



Warren Sturman
Commissioner- District 4

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State of Vermont
Office of Governor Phil Scott
109 State Street, Pavilion
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April 22, 2024

Attention: Senate Education Committee
Senator Brian Campion (Chair)
Senator Martine Gulick (Vice Chair)
Senator Nader Hashim
Senator Terry Williams
Senator David Weeks

To the Vermont Senate Education Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Warren Sturman, and I am the elected City Commissioner, District 4, Fort Lauderdale. It is my pleasure to recommend Ms. Zoie Saunders for the position of Secretary of Education for the State of Vermont.

Ms. Saunders has served as the Chief Education Officer for the City of Fort Lauderdale for five years. She is also a constituent, lives in my neighborhood, and sends her children to the same public elementary school that my children attended.

In her role as Chief Education Officer for the City of Fort Lauderdale, Ms. Saunders worked tirelessly building partnerships between Fort Lauderdale's 23 public schools and Broward County Public Schools. A few highlights:

- Negotiated joint use agreements between the City of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County Public Schools to provide more park and open space with playgrounds and other amenities for school children and community.
- Through her leadership, she collaborated with the City of Fort Lauderdale Education Advisory Board and the Broward County Public Schools to bring much needed programs and facility improvements to many of our neglected public schools. She was instrumental in getting a new cafeteria built in one of our high schools; and



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- Ms. Saunders collaborated with the City of Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, Aviation professionals and Aviation educators to implement a very successful and unique Aviation Program whereby students would receive classroom and real hands-on training at the Executive Airport while pursuing their degree in Aviation. She worked alongside community stakeholders to ensure this program was implemented within the public school system and not in the Charter School system as originally designated.

These are only a few of Ms. Saunders' accomplishments. She has a special talent for working with communities, facilitating conversations, and building successful programs. She is a transformational change agent that is committed to building lasting relationships for students, families, educators, and civic leaders. She understands the importance of creating opportunities through the many challenges education systems experience.

I am confident that under Ms. Saunders' leadership, she will continue the great work that has been done before her and pave the way for brighter futures for all students in Vermont.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at WSturman@FortLauderdale.gov or call (954) 828-5930.

Yours in service

Dr. Warren Sturman
District IV – Commissioner
City of Fort Lauderdale