

**PATRICK DOBARD**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NEW SCHOOLS FOR NEW ORLEANS**



Patrick Dobard was named the Chief Executive Officer of New Schools for New Orleans in March 2017 after serving as the Superintendent of the Louisiana Recovery School District (RSD) for five years.

Under Patrick's leadership, RSD schools saw significant progress in transforming the most chronically low performing schools in Louisiana. He focused on solidifying the RSD's role as a portfolio manager and authorizer while ensuring students had equitable access to schools and services. Patrick also led design and implementation of the accountability framework that holds schools accountable for academic, organizational and financial outcomes. In addition, he participated in the initial design of EnrollNOLA, the centralized enrollment system for New Orleans that provides students with equitable, transparent access to schools, and he successfully led the execution of a School Facilities Master Plan, the largest school construction project in our nation's history. Statewide, he oversaw the creation of the Baton Rouge Achievement Zone and helped foster the development of a turnaround zone in Caddo Parish, thus successfully implementing elements of reform statewide and extending the reach of the state to ensure that all students in chronically underperforming

schools are on viable paths to postsecondary opportunities and career readiness.

Patrick has held various roles within the RSD and the Department of Education since joining in 2001, starting as an Education Program Coordinator in Social Studies and climbing the ranks to Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs, Personal Liaison to the State Superintendent, among other roles, and more recently, to Deputy Superintendent of Community and Policy of the RSD. A native of New Orleans, Patrick received his Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with a focus in Social Studies from Southern University in New Orleans and his Master's degree in History from Southern University in Baton Rouge.

**KUNJAN NARECHANIA**  
**ASSISTANT STATE SUPERINTENDENT AND RSD-LOUISIANA SUPERINTENDENT**



Kunjan Narechania was named the Assistant State Superintendent and RSD-Louisiana Superintendent in March 2017. She began work at the Louisiana Department of Education and the Recovery School District in May 2011, and since then she has held the roles of Chief of Staff, Chief Operating Officer and the Assistant Superintendent of Portfolio.

In these capacities, Kunjan worked to set vision, manage and lead the work of the Louisiana Believes plan which unified a fragmented early childhood system, raised expectations for students, further professionalized the training of educators, and expanded opportunities for students in high school. Kunjan also led the work to unify the Recovery School District in New Orleans with the local parish school system thereby establishing the first-of-its-kind school system—one that is a locally governed authorizer of a network of autonomous schools.

Prior to joining the Department of Education, she was the Vice President, Teacher Support and Development at Teach For America, and she held several other leadership positions within Teach for America-Chicago and Teach For America-North Carolina. She started her career as a teacher in Durham, North Carolina. Kunjan holds Bachelor's degrees in Biology and Psychology from the University of Illinois.

**DANA PETERSON**

**ASSISTANT STATE SUPERINTENDENT AND CEO, BATON ROUGE ACHIEVEMENT ZONE**



Dana Peterson was named the Assistant State Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer of the Baton Rouge Achievement Zone in March 2017 after serving as the Deputy Superintendent of External Affairs for the RSD for five years.

In his previous role, Dana was tasked with crafting strategies for engaging parents and community stakeholders in the transformation of low performing schools. Dana was also responsible for developing effective outreach and communication strategies for key Recovery School District policies and initiatives.

Prior to joining the RSD, Dana served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of FirstLine Schools, a mission-driven, non-profit charter school management organization dedicated to creating and inspiring great public schools in New Orleans. While serving as Board Chair of FirstLine Schools, Dana led the charge to build community support for the transformation of Joseph S. Clark High School in the historic Treme community in New Orleans. FirstLine Schools forged a unique partnership with the Clark High School alumni, educators, parents, and community members that resulted in a shared vision for a cohesive school community with increased academic performance for students as its primary goal. Dana brought this approach to his work in the RSD, which resulted in an annual community engagement process that includes parents and community organizations in the selection of high quality charter school operators to turnaround low performing schools.

Dana was also one of the founding members and Chairman of the Charter Board Council, a coalition of non-profit charter school board leaders. Dana currently serves as a member of the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission, and the Louisiana High School Athletic Association Executive Committee. Dana holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of Houston, and a Masters of Business Administration from Tulane University's A.B. Freeman School of Business.