



MEDIA STATEMENT

For Immediate Release:

October 5, 2026

Finalists announced for 2027 student advisor to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education

Charlotte, NC –Six juniors and four sophomores have been named finalists to become the 2027 student advisor to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education.

The Board received approximately 73 applications from students representing each of the six board member districts and advocating for a wide range of priorities. High school students from across the district will vote for the candidate they feel best represents their interests. CMS is one of the few districts where high school students determine the winner of the student advisor position.

“Our students bring experiences, ideas and perspectives that no adult board member can bring to the dais,” said board member Anna London, chair of the board’s Intergovernmental Relationships Committee. “The student advisor ensures their voice is part of our conversations and reminds us that students are not only the reason for our work, but important partners in shaping the future of our schools.”

Also serving on the committee are 2026 Student Advisor Inchara Gopinath; [GenerationNation](#) Executive Director Amy Farrell; the 2025-26 CMS Teacher of the Year Rebeckah Hauss; the 2026 CMS Principal of the Year LaTresha Wilson; and Executive Director of Government Affairs and Policy Charles Jeter.

The student-advisor position was created by the Board of Education in 2016. The winner of this year’s competition will be the 11th student advisor to the board. Under board policy, the student advisor may advocate for students, offer opinions and ideas, and provide student perspective for board decisions. The student advisor is not a voting member of the Board.

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The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education

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The 2027 selected student advisor will serve January through December. The successful candidate is expected to prepare for and attend regular meetings of the board and participate in board discussions. The student advisor also serves as an officer of the [Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council](#), CMS's Unified Student Advisory Council, and CMS partner GenerationNation.

Candidates will campaign from today, October 1 through November 3, the date for North Carolina's midterm general election. All CMS students in grades nine through 12 can cast a vote. The voting period runs from October 15 to the date of the midterm general election. The winner will be announced November 4.

In alphabetical order by last name, the finalists and their high schools are listed below:

Tahirah Azim, West Charlotte

Kyle Boone-McDougall, Hough

Luka Bozovic, Ballantyne Ridge

Aser Mahmoud, East Meck

Sreenika Pandiri, Providence

Cullen Pyles, Independence

Achyuta Raajkumar, Charlotte Early Engineering College (CEEC)

Avery Scrivener, Myers Park

Taleya Turner, Mallard Creek

Gabi Williams, Phillip O. Berry

Media questions can be directed to boardcomms@cms.k12.nc.us.