

**MINUTES OF THE PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSHOP MEETING**

June 5, 2024 – 6:08 p.m.
Central Office (First Floor)

Presiding: Comm. Manuel Martinez, President

Present:

Dr. Laurie W. Newell, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Rodney Henderson, Deputy Superintendent
Khalifah Shabazz-Charles, Esq., General Counsel

Comm. Valerie Freeman
Comm. Della McCall
Comm. Joel Ramirez

Comm. Mohammed Rashid
Comm. Nakima Redmon
Comm. Kenneth Simmons, Vice President

Absent:

Comm. Oshin Castillo-Cruz
Comm. Eddie Gonzalez

Student Representative:

Mr. Thaddeus Chestnut

The Salute to the Flag was led by Comm. Martinez.

Comm. Ramirez read the Open Public Meetings Act:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of, and to attend the meetings of the Paterson Public School District, as well as other public bodies at which any business affecting the interest of the public is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this law, the Paterson Public School District has caused adequate and electronic notice of this meeting:

**Workshop Meeting
June 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
90 Delaware Avenue
Paterson, New Jersey**

to be published by having the date, time and place posted in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Paterson, at the entrance of the Paterson Public School offices, on the district's website, and by sending notice of the meeting to the Arab Voice, El Diario, the Italian Voice, the North Jersey Herald & News, and The Record.

Dr. Laurie Newell: Good evening, Commissioners. At this time, I would ask Mr. Dan Juan to do the presentation for the film entry to the Passaic County Teen Arts Festival.

PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

John F. Kennedy High School Film Entry to Passaic County Teen Arts Festival

Mr. Dan Juan: Good evening, Board members. My name is Dan Juan and I would like to introduce you to our students and faculty from John F. Kennedy who will be helping us with the live stream tonight. They are from Communications Pathway. We have their instructor, Richard Solis. We have the Pathways Supervisor, Ms. Acevedo. We have Joshua and Raneem over there. They have set up everything you see today and they are fantastic so we expect a very easy going evening technology-wise. They are also crew members on a production from John F. Kennedy called Submerged Secrets. It's a short film that was entered into the Passaic County Teen Arts Festival and was also entered into the state teen arts festival, which was shown yesterday and today. There's a lot of talent up here.

Comm. Martinez: Thank you all. From what I gathered; you guys are responsible for setting everything up today. If everything goes great, you get all the credit. If something goes wrong, we will blame it on the adults. Thank you very much.

Dr. Newell: Next, Dr. Warren will be presenting the Youth Equity Stewardship Program at John F. Kennedy High School.

Youth Equity Stewardship Program at John F. Kennedy High School

Dr. Cicely Warren: Good evening, Commissioners and community. Youth Equity Stewardship, also known as YES, is an intergenerational art-centered program which allows students to use their creative expression to create change in their school and community. We are in our second cohort and our third year. At this time, we've had 10 schools participate. I would like to call up the YES ambassadors from John F. Kennedy High School to showcase their work. We have advisors Kaela Quince-McMillan, Vice Principal, as well as Sharon Allen, and Nicole Fuller. They will introduce the ambassadors.

Ms. Nicole Fuller: Good evening to everyone present. We thank you so much for giving us your time to listen to our students and stewards unpack some important information that I'm sure you'll enjoy.

Mr. Sharon Allen: Good evening, Board. YES is a student advocate organization that strives to enable equity in educational spaces. Equity is when everyone gets what they need instead of getting what everyone else is getting. We're presenting all of our members. We have Lajay, Annyiah, Josue, Ricardo, Amiyha, Helen, Taspia, Lynai, and Pierre.

Ms. Annyiah Terry: Good evening all. I'm Annyiah Terry, an original steward of YES. YES has been an experience like never before. It has its ups and downs over the years. My first year as a sophomore, I was introduced to YES. As a sophomore, the YES program wasn't as beneficial and organized as this new and reformed entity we have now. During that year, YES was a pilot where we learned patience and understanding as we tried to navigate our way to understanding the purpose of YES and what it stood for. I didn't actually understand it back then. Maybe it was because of my comprehension. When I progressed to my junior year is when I actually understood the meaning of YES and what it stood for. I learned to come out of my shell. I learned to find my voice aside from my original voice. I learned the voice that I found was the voice of others. This opportunity opened amongst all of my friends, students I didn't

know but got to understand their concerns as well. Last year, Ms. Allen and Ms. Quincy-McMillan pushed us to voice our concerns, things we found not equitable in our school. Not every school is perfect, but Kennedy is on the verge of becoming a great space of advocacy and equity. The work we started was starting with our equity wall. We went through the deserts of going from class to class and asking everyone what are some things that we can change. What are some things that we can continue to keep and strive to improve in the future? One thing that was a problem in Kennedy was our bathroom rule. The bathroom rule was 10 minutes in the beginning and 10 minutes at the end you were not able to use the bathroom. Now we have 5 and 5 due to the hard work of my peers. Our ultimate goal in YES is to break down this equity wall so that Kennedy can grow and embrace all the students as well as treat each student as a singular person, as opposed to a group. Through the hard work, we had tons of fun, created a video, and got to know one another as a family. As a graduating senior, I cannot wait to be called and see what YES has become and to see the changes in Kennedy as they continue to crush the wall and flourish in the future.

Ms. Helen Urena: Good evening, I'm Helen Urena, advocate of YES. Last year, I decided to join YES at the beginning of my senior year and I considered this to be one of the best decisions I have ever made. In YES, we were able to advocate for an extension that will allow our students to use the bathroom during a period. Additionally, I was invited to be a finalist for a freshman class seminar to speak about different topics related to social justice. In this program, I was able to work with my teammates on creating surveys for each grade level to learn about what are some of the things that our YES program had to advocate for in order to improve the academic experience of John F. Kennedy students. We were able to come up with data to show the next step that we have to take to achieve our goal. Now, I would like to introduce our YES advocate, La'Jay.

Ms. La'Jay Johnson: Hi, I'm La'Jay Johnson and I've been a part of YES since the eighth grade. In middle school, being a part of YES was taken as a bragging right because you got to get out of school and I was definitely one of the braggers. I never really knew what the YES agenda or purpose actually was. Transitioning to John F. Kennedy's YES program from Dr. Napier was a task shock. The environment of YES had changed a lot for me, going from field trips, to playing around, to being on the side of putting the work in. Our goals were always higher than the respect we really got for our program. We have continued to exceed every goal with little to no help and even less resources. We often supplied the money out of our advisor's pockets. Ms. Quince, our Vice Principal, lets us use her office space to meet and plan. Ms. Allen, a gym teacher and YES original reopened the program to compassion and hard work, transferring from Dr. Napier to John F. Kennedy, often giving up her lunch period to help us plan our next courses of action. Ms. Fuller, touched by her dedication and passion for change, an English teacher devoting her time for our cause. Lynai, Josue, Helen, Amiyha, Annyiah, Ryan, Ricardo, Taspia, and I all hope for recognition and a little bit more respect. We have made major changes in our school and we will take it further for our peers, staff, and the better of everyone. All the big ideas we have are not dreams but promises. I'd like to introduce Lynai Jenkins.

Ms. Lynai Jenkins: Good evening. My name is Lynai Jenkins and I'm a sophomore at John F. Kennedy High School. I transferred to Kennedy in November 2023 after switching schools multiple times, never getting the chance to find my voice. When I got to Kennedy, things changed fast. Suddenly, I went from just another student to representing over 1,800 with my voice. Joining YES showed me that having a voice isn't a privilege. It's inherent in all of us. It helped me understand the power of speaking up and using my voice for the better. It was all the hard work we put in and

the goals we've achieved. We're asking the School Board to listen, support, and work with us too.

Mr. Josue Roy: (Spoke in French)

Ms. Sharon Allen: The last comment by Josue was intentional. His first language is obviously French. He's from Haiti. When we came, he understood some English but could not speak it well. He could not understand it well. Through being my student, we were able to unpack the fact that he's exceptionally bright. He told me the other day that it has taken him backwards in terms of coming to school here because he is now two years behind what he already knew. Because of the language barrier, no one thought to see what he really knows from an academic standpoint. With that said, it is always important that we listen to students. Their voice matters even if it's not in a language that we understand. We will give you the translation at another point. You will be very surprised at what he spoke to you about. We appreciate your time. I hope that you can see the passion and energy that we have put into this program. If you look at the stewards, they are an eclectic group of young people from ninth to twelfth grade. We even have the salutatorian of John F. Kennedy for the class of 2024. We appreciate your time.

Mr. Ryan Aybar-Montero: Good evening, Board. I'm Ryan Aybar, a senior at John F. Kennedy High School and the sitting President of YES. As to what Josue just demonstrated, what I have to say is extremely crucial. YES at John F. Kennedy sets itself apart from other student organizations because we work hard to build interpersonal relationships with our students before we make any decision. Every issue we tackled this year has been derived from the feelings and experiences of our fellow students. YES intends to address the core of every issue we face because we watch our peers struggle and grow every day. YES matters because we're at ground zero ready to help everyone. That is what makes YES so important. YES is most important to me because it gave me a purpose at a time in my life when I had none. I transferred to John F. Kennedy two years ago and felt out of place. I had already been competing in wrestling before my transfer so I decided to join the John F. Kennedy wrestling team to get to know people and find a place for myself, but I was still missing something. Earlier in my senior year, I developed a medical condition that forced me to leave my wrestling career behind. I had dedicated countless hours and training to my sport, but it all got taken away in an instant. YES at John F. Kennedy was there to pick me up at my lowest point and give me a new purpose. Ms. Allen, Ms. Quince-McMillan, and Ms. Fuller extended their hand to someone in need. They saw potential in me and I trusted them. I stand here as an advocate for my peers. YES has given me the opportunity to become a leader and a chance to connect with other students like I've never done before. I had the chance to visit Gifted and Talented School No. 28 to encourage the younger YES advocates to fight for what their peers need in their school environment, while also teaching them that working with the adults in charge is the best way to make changes. One thing that was most important to teach them was that they needed to find their voice. Sitting with John F. Kennedy students in a focus group also opened up my eyes to the feelings my classmates had about their school environment and what I needed to do to achieve real equity for them. Thank you.

Comm. Martinez: I'm going to extend an offer to the adult leaders of the program if they would like to share any words. I'm still trying to absorb and process what we just heard.

Ms. Kaela Quince-McMillan: I'm Ms. Quince-McMillan, one of the four Vice Principals at John F. Kennedy High School. I received the charge of restarting and organizing the YES group from Dr. Warren. If I can say anything about this group and the group that

we had last year, students have so much to say and they have so much to offer to the whole of the school environment. It would behoove us not to take time to listen to what they have to say. There are no decisions that I make as a building leader without speaking to students and getting their feedback. However, the work and writing and everything that they have expressed is coming from them. They amaze me. I'm truly an emotional mess sometimes because I get really proud of our students because they're dedicated. They're not perfect. The battles that I face as an administrator come from teachers sending me emails telling me that Helen didn't come to class today, which is not likely. I have to respond and say they're children. They're learning and growing, and our job is to encourage them and keep bringing out the best in them. However, I also want to say that I can't do anything without teachers that actually want to take on a charge and drive it forward. Ms. Allen has truly been the driving force behind this organization. Ms. Fuller joined on because we're just so dope. I'm so proud of you and I just really want to extend a sincere thank you to the Board, Assistant Superintendents, Deputy Superintendent, and Superintendent for giving them the space to actually use their voice. I believe that you have now supercharged them, and I can't wait to see what we have next. Thank you so much for your time.

Comm. Martinez: I'd like to open it up to anyone who would like to share anything. What I see standing before us is a group of young leaders who lead through action and that is the most impressive way of leading in my opinion. Trying to find a sense of place and belonging during difficult times is not an easy thing to do, but you guys are being very proactive. You're taking measures, not only for yourself, but for your peers, classmates, and friends. I find that to be most commendable. Thank you and continue to be excellent representations of what our city and school district are made of. I'm very humbled by what I saw here this evening and grateful. Thank you.

Dr. Newell: Thank you. Well done.

Mr. Juan: The film is now ready to go.

(Video Presentation)

Comm. Martinez: This was the film that was submitted as an entry in the Passaic County Teen Arts Festival.

Mr. Richard Solis: Besides working on the short film, our kids also worked on subtitles, captions, audio descriptions, dubbing, and different languages. Everything is available on the Kennedy website. Good evening, everyone. Thank you very much. I was the soccer coach at Kennedy a couple of years ago and I retired. We won the county championship a couple years ago. What we just saw is the equivalent to that. This project was submitted to the county level, and we shared first place with PCTI. Both schools qualified for the state. Yesterday we were able to show our project at the state level and now we will see what the result is going to be in a couple of days. Other than that, that is the equivalent of what these kids did. It was a group of 25 students working on that project 40 minutes a day. We don't have the luxury of riding a bus for 25 kids so we can stay together for three hours. It was 40 minutes during that class. Kids were running around after the bell with cameras, lights, and microphones. Two minutes before the bell rings, they were coming back to the classroom and started editing. Thank you very much for giving us this time because we really thought it was important to share what they were able to accomplish with all your support. Thank you very much for that.

Comm. Martinez: In a couple of days you guys will be able to find out the results of the festival? Please be sure to report back to us so we can share it. You two individuals are responsible for this? I'm sitting here waiting in suspense to see what's about to happen. Very well done! Thank you and congratulations.

Dr. Newell: Thank you. Next, we will have Ms. Talena Queen and Ms. Kelly Charles, who are members of the Juneteenth Committee, presenting this evening on the Juneteenth poetry.

Juneteenth Celebration

Ms. Talena Queen: Peace and blessings family. Thank you for having us come here today. I have three students here from Eastside High School. I refer to them as scholar poets. I encourage you to adopt the same language in reference them. These poets have written poems in celebration of Juneteenth. The important thing to say about them is that they did not know that they were writers before they came to creative writing class at Eastside High School. Each of them refers to themselves as poets, which I think is a very appropriate designation for them. They have all written full length books that will be published next week. You'll be getting copies of those books. They are very beautiful, if I should say so myself. Each of the books deals with topics of social justice, which is appropriate in celebration of Juneteenth. I wanted to say thank you to this body for creating the Juneteenth holiday in Paterson Public Schools. Comm. Simmons and Comm. Capers led that charge and I want to say thank you for that. You preceded the city, state, and nation and it is a great honor to be a part of establishing a celebration as important as that one for our legacy and our ancestry. Without further ado, I have three students, Jennifer Rodriguez, Tiana Robinson, and Shahad Taylor. They will give their poems in celebration of Juneteenth. Before they begin, at Rosa Parks High School where I was a student as a creative writing major, it was very difficult to come to a podium as a writer. I don't think that I mastered that until college. It is a very difficult thing for them that they are doing here today. We appreciate your grace.

Ms. Tiana Robinson: Good afternoon, everyone. I'll be reading my poem, "*Free but No Home*" as a celebration to Juneteenth. "A celebration for my people with skin as dark as night. A celebration for my enslaved people. A celebration for the freedom seekers. A celebration for liberation. A celebration for those who moved and made a city. A celebration for my people who had nowhere to go. A celebration for freedom." Thank you.

Ms. Jennifer Rodriguez: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Ms. Jennifer Rodriguez. I'm going to be reading "*Seeking Freedom*." "Juneteenth is a day to celebrate and honor the end of pain and sorrow of being trapped like a bird in a cage ready to fly to the blue sky of freedom. Deep wounds working in the fields, hoping for justice, human rights, and equality. Enslaved people said to themselves, when will I be free? But a light shined bright illuminating the path of freedom. All persons held as slaves henceforward shall be free, a clear message said by President Abraham Lincoln. From silent prayers to tasting freedom, tears of joy. It's their time now to dream, to create, to be strong, to march history, which they did. Juneteenth, we honor those who fought and won a legacy. Every year we reflect on the past and educate. Finally, a painful chapter begins to end. We honor the path with eyes on tomorrow." Thank you.

Mr. Shahad Taylor: Good afternoon. I will be reading my poem called "*Freebird*." "A celebration of importance. A celebration of remembrance of a caged bird that has been locked away when it deserves its freedom, when it longs for its freedom, blessed with the freedom they've always had. When they're out of the barred cage of painfulness,

some birds are scared to take flight, confused as if to say, what do I do now? It celebrates now. It sings for a different reason. It sings for its freedom at last." Thank you.

Ms. Queen: Thank you for having us here today. We will pause for questions and comments. Compliments are always welcomed. That's what I say every day.

Dr. Newell: That was excellent. Thank you.

Ms. Queen: Thank you very much. Have a blessed day.

Comm. Martinez: As Queen mentioned, it's not easy to stand in front of a group of people and bare a part of your soul and that's exactly what you all did. It's a very brave act. It's a very beautiful act. It's a very bold act. Continue to be brave, bold, and beautiful. Thank you.

Comm. Freeman: I want to give a big round of applause to all the students that came out here today. Very seldom do we know what goes on in the schools. I appreciate what I heard today from YES and from the scholar poets. Keep up the good work. I absolutely love it. To the YES group, I love it. Thank you so much. Continue to be the example. It rubs off on the other scholars. Queen, you said we should address the students as scholars and I agree wholeheartedly. It just sounds better and it makes you feel better. Continue to be the example to your peers and bring them on in and show them the great things that the students of Paterson are capable of. Thank you again.

Comm. Rashid: I used to recite poems. It makes me emotional when I see all those three brave students in front of us. If you give me one minute, can I recite a poem? The name is "*Time, You Old Gypsy Man*" by Ralph Hodgson. "Time, you old gypsy man, will you not stay? Put up your caravan just for one day. All things I'll give you. Will you be my guest? Bells for your jennet, of silver the best. Goldsmiths shall beat you a great golden ring. Peacocks shall bow to you. Little boys sing. Oh, sweet girls will festoon you in May? Time, you old gypsy man." The poem is so long I don't want to recite it all. The last two lines are very excellent. "Time, you old gypsy man, will you not stay? Put up your caravan just for one day." Thank you so much.

Comm. Simmons: I'm just going to echo what Comm. Freeman said. Thank you to all the students that are here today. It's always great to see our students come to the meetings and express what they're feeling. As they said before, it's important for us to listen. To the poets, excellent job! The last poet said a line in his poem where he talked about freedom, basically saying, what do I do now? That is so apropos when it comes to Juneteenth. When the slaves in Texas finally heard that they were free, they didn't know what to do. They didn't know where to go, which is how you end up with sharecroppers. It's important for us to share that history and make sure that we teach that history. It's still important today. From slavery, to sharecropping, to civil rights, to social justice, it's all connected. It's important that we continue to teach that history.

Ms. Queen: Thank you, Commissioner. May I add to what you're saying? In the lesson preceding this poetry we did talk about those histories. I have updated the language, being a language person. We say enslaved Africans versus slaves. You hear the difference. We talk about freedom seekers versus runaway slaves. We talked about changing the language. We don't say the Transatlantic slave trade. We say the Transatlantic human trade because that's what was really happening. It was a trafficking of humans. I taught these scholar and their classmates that when we are in conversations with folks, the language that we choose helps to add humanity to what

was happening to those humans in that time. If we can update that language I think it would be beneficial for adding some humanity to the space. I appreciate you for letting me say that. Thank you.

**Recognition of Liberty Division Softball
Coach of the Year Candice Cotton**

Dr. Newell: Ms. Candice Cotton, please come forward. I kind of did a thing where I conspired with her mom. We were trying to keep it a secret, but it didn't quite work. I just have some few words and then I'm going to ask Ms. Cotton to speak. I want to talk a little bit about our esteemed high school teacher and softball coach at John F. Kennedy High School. Ms. Cotton began her teaching career in Paterson as a substitute in 2002. She has since served in several different capacities within the district. Ms. Cotton spent time as a social studies teacher as well as a cheerleading coach at School No. 13. After receiving her certification in math, she went to School No. 20 where she served as a middle school math teacher. Later on, she taught as an eighth grade special education resource teacher for students at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School. Currently, Ms. Cotton serves as teacher mentor of culture and climate at Kennedy High and is the Assistant Girls Soccer Coach and Head Girls Softball Coach at her school. Today we recognize and honor Ms. Cotton for being awarded the Liberty Division Softball Coach of the Year Award. Ms. Cotton, please accept this plaque as a small token of our appreciation for your years of service on behalf of the students, student athletes, families, staff members, and the Board. We truly appreciate all that you've done and continue to do on behalf of this district. You've made us very proud. Thank you very much.

Ms. Candice Cotton: First, I would like to thank everyone for recognizing the hard work it does take to become a coach here in our city. It was an honor for me to be able to coach at the same school that I played basketball and softball for. This is one of the top honors to even become the Coach of the Year for this division and to place Kennedy on the map now for softball and not just basketball and football. Now the girls are getting recognized in other sports. We know this city can produce athletes because I was one of them. I would like to thank everyone, especially my mother, for being behind me. I already knew something just had to come from her. For the Board and the Superintendent to recognize the hard work that goes through doing this and showing that commitment. Being a coach is also a parent. I would like to thank you for recognizing me and giving me my flowers now. Thank you.

Councilwoman Ruby Cotton: Good evening to everyone. This is truly an honor. When Candice started out, teaching was not her career. She came back from South Carolina and I said to her she'd been trying to do everything else so she might as well take the test for the teacher. That's exactly what she did and she passed the first time around. I said to her I was going to do my best to make her the best teacher in the City of Paterson. Like she said, being a coach is also like being a parent. You'd be surprised how you touch kids' lives and make them better. You make them feel wanted and happy. I want to say daddy is watching and he's looking over you. He is so proud because he came to all your JV games. We're proud of you. My son Edward is here. I want to present these to you because you can't do this alone. It takes teamwork. It takes community work. It takes a village. It takes a lot of people to make things work. I want to present this to you. This is from Team Cotton. Comm. Kenny Simmons, Comm. Valerie Freeman, Wesley Freeman, Ray Lyde, Jr., Jamie Bland, Julie Gonzalez, Dolores Bradley, Mona Freeman, Mark Squire, Antoine Wilson, Vincent Arrington, my son Edward Cotton, and Nakima Redmon. Thank you. Do you know what it is to stand here and see things happening for your child? I've been involved since 1980. I may not

have birthed you, but you are my child and I'm going to do everything I can to help you. I love you and I appreciate you. Thank you, Team Cotton. That's for you, Candice. Thank you everyone out there for recognizing. Greatness comes out of the City of Paterson. I don't care what anyone says. Thank you.

Ms. ?: Hello everyone. I just want to say congratulations to you. These flowers are from Paterson Alumni Chapter Delta Sigma Beta Incorporated. We present this to you for being Coach of the Year. Congratulations, Candice Cotton.

Comm. Martinez: Ladies and gentleman, this has been one of the more enjoyable sessions and presentations. Congratulations to everyone. Thank you all for coming out.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Comm. Martinez: Congratulations to all the scholars who were here today, the YES program, the filmmakers, and the poets. Continue to represent our city the way you are. You make all of us proud and we thank you. On Friday evening, June 14 at the Charles J. Muth Museum located at Hinchliffe Stadium the first Youth Poetry Night is going to be held. This is a formal invitation to members of the YES program to come out, share your poetry, and share a story. It's on Friday, June 14, one week from this upcoming Friday, at Hinchliffe Stadium from 6:30 to 9:30. Thank you and we hope to see you all there.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Newell: Congratulations everyone. Job well done! I was invited to Rosa Parks High School on May 21 for the College and Career Week. During my visit, I had the opportunity to discuss with several students the importance of higher education and how it relates to building a successful career. College and Career Week is very important because it gives us a special and unique opportunity to refocus our students and help them think about their plan for life beyond high school. Some additional visits that were made during the month, we had a lot going on in the district. We had College and Career Week at School No. 28. At School No. 15 we had the Inner City Ensemble 2024 and the dual language arts program, which was led by Nick Rodriguez. On May 23 we had a ribbon-cutting ceremony at School No. 5 in the Swag room. This is an incentive room for students. School No. 10 was National Junior Honor Society luncheon to celebrate our students who are National Junior Honor Society members. On May 22 I hosted our inaugural principal appreciation breakfast here at central office and it was quite a hit. It was an acknowledgment of all the hard work our principals do each and every day. We know that our principals play such an important role in the education of our students and in the overall success of this district so that was just a small token to show our appreciation for all the work that they do. I look forward to next year's principals' appreciation breakfast. William Paterson was the venue for a very special ceremony in honor of Paterson Public Schools veteran teachers. Our teachers are wonderful educators and we have some who have been working here for decades, including Ms. Ames who has been working here for 50 years. She started her career in September of 1974. I'm so proud to see this level of dedication and commitment from our educators and it's quite an honor to gather to recognize such accomplishments. Paterson Public Schools is continuing its partnership with the College of Education at William Paterson University for our Aspiring Educators Program. This is an ongoing program where we offer students in our high schools the opportunity to explore the field of education by gaining valuable hands-on opportunities to learn what it is to be a teacher. As you all know, we have vacancies and we are always finding ways to see

how we can grow our own educators here within our system. Finally, on June 4 we had a valedictorian and salutatorian breakfast. We got to see our high schoolers who were valedictorians and salutatorians get their awards and recognition. This morning John F. Kennedy had their high school senior awards ceremony also. STEAM High School had an honor roll luncheon for all their excellent students. That concludes my report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

It was moved by Comm. Redmon, seconded by Comm. Ramirez that the Public Comments portion of the meeting be opened. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

Ms. Greta Mills: Hello, everyone. My name is Greta Mills. I'm a resident of Paterson for the moment. I'm up here because I'm still hoping and praying that you're hearing me when I ask that you get more people in the classroom to assist teachers. I keep saying that. From k-5 we need assistants, not just a resource teacher who is pulled to be the substitute for the day because they can't service their students. We need a 5:1 ratio. If we are to build the students up from where they are – because we know they're below level – everybody up there needs to work to get more people in the classroom to assist. The people who are already in the building and at 90 Delaware should also be charged with taking five students and helping to bring them up from their level to the proper level that they need to be at. The hiring of Inspire people wasn't it. That was truly a waste of money and I mean that from the bottom of my heart. The lady was very nice, but that doesn't help me and it did not help the children. They need someone coming into that room and taking a small group and working with them because we are below level. We need to have someone who understands the data. Parents ask if their child is showing growth, why are they failing? Because they're still below level. I'm not promoting teaching right now. Not until the pay is high enough for a teacher to buy a house in Paterson. Right now, that's not the pay. Nor is it the pay that you can rent, buy a car, and do all the things you need to do. We put a lot of effort into getting kids to practice sports, but not practice education. We put a lot of effort into everything else but making sure that all the children are on level. I'm hoping that all of you who have this position will work with me and make the changes needed. I can't do it. I don't control the budget. All I can ask is that you look at the budget, look at your staff, and figure out who can get into these classrooms and take five kids. Anybody who is in education and can't take five kids and work with them shouldn't be in education. It shouldn't be the burden of just the classroom teacher while you take your resource teachers and put them in as substitutes or take reading specialists and they sit down in their little rooms and are not taking kids. It has to be that everybody is accountable every single day for taking a group of children and helping to bring them to their level. Get rid of this Inspire thing you have going on because that didn't help. That was a waste of money. Get somebody who understands the data. Thank you.

Ms. Eva Razzak: Good evening, everyone. It is a pleasure to be here today. A lot of beautiful things just happened. First of all, let's give a moment of silence for Dr. Evans' passing. I was told and I was flabbergasted. Thank you so much. Second of all, I wanted to congratulate all the staff members who have been working with the kids. I believe that if you let them free and let them see, you watch and see what they can become. They can become beautiful butterflies flying here and there and becoming something big. I also want to acknowledge something. For each person who is working in the Paterson Public Schools it's beautiful when you acknowledge the kids for what they're doing. Those staff members and these kids standing up and reciting their feelings and thoughts, that is something very powerful. I also want to extend my hello to Dr. Newell. Thank you for the wonderful job that you're trying hard to do. Each

Commissioner sitting with you is trying to do it also. Recently I went to the community that had the health awareness at Kennedy. What a powerful presentation they had. I was slapped in the face without being slapped by the knowledge and the information that they were giving. That's something that came out of here. It's something that needs to be done more and more. That being said, I wanted to say thank you once again. Even though I'm not in the school system, believe me when I tell you, I miss it dearly. To me that wasn't a job. I'm here to serve in any which way that I can. Let's make sure that we give these children the best tools. A lot of them feel like they're not loved or wanted. There are a lot of people in this world that really care about children. Once again, I thank each and every one of you for what you do and what you continue to do. I'm not in the school system, but I am still here and I want to be part of anything that I can be part of with the kids. I thank you and god bless.

Mr. Charles Ferrer: Charles Ferrer, good evening. I know that the Board is not meeting in July. I'm going to be getting phone calls from all the people who are counting on the perfect attendance and the ones that sell 10 of their days to help them get through the summer. I'm asking the Board to consider allowing that payment to go through and then approve it in August when you come back. If it's not approved prior to you coming back, the people are going to receive that money just before they're coming back from their summer break, which is going to defeat the purpose for a lot of them. We don't know everybody's pocket or hardship. People are counting on that. We go through this every year. We already know what the contract says. It's supposed to be paid by a certain time for the secretaries and then for the remaining staff and it doesn't happen. If you would consider that, everyone would greatly appreciate that. The real reason I'm here is because I want to talk about NJSA18A:17-46, which deals with violence, vandalism, harassment, and intimidation. Some schools are not reporting what's happening in their schools. I remember Comm. McCall talking about that last year. She didn't believe that the report was accurate. I can tell you that any report that you've gotten this year so far is not accurate. One school thinks they don't have to report anything. I can tell you for a fact that I know of four out of several other reports that hasn't been reported in the schools. After one incident we had a meeting at the school with Assistant Superintendent Badawy. I brought to her attention then that reports were not being made. When a police report is filed and a police officer has to come to a school for an incident, a copy of that report goes to the County Superintendent. The County Superintendent was looking for the report from the school but never got it. I know our administrators understand the law. It's not a policy. It's not a regulation. It's the law that these things are done. I know everybody wants to make it seem like their school is squeaky clean and that nothing is going on there. They're even making their staff swear to silence in some schools to not report things. Staff is afraid to report things for fear of retaliation. Do I look afraid? I haven't been here in a while, but the fact of the matter is I can show you emails between myself and the assistant superintendent requesting all reports from a certain school from the beginning of the year to current and I haven't gotten them. That's a problem. For those who know me, you know I'm not going away. I didn't request just the report. I also wanted the suspension reports. I was told in the email that I was given what I requested. I wasn't because I didn't request certain reports. I said every incident and suspension for that entire year. In the beginning of the year there was one report where six students were in a fight and three were suspended. Then there was nothing. I got copies of police reports filed by parents for their children being assaulted in the school. One parent's daughter was dragged down the hallway by her hair. Where's the report? I don't need to wait until June for something that happened in January, February, or March. When we meet with the district we're supposed to have monthly reports. Maybe the Board should ask why these reports are not being given to the Superintendent so that they can be given to you so that you know what's going on. It's supposed to be two reports done biannually.

We're supposed to get monthly reports because things happen monthly. If a principals is not willing to do their job and file reports, maybe that's not a position they should hold. It's real simple. The Board needs to know what's going on and you don't. I'm going to leave the non-renewal stuff until we get statements of reasons. There were some people on there that were non-renewed that had 3.15 up to 3.58. If that person wasn't a fit for that school, the recommendation should have been to transfer. I didn't know that we were bursting at the seams with staff and that we don't have a shortage anymore. When an administrator rates somebody 'effective' to 'highly effective' and non-renews them, you might need to look at the administrator. It doesn't make sense. We are in dire need for staff and we're non-renewing them? If I tell you some of the reasons, it will blow your mind. That will come during the Donaldson hearing, but those people should not have had to go through one. Thank you very much.

Ms. Rosie Grant: Good afternoon, Commissioners, Dr. Newell, Dr. Henderson, staff, and community. I'm Rosie Grant, Executive Director of Paterson Education Fund. I want to start by saying thank you for the presentations. The film entry is phenomenal. I'm waiting to get past the cliff as well. Congrats to the YES advocates. Advocacy is so important. I know they left, but I hope they hear this at some point. Nobody is going to hand us the things we deserve and need. We do have to advocate and fight for them. I encourage them to keep going. Thank you and kudos to Ms. Queen and our scholar poets. I like the title. Keep up the good work. I'm also really excited to see in your agenda the new curricula. I hope that will drive us toward improved student outcomes as we desperately need to move in that direction. I want to issue two invitations to you. One is to our 50-Book Club celebration which is tomorrow, 5:00 to 7:00 at the Main Library, 250 Broadway. We have 1,200 students who have read 50 books this school year. We're celebrating them with pizza, activities, face-painting, and free books. You are welcome to join us to congratulate the youngsters. I know that there is a conflicting community forum, unfortunately. If you have the opportunity between 5:00 and 7:00, please come over. Finally, we're achieving our Annual Jazz Brunch celebrating 41 years of pushing systemic change in Paterson. I invite you to that celebration as well. That one is at a cost, but if the cost is prohibitive, please reach out to me. I did bring flyers for you for the Jazz Brunch. We are honoring two of our own, Mr. Dwayne Beckford and Ms. Nakeia Wimberly – both Paterson Public Schools employees – for the work that they are doing in the community and with our 21st Century after-school program. Do join us if you're able. I'll leave you the flyers. I want to follow up on Mr. Ferrer's comments to say that we have put together a spreadsheet of all the suspensions and achievement scores, etc. There are schools where I know kids were suspended this year that reported zero suspensions. We have to find a way to be more accountable in how we report the data and how we treat the infractions. If you don't want to report suspensions, then don't suspend them. Use the restorative practices. All the schools except four have been taught and we expect those four to be completed by the end of June. Thank you so much.

Ms. Channel ?: Good evening, Board. I'm here on behalf of Ms. Williams to advocate for her daughter who has autism. She's semi non-verbal. The mother has reached out to the school in Fairfield, as well as Ms. Cheryl Coy, who I understand is the Supervisor of Special Education. She has been unresponsive. There have been multiple emails sent to her and this is unacceptable for any child, but even more so for a child who is semi non-verbal. This child has been failed over and over again. Her teacher has shown selective racism, all the way up to the teacher taunting her. The mother has requested that the child's teacher be changed, to no avail. I'm now soliciting the Board to come together to advocate for this child. We have reached out to Daniella Nelson. An email was sent to her multiple times on behalf of the discrimination towards this child, only for her to respond that she doesn't have time for this in an email. That's

unacceptable to say to any parent. I'm bringing this before your attention so that it's on record and hopefully the Commissioners and the Board of Education will come together as a village and advocate for this child before something happens that makes the situation a lot worse. Thank you.

Ms. Kyranisha Williams: Hello, everybody. I was trying to stay away from this Board, but god had something else for me. He brought me back to this district again. My daughter has been out-of-district for the past six months. The school she's at now is New Beginnings in Fairfield, New Jersey. I came here after the death of my mom and I spoke to Ms. Coy about the situation that was going on with my daughter. She said she was going to address the matter to the case manager that serves out-of-district. Nothing has changed. On April 18 I had an IEP meeting. I was going to address this concern about what's going on with my daughter at that time and she said she didn't want to hear it. She said that we can address the concerns on June 13 at another IEP meeting. I waited. My daughter comes home every day asking me to do her hair this way, if I think she's fat, or why she sat down and didn't have any pizza. I asked the teacher why my daughter had no pizza. She answered because my daughter had food allergies. She sat my daughter to the side and let her watch the classroom eat pizza. I sent another email to her case manager asking for my daughter to be moved out of this school immediately and be placed back in-district until I find her another school. She asked me if I signed the paperwork for her to be evaluated. I'm not worried about an evaluation at this time. I need to remove my daughter. If I keep my daughter at home, are you going to call DYFS? I have to send my daughter to school. I make sure my daughter is prayed up. When you serve a god, he is going to make sure that child is not harmed one bit. She has a mother to fight for her. I pray every night and every day. You guys have to do something. Move my baby back to this district until I find another school. Do you know what this lady told me? Is my daughter in a life and death situation? She denied my IEP. Why did she deny an IEP meeting? She keeps going back and forth through emails. I told her not to call me. Why is she on a speaker with her colleagues? Her colleagues see everything. She doesn't want to talk to me in an IEP meeting, but all of a sudden she wants to call me and ask me if my daughter is in a life and death situation. No. Email me because I want your bosses to see everything you're saying to me and how unprofessional you are. It's unbelievable how these kids are being brought out-of-district. You guys are paying money to these schools and you're not investigating them. God used me and my daughter to come again. When god is in the middle of your life, he's going to make sure to open a door. My daughter has to come back in-district. If she doesn't, what's going to happen if she gets harmed? Right now, she's being racially profiled. Her teacher keeps calling me every day at work asking me if she gets sleep or accusing her of stealing. How can an autistic child steal? My daughter doesn't have to steal anything. Whatever she needs, she gets. She said my daughter put it inside her desk. Is that stealing? Something needs to be done. I want to change her case manager because she doesn't care. She has to be changed. I know it's three weeks from school ending, but something has to be done. This district has to start looking after these kids. I understand that my time is up and I'm sorry, but for a long time I have been going back-and-forth and I'm so tired. I keep hearing that you're here for the kids. If you're here for the kids, look inside these matters. It's too much money coming into this district and these kids are failing. I hope and pray that you guys listen. Put my baby back in-district until I find a school for her. That's all I'm asking you guys. She has to get out of that school. If not, my daughter is going to be harmed.

It was moved by Comm. Simmons, seconded by Comm. McCall that the Public Comments portion of the meeting be closed. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS FOR A VOTE AT THE WORKSHOP MEETING

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS the Paterson Public School District approves payment for the list of bills and claims dated through June 5, 2024, beginning with check number 242757 and ending with check number 243349, along with direct deposit number beginning with 2080 and ending with 2106, in the amount of \$19,390,008.96, and health benefits wire in the amount of \$3,100,000.00, for a total of \$22,490,008.96; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that each claim or demand has been fully itemized, verified and has been duly audited as required by law in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-2.

Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS, On May 17, 2024, a broadcast was released from the NJ Department of Education (NJDOE), see attached, with guidance on the late liquidation for ARP ESSER funds. While both the NJDOE and the United States Department of Education (USED) encourages districts to spend and liquidate these funds with urgency, the USED acknowledges that some grantees may require flexibility liquidating the remaining ARP ESSER funds under the ARP act that are properly obligated by the September 30, 2024, deadline.

WHEREAS, accordingly the NJDOE is offering a liquidation extension request process for immediate use by districts. The approval process requires the district to file the late liquidation application in the EWEG system. All EWEG applications must be submitted to NJDOE no later than June 28, 2024. Failure to submit by this date will disqualify the district from being included in the late liquidation request made to USED.

WHEREAS, NJDOE will submit all approved late liquidation requests to USED on behalf of districts approved to request late liquidation. The NJDOE will notify districts of the next steps related to late liquidation if the USED approves the late liquidation request. Districts are not permitted to directly request late liquidation from the USED.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education allow the district to apply for late liquidation of ARP ESSER funds through the NJDOE EWEG system due no later than June 28, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

Resolution No. 3

Whereas, the Department of Facilities was directed to move forward with the Abatement and Renovation of P.S.03 at the Board Meeting held on April 24, 2024; and

Whereas, the project scope of work includes the design of the environmental remedial work, the abatement of all asbestos containing materials, the architectural/engineering design of new building systems and finishes, and the total interior reconstruction of the building over four fiscal years, FY 2023- 2024, FY 2024-2025, FY 2025-2026 and FY2026-2027; and

Whereas, the use of New Jersey Schools Development Authority (NJSDA) funding was used for the initial environmental design and abatement scopes of work: and

Whereas, a purchase order was generated on March 28, 2024, for the environmental designer, Tectonic Engineering Consultants - PPS-207-21, in the amount of \$109,800.00. A second purchase order was generated on March 25, 2024, to the abatement contractor Academy Construction Inc. via a cooperative contract HCESC-SER-22-15 in the amount of \$2,761,000.00; and

Whereas, quotes will be solicited after the abatement is complete through a competitive bid process for the architectural/engineering design and renovation scopes of work; and

Therefore, Be It resolved that the first phase of the project to abate and renovate P.S.03 has commenced, funded with a capital grant from the NJSDA. The total cost of the first phase of the project is \$2,870,800.

Resolution No. 4

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2007, the State of New Jersey adopted P.L.2007, c.53, *An Act Concerning School District Accountability*, also known as Assembly Bill 5 (A5), and

WHEREAS, Bill A5, N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12(3)f, requires that conferences/workshops have prior approval by a majority of the full voting membership of the board of education, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12(2)s, an employee or member of the board of education who travels in violation of the school district's policy or this section shall be required to reimburse the school district in an amount equal to three times the cost associated with attending the event, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves attendance of conferences/workshops for the dates and amounts listed for staff members and/or Board members on the attached and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that final authorization for attendance at conferences/workshops will be confirmed at the time a purchase order is issued.

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP REQUESTS

STAFF MEMBER	CONFERENCE	DATE	AMOUNT
*Renee Bryant	NJSACC Conference: New Jersey's Annual Conference on Afterschool	April 26, 2024	\$259.97 (registration, transportation)
Teacher/School 16	Princeton, NJ		
*Ashona Smiley	NJSACC Conference: New Jersey's Annual Conference on Afterschool	April 26, 2024	\$259.97 (registration, transportation)
Teacher/School 16	Princeton, NJ		
*Judith Beckmeyer	New Jersey Prevention Network	May 16-17, 2024	\$688.19 (registration, transportation, meals)
SAC/NRC & School 9	Atlantic City, NJ		
*Adebimpe Ogunade	New Jersey Prevention Network	May 17, 2024	\$374.18 (registration, transportation)
Supervisor of Student Support Services	Atlantic City, NJ		
*Lorraine Zoeller	NJTESOL	May 29-31, 2024	\$652.30 (transportation, lodging, meals)
Teacher/Adult School	New Brunswick, NJ		

Rebecca Cecala	AVID Summer Institute through the GEAR UP Partnership Grant	June 16-19, 2024	\$3,310.47 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Principal of Instruction/Joseph A. Taub School	Salt Lake City, UT		
Irina Lombardo	AVID Summer Institute through the GEAR UP Partnership Grant	June 16-19, 2024	\$3,310.47 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Teacher/Joseph A. Taub School	Salt Lake City, UT		
Maureen Bruins	National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference	June 24-27, 2024	\$786.00 (transportation)
Science Teacher Coordinator/Green Schoolyards Coordinator	Salt Lake City, UT		
Mishaun Patby	NJ School Counselor Association Annual Conference	October 10-11, 2024	\$134.00 (registration)
Guidance Counselor/Eastside H.S.	Edison, NJ		
Nahed Badawy	NSBA 2024 Annual Workshop	October 21-24, 2024	\$841.31 (transportation, lodging, meals)
Assistant Superintendent	Atlantic City, NJ		
David Cozart	NSBA 2024 Annual Workshop	October 21-24, 2024	\$887.12 (transportation, lodging, meals)
Assistant Superintendent	Atlantic City, NJ		
Melissa España	NSBA 2024 Annual Workshop	October 20-24, 2024	\$1,141.78 (transportation, lodging, meals)
Assistant Superintendent	Atlantic City, NJ		
Dr. Cicely Warren	NSBA 2024 Annual Workshop	October 21-24, 2024	\$1,019.58 (transportation, lodging, meals)
Assistant Superintendent	Atlantic City, NJ		

***FOR RATIFICATION**

**Total Number of Conferences: 13
Total Cost: \$13,665.34**

Resolution No. 5

WHEREAS, the Paterson — A Promising Tomorrow 2019-2024 Strategic Plan focuses on priorities, goals and a vision that will enable the district to continue its forward momentum; and

WHEREAS, each priority will have measurable goals and numerous school improvement strategies; and

WHEREAS, these priorities, goals and strategies are intended to create an aligned instructional system to build capacity among teachers and principals, implement the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, provide high impact interventions for low performing students, create a strong district-level support system, and involve parents and community partners; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Paterson - A Promising Tomorrow 2019-2024 Strategic Plan is aligned to the District's vision of being a leader of 21st Century innovation where

students develop habits of lifelong learning and excel academically to become future ready leaders; and

WHEREAS, the Paterson A Promising Tomorrow 2019-2024 Strategic Plan has been developed and compiled by the New Jersey School Boards Association with the input of approximately 275 community stakeholders, parents, students, staff and Board of Education members; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan consists of:

- Goal Area #1 - Teaching & Learning: To create a student-centered learning environment to prepare students for career, college readiness and lifelong learning.
- Goal Area #2 – Facilities: To enhance and maximize learning opportunities provided by first-class facilities and technological improvements that prepare students for 21st century learning.
- Goal Area #3 - Communications & Connections: To establish and grow viable partnerships with parents, educational institutions and community organizations to support Paterson Public Schools educational programs, advance student achievement and enhance communication.
- Goal Area #4 - Social/Emotional Learning: Build the capacity of all stakeholders to address the social and emotional needs of students and staff through professional development, instruction and support services.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education adopted the Paterson - A Promising Tomorrow Strategic Plan 2019-2024, on June 19, 2019, which sunsets on June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic resulted in the loss of several years of implementation of the Paterson - A Promising Tomorrow 2019-2024 Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, District administration has held several meetings with representatives from the New Jersey School Boards Association since January of 2024 to evaluate the Paterson - A Promising Tomorrow 2019-2024 Strategic Plan for a long-term extension; and

WHEREAS, the District is currently working with Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) to identify initiatives for short and long-term District improvement in the areas of student achievement, human resource services, family and community engagement, and operations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the temporary extension of the Paterson - A Promising Tomorrow 2019-2024 Strategic Plan, through August 31, 2024, to complete development of the new Strategic Plan with the Board of Education, New Jersey School Boards Association, and Hazzard, Young, Attea & Associates, and allowing sufficient time to incorporate the results of the work being done by HYA.

Resolution No. 6

Whereas, creating a student-centered learning environment to prepare students for career, college readiness, and lifelong learning is Goal Area #1: Teaching & Learning of the Strategic Plan for Paterson Public Schools.

WHEREAS, the College of Education at William Paterson University (WP) and Paterson Public Schools (PPS) will be offering an amazing educational opportunity this summer. The Summer 2024 Aspiring Educators Program (AEP) is a unique 6-week program geared toward diverse high school students interested in exploring the field of education.

WHEREAS, approximately 18 current Paterson students will have the opportunity to take a 3-credit dual enrollment course while gaining paid experience as teaching assistants.

WHEREAS, the cohort of Paterson students will spend their mornings in specific Paterson Public Schools working as paid teaching assistants in Paterson Public Schools Summer Lit Camp, providing them with a stipend and teaching experience, and in the afternoons the students will be on the WPU campus taking a for-credit college course that focuses on issues of diversity and equity in education.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Paterson Board of Education approves participation in The Summer 2024 Aspiring Educators Program (AEP) at William Paterson University and approves to cover the cost of tuition and stipends for approximately 8 students. Payment amount not to exceed \$20,776.00.

Resolution No. 7

Resolution of the School District of the city of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the Department of Facilities to utilize Educational Data Services hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency" for the conduct of certain functions relating to the procurement of Time & Material contracts for HVAC services, as needed, during the 2023-2024 school year:

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Facilities was instructed to complete HVAC repairs at various locations in an immediate time frame and;

WHEREAS, the project scope of work includes the repair and maintenance of various interior and exterior air conditioning and chiller units prior to the summer months; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11(5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter, into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency for the purchase of time & materials contracts, as needed; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Area # 3, Communication & Connections; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Facilities of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with Envirocon under the Educational

Data Services cooperative for the utilization of time & material contracts for the duration of the 2023-2024 school year, not to exceed \$500,000 annually.

Resolution No. 8

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the "Board") previously approved Resolution #4 on August 9, 2023, authorizing the purchase of security guard services from Universal Protection Service LLC d/b/a Allied Universal Security Services, under NJ Start cooperative purchasing Contract #19-GNSV1-00840, in an amount not to exceed \$8,200,000.00 for the period from August 2, 2023 through May 31, 2024;

WHEREAS, the Board requires continued services under this contract for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, from June 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024;

WHEREAS, the security guard services for the 2024-2025 school year will thereafter be procured through an open, competitive bid process (PPS-138-25); and

WHEREAS, continuing to procure security guard services through NJ Start Contract #19-GNSV1-00840 until the end of the current school year will serve the best interests of the District and its students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the purchase of security guard services from Universal Protection Service LLC d/b/a Allied Universal Security Services, under NJ Start cooperative purchasing Contract #19-GNSV1-00840, in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00.

It was moved by Comm. Redmon, seconded by Comm. Simmons that Resolution Nos. 1 through 8 be adopted. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

Paterson Board of Education Standing Abstentions

Comm. Oshin Castillo-Cruz

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Transportation (Bus Companies)
- Downtown Special Improvement District
- Celebrate Paterson
- Passaic County
- Passaic County Board of Social Services

Comm. Valerie Freeman

- Self
- Family
- Paterson Cares, Inc.
- Paterson Community Health Center

Comm. Eddie Gonzalez

- Self
- Family
- New Jersey Community Development Corporation (NJCDC)
- Community Charter School of Paterson

Comm. Manuel Martinez

- Self

Comm. Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson

Comm. Joel D. Ramirez

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Passaic County Community College

Comm. Mohammed H. Rashid

- Self

Comm. Nakima Redmon

- Self
- Historic Preservation of the City of Paterson
- County of Passaic

Comm. Kenneth Simmons

- Self
- Family

GENERAL BUSINESS

Items Requiring a Vote

Operations

Comm. Ramirez: Operations met today at 5:00. The minutes were already emailed. They should be uploaded before the regular meeting. We covered items O-59 through O-78. Any questions you may have you can either email me or look at the minutes and we'd be more than happy to answer your questions.

Fiscal Management

Comm. Simmons: Fiscal met yesterday. We will have that report at the next meeting.

Personnel

Comm. Redmon: Personnel met on Monday. Presiding was myself. Present was Comm. Simmons. Absent was Comm. Ramirez. The Superintendent wanted to suggest positions that she was thinking of. We talked about increments being withheld from a member for poor performance. We talked about terminations of three jobs. We talked about the cabinet increases for 2024-2025 for 3%. We talked about the negotiations that we will probably hear about in executive session in more detail. We also talked about the seven individuals who were requesting reasons for Donaldson hearings, which we discussed earlier. We also talked about filling 110 vacancies that we currently have. We also talked about the job fair that happened on May 21. We had 66 candidates that attended. We offered 15 jobs and positions to those. We have a future in-person session for another job fair on June 11. Another one will be for certified teachers on June 12. If you have any other comments, questions, or concerns about personnel you can either email me or check the Google Drive.

Governance

Comm. McCall: Governance is scheduled to meet next week.

Committee Report

Facilities

Comm. Martinez: Facilities is scheduled to meet before our regular meeting.

Family & Community Engagement

Comm. Freeman: We meet on Monday.

Technology

Comm. Simmons: Technology met yesterday. We covered a lot of items mostly around some infrastructure upgrades and how we're moving technology forward. Of note are the 30,000 Chromebooks that will be purchased and distributed to students and staff in September. I will submit the rest of this for the record and the minutes will be available in the Google Drive.

OTHER BUSINESS

It was moved by Comm. Redmon, seconded by Comm. Ramirez that the Board goes into Executive Session to discuss issues that warrant confidentiality, as consistent with NJSA 10:4-12 for matters of Attorney/Client Privilege, Contracts, Legal, Litigation, Negotiations, Personnel and Student Matters. The minutes will be made available to the public upon request, when the confidentiality of the subject is no longer warranted. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

The Board went into executive session at 7:40 p.m.

It was moved by Comm. Ramirez, seconded by Comm. Redmon that the Board reconvenes the meeting. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Comm. Martinez: At this time, I'd like to entertain a motion for Resolution No. 9, action to appoint Director of Communications, PC #1741, effective July 1, 2024, at the annual salary of \$155,000.

Resolution No. 9

WHEREAS, The Superintendent recommends the appointment, salary adjustments, transfers, supports the Paterson: A Promising Tomorrow Strategic Plan 2019-2024 which amongst its strategies goals is Priority I- Effective Academic Programs-Goal 1 - Increase Student Achievement; and

WHEREAS, The Board of the Paterson Public School District has reviewed the recommendation of the Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, The Board of the Paterson Board of Education communicated expectations that such recommendations are made on a timely basis and include the proposed appointment, transfer, personnel in compliance with the contractual and/or statutory requirements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of the Paterson Board of Education accepts the personnel recommendations of the Superintendent adopted in the June 5, 2024 Board Meeting.

PERSONNEL

F.1 Motion to take action on personnel matters, as listed below; and appoint and submit to the County Superintendent applications for emergent hiring and the applicant's attestation that he/she has not been convicted of any disqualifying crime pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et. Seq., N.J.S.A. 18A:39-17 et. seq., or N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4.13 et. seq. for those employees listed below:
(All appointments are contingent upon receipt of proper teaching certification and all salary placements are pending receipt of college transcripts verifying degree status and letter stating years of service in other districts).

G. APPOINTMENT

G1. Action to appoint **Aida E. Rosario** as the Director of Communications PC# 1741 effective July 1, 2024 at the annual salary of \$155,000.

It was moved by Comm. Ramirez, seconded by Comm. Simmons that Resolution No. 9 be adopted. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

Paterson Board of Education Standing Abstentions

Comm. Oshin Castillo-Cruz

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Transportation (Bus Companies)
- Downtown Special Improvement District
- Celebrate Paterson
- Passaic County
- Passaic County Board of Social Services

Comm. Valerie Freeman

- Self
- Family
- Paterson Cares, Inc.
- Paterson Community Health Center

Comm. Eddie Gonzalez

- Self
- Family
- New Jersey Community Development Corporation (NJCDC)
- Community Charter School of Paterson

Comm. Manuel Martinez

- Self

Comm. Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson

Comm. Joel D. Ramirez

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Passaic County Community College

Comm. Mohammed H. Rashid

- Self

Comm. Nakima Redmon

- Self
- Historic Preservation of the City of Paterson
- County of Passaic

Comm. Kenneth Simmons

- Self
- Family

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Comm. Simmons, seconded by Comm. Ramirez that the meeting be adjourned. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.



Mr. Richard Matthews
Business Administrator/Board Secretary