

I champion Albany public schools because...

The opportunity:

"My wife and I were Albany public schools parents from 1975 when our oldest son entered school to 1992 when our youngest sons graduated from Albany High. I think that the Albany city school district has had, and continues to have, great opportunities for children, and there is much to be proud of. At the same time, I think that we have not met the needs of too many of our kids and we need to keep recognizing that and work on those things with all due speed.

"We have to do a better job in ensuring that students come to school ready to learn. There are a range of social and emotional services and issues that have to be addressed in order to have children well-prepared for school. It's our goal to encourage students to feel more connected to the school so that they value education. What that means is that we, as educators, have to be more culturally responsive, be more socially responsive and challenge some standard practices."

The achievement:

"I was elected to the Board of Education in 2000, and one of the things I've been most pleased about in my tenure was being one of the prime advocates for the K-8 model that was implemented at North Albany Academy. That model, now pre-K-8, provides an alternative for the students who benefit from remaining in the same building from prekindergarten through grade 8. Much like adding the Montessori school, it provides a great option for kids who might better achieve in that environment.

"I'd like to see us deliver great services to every child in our schools. Whether it's expanding early literacy efforts, like our Readers to Leaders program, supporting pre-K and full-day kindergarten programs, increasing the availability of remedial programs, or just simply getting a broader representation of our student body enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program, there is a lot of work to do. And while there's no single answer for anything, the district needs to continue and expand it's partnering with parents, students and the community to help all students realize their potential."



William Barnette
President, City School District of Albany Board of Education

William Barnette, first elected to the City School District of Albany Board of Education in 2000 and reelected in 2004, has had a distinguished career in public service since 1973, holding various clinical, supervisory, management and executive level positions at the New York State Office of Mental Health and the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). Currently the director of interagency collaboration, he has served as a senior manager and bureau director responsible for interagency projects at the state and federal level in the Division of Prevention and Treatment Services.

statewide director of treatment services, regional director for northeast New York and a program specialist. Prior to joining OASAS, Mr. Barnette worked in clinical treatment positions at the Capital District Psychiatric Center. He holds a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Regents College, a Master of Social Work from the University at Albany School of Social Welfare and is a graduate of the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

His work has been acknowledged on numerous occasions, including Distinguished Alumnus of the Rockefeller College Graduate School of Social Work, University at Albany Excellence in Public Service Award, Governor's African-American Leaders of Excellence in State Service Award and the 2007 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award.