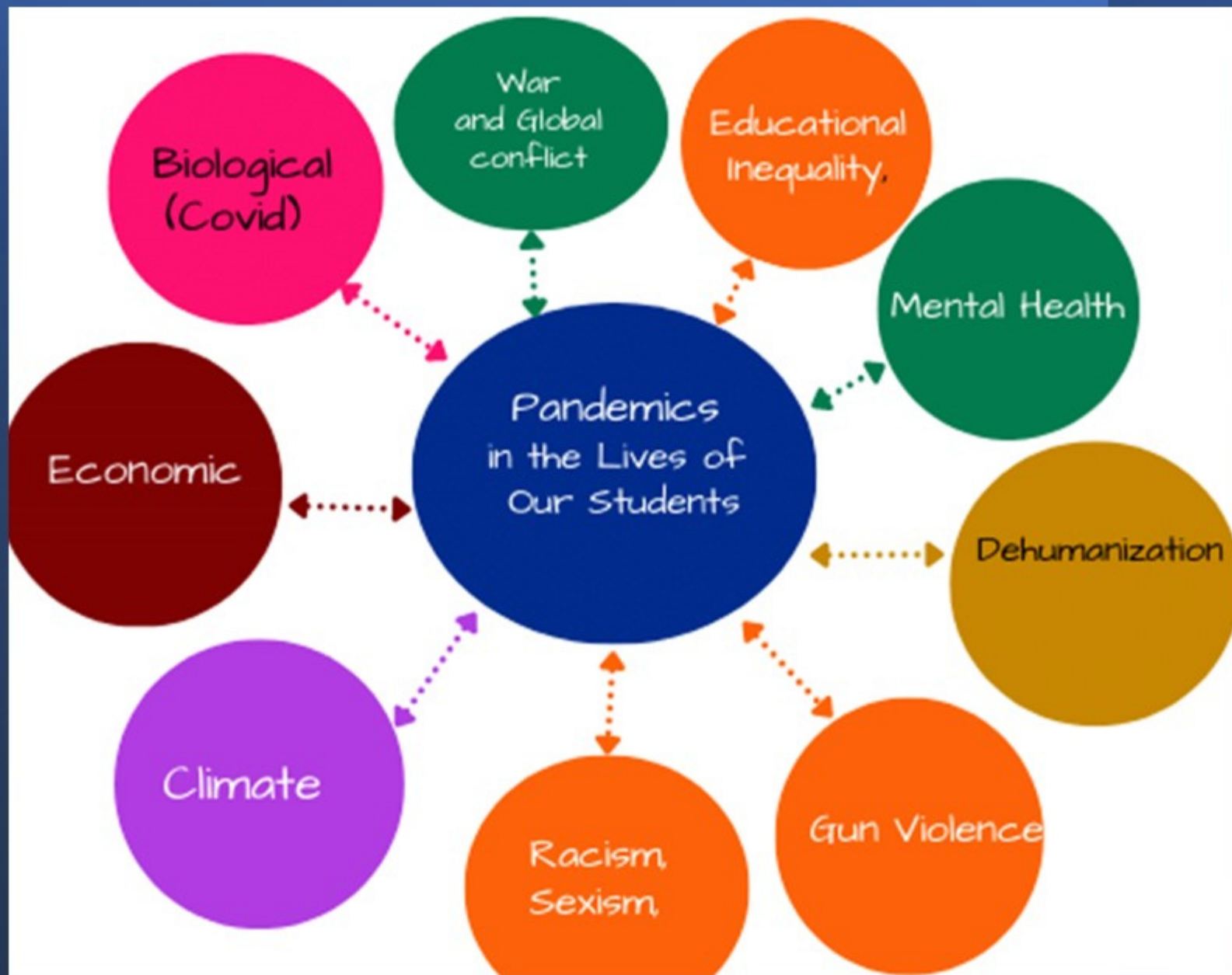
FOR SCHOOLS EDUCATING BOYS OF COLOR
4TH EDITION



**COSEBOC
was
founded in
2007**

**The Mission of
COSEBOC is to
advance the social,
emotional, cultural
and academic
development of
boys and young
men of color.**





Evidence of Success in a COSEBOC Awards School



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Cambridge, MA 02142

Phone: 855-267-3262

Fax: 855-267-3262

Website: <https://coseboc.org/>



Critical Conversation

Featured Speaker

Rachel H. Monárrez, PhD *Superintendent, Worcester Public Schools*



Rachel H. Monárrez, PhD believes in the possibility of every child, and this approach will guide her daily interactions as the Superintendent for Worcester Public Schools. Beginning her twenty-ninth year of education, Dr. Monárrez holds a vast knowledge base for academic excellence, professional development and collaborative practices. Rachel has served as a teacher, school principal, Director of English Learner Programs and Special Education, Assistant Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent.

As a social justice champion, she works collaboratively with all stakeholders to foster a culture of equity, academic excellence and high expectations for all learners. Dr. Monárrez received a BA, History from UC Irvine, an MA in Education and Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University with an emphasis in Urban Education.

Facilitator

Thu Nguyen *Worcester City Council*



Thu is a proud Vietnamese refugee, an artist, a youth worker, and the first non-binary candidate for Worcester City Council At-Large. Thu came to Worcester at the age of one when their family immigrated to the United States as refugees. Thu grew up in Main South and graduated from Claremont Academy and Clark University.

Over the last decade, Thu has dedicated their career to serving our young people, from facilitating after school programming at the Worcester Youth Center to hiring young people for Recreation Worcester to work at our local parks. Most recently, during COVID-19, Thu helped build Mutual Aid Worcester, which has raised nearly \$75,000 to support families in Worcester.





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