

MINUTES OF THE PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP MEETING

February 7, 2024 – 6:10 p.m.
Central Office (Cafeteria)

Presiding: Comm. Manuel Martinez, President

Present:

Dr. Laurie W. Newell, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Rodney Henderson, Deputy Superintendent
Bryant Horsley, Esq., Souder, Shabazz & Woolridge, LLP

Comm. Oshin Castillo-Cruz
Comm. Valerie Freeman
Comm. Eddie Gonzalez
Comm. Della McCall

Comm. Joel Ramirez
Comm. Mohammed Rashid
*Comm. Nakima Redmon
Comm. Kenneth Simmons, Vice President

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

Comm. Martinez 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
February 7, 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.

MUSICAL SELECTIONS BY ROSA PARKS SCHOOL OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS

Comm. Martinez: Thank you so very much for continuing to represent our district tremendously.

PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Introduction of High School Student Representative and Alternate to the Board of Education

Comm. Martinez: I want to introduce two of our high school student representatives who will be serving here on the Paterson Board of Education. You guys will have an opportunity to share a couple of brief words, but first I'd like to introduce you to everyone here at the dais and in the public. One of our Rosa Parks scholars who was just singing and a former student of mine, Destiny Petit, and joining her we also have Thaddeus Chestnut. Let's give them a nice round of applause.

Mr. Thaddeus Chestnut: Hello, my name is Thaddeus Chestnut. I'm a senior at the top of my class over at Paterson P-Tech and I'm close to receiving my associate's degree from Passaic County Community College. I combine a friendly demeanor with persuasive literary talent. I've maintained high marks for all four years while participating in many activities. I've overseen various fundraisers while delivering a smile and granting two reelection victories. I work as the IBM liaison, which means I work with the educational stuff in trying to make sure that they can be an educational resource to the school and that their contributions are being used properly. I hope to use these skills that I've learned from being a student council president and a liaison for IBM to work effectively with you guys to ensure that students and staff get the best things they can receive from our Board of Education here at Paterson, New Jersey.

Ms. Destiny Petit: Hi, I'm Destiny and I'm a senior at Rosa Parks. My bio is a little longer so I'm going to try to cut it down as best as I can. I had the privilege of being accepted into the American Musical Dramatic Academy, AMDA, located in Manhattan, New York. I auditioned in my junior year, and I was accepted in my senior year. It was nice because I'm more on the shy side, so I don't really do the public speaking thing. Looking ahead into my future also allows me to be grateful for my past. I am a senior now and I can't help but think about the person I was when I first started my freshman year. Honestly, I was more of a dreamer. I found myself observing more than actually participating in the fun. Even though I thought that I did – I don't know everything – I didn't have a great understanding of the different areas in performing arts that the world truly had to offer. Through staying focused and using constructive criticism to help me get farther in my career, I have to give thanks to my vocal teacher, Mr. Chapman. Can we give him a round of applause? He not only encourages me to excel in my craft, but also to be the best version of myself in general. I'm grateful to have him as a teacher. Every day attending Mr. Chapman's class I've learned new and exciting things. On top of that, attending Rosa Parks School of Fine & Performing Arts has further nurtured my aspirations, surrounded by fellow students like the vocal majors, who strive to exceed expectations and support one another. As a vocal major, I embrace my role as a triple threat. We sing, act, and dance, and it has become a significant part of my journey. Each performance, like the one today, has provided me with a fresh perspective, inspiring me to continue following my passion. I have to come to realize that even when I make mistakes I never give up and I owe this resilience to Mr. Chapman. My ultimate goal is to bring joy to others. I hope that shines through in all my performances alongside fellow vocal majors, like the ones you've just seen today. I'm not going to keep you guys too long, but I'm forever grateful for everything that I have worked for, learned, and achieved in my life. Moreover, I'm determined to give back to those who have supported me, both those that I already know and those I have yet to meet. My friends, family, vocal family, counselors, teachers, and my lovely Principal Ms. Thompson – can we give her a round of applause as well – have always been there to support, encourage, and uplift me, even on the most challenging days. My goal is to never give up and inspire others to recognize that regardless of where they are in life there is always potential for personal growth and the pursuit of their passions. Keep your eyes open and look for me on Broadway, TV, and movies. Thank you very much.

Mr. John Chapman: Board members, I just have to let you know. A lot of people who are not in performing arts don't know what AMDA is. It's the Julliard of performing arts. Students audition from all over the world there. I've been there a number of times and met kids from Jamaica, France, and England. Destiny is low key, but for her to get into that school is a major accomplishment and I'm very proud of her.

Comm. Martinez: We're all extremely proud of the two of you for your representation here this evening and we look forward to working with you guys. On behalf of the Superintendent and the rest of the Board members, we have these small gifts that we'd like to present to you now.

It was moved by Comm. McCall, 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 6:26 p.m.

*Comm. Redmon enters the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

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

The Board reconvened the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Comm. Martinez: To the folks in the public, we thank you for bearing with us and for being patient.

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Comm. Martinez: We're going to ask Mr. Wielkottz to come forward.

Mr. Steve Wielkottz: Thank you, Mr. President, and good evening everybody. I'm here to speak very briefly about the June 30, 2023, audit. I met with the fiscal committee last night and went over the audit in detail. The audit went very well, as it has in the past few years. We issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of the school district for year ending June 2023. The management report does have a couple of findings. I'm happy to point out that none of them are repeats from last year, which is always good. This is a fiscal audit, financial audit, and compliance audit as required by the DOE. The findings in the management report are all compliance findings and have no impact on the financial statements or fiscal operations of the district, which is a very good thing. The business office of this district runs as best as I've seen a business office run in the 45 years I've been doing this work. Mr. Matthews and his staff and the administration process an inordinate amount of transactions during the year and this is a very clean audit. I'd also like to point out that year after year we continue to generate some excess surplus, which is a good thing because that money goes right back into the following year's budget to help control operations. With that, if any of the Board members have any questions, I'd be more than happy to try to answer them.

Comm. Martinez: Thank you for your time and your work.

Mr. Wielkotz: Thank you everybody. Have a great night.

Student Safety Data System for HIB, Violence & Vandalism, Substance Awareness

Ms. Nicole Payne: Good evening. Twice a year we present a report for harassment, intimidation, and bullying as part of the SSDS school report. In 2011, the state came up with the anti-bullying rights to prevent, report, investigate, and respond to incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. The purpose of the law is to have an ongoing systematic process in which we review alleged incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Just to go over what harassment, intimidation, and bullying is and how we come up with founded cases, it can be any gesture, written, verbal, or physical act. It can be a single incident or a series of incidents. It can take place outside or on school property, on a bus, or off school grounds. It must be reasonably perceived as having to be or motivated by one of those distinguishing characteristics listed there. A distinguishing characteristic can be identified as anything that separates or identifies you as a person, whether it's weight, appearance, and those sorts of things. In addition to the criteria that I just listed above, another listed here must also be in effect in order to have a founded case for harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Whether that causes physical or emotional harm to a student, has the effect of demeaning or insulting a group of students, or creates a hostile educational environment. All those things must be true in order to have a founded case of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Not to say that certain incidents do not violate the student code of conduct, but in terms of HIB those are the criteria and requirements that need to be met. Twice a year, we produce a report that gives us insight and data on the first half of the school year, spanning from September to December. We look at the number of incidents as well as the trainings and programs that have been completed by the schools in the district. From September through December 2023, we have had a total of 181 incidents with 74 of them being founded and 107 being unfounded. You can see the percentages broken down there. This is a breakdown by unit. The blue bar represents the number of founded cases between that time span. The red indicates the number of unfounded. The green bar indicates the total number. You will probably see disproportionate numbers and it has to do a lot with school populations. Some schools have a larger population than others so there statistically may be more incidents due to the number of students and the possibilities of those incidents occurring. In some instances, it's not really fair to compare units because there is a different makeup of schools. This is the unit comparison across the four units. This is a three-year comparison of the number of incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. The 2021-2022 school year was our first full year back after Covid. As we can see, the past two years are somewhat commensurate with each other in terms of the number of incidents and founded incidents. HIB trainings and programs are not just solely for the fact of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. What are we doing in the school climate and culture? How are we creating a positive school culture and climate through our trainings and programs? These are a list of trainings that the schools have engaged in. This is not all of them. These are just the ones that are highlighted and therefore not duplicated. The idea is that through the training schools and stakeholders involved will be better prepared and equipped to deal with, not just the incidents, but creating school environments that are conducive to learning in a positive culture and climate. These are the different programs that the schools are engaged in. We have wonderful programs going on at our schools to engage our students and they are highlighted here. This is just a glimpse into what we are doing as a district, what the stakeholders and administrators are involved with. It's a lot of great programming. Up-Stander Pledges are important because we want to teach our students how to stand up to harassment,

intimidation, and bullying. What do those skills look like? How do they stand up for one another? How do we build community within our schools? It's very important as well. That concludes my presentation.

Comm. Freeman: I'm skimming through the pages. There were no incidents, founded or unfounded, at Alexander Hamilton Academy?

Ms. Payne: Not between September and December.

Comm. Freeman: Thank you.

Ms. Laurel Olson: My name is Laurel Olson, Supervisor of Student Support Services for the district. I also report to SSDS. I'm going to talk to you about our substance abuse cases. The NJDOE requires us to report all positive offenses. Those can be made up of four different possibilities. It's confirmed by a medical exam that they are under the influence. They are found in possession of substances or drug paraphernalia. They refuse to take that medical exam. The amount of the possession is also enough for sale or distribution or a combination of all of them. For our first half of the year from September through December, we tested 174 students. 135 were positive, 39 were negative or drug-free. There were more males than females. 36 of those 174 refused to be tested. Underneath that is a three-year comparison chart. The 2021-2022 is the full year, September through June. 2022-2023 is 215 for the whole year. 2023-2024 midyear we're at 135 students. This next slide is a breakdown by demographic, race, and ethnicity of our students being tested. We had 106 out of 174 being Hispanic or Latino. 77% of them tested positive and they make up 70% of the Paterson Public Schools enrollment population. For Black and African American students, 59 were positive, which is 75%. We had five Asian students, 80%. We had Caucasian/White, four students, which is 100% of them being positive. Another breakdown is by grade level. Elementary students made up 32.8% of the reports. High schools made up 67.2% or 117 students. The next slide focuses on possession cases over the years. Starting in 2019-2020, you can see some progressions. In 2023-2024 for the half year, we had 65 cases of possession, most of them being marijuana, THC vape pens, and paraphernalia. I started to separate edibles this year, so we keep it away from the marijuana vape pens and marijuana flower. I added this slide because we had an increase in our reporting. These are some potential factors for increased reporting. We have our SAC training now online, so it is accessible to more people 24 hours a day. If they want, they can look at it and retrain themselves. The use of the metal detectors and wandering students as they come in the building takes up a lot of vape pens. We were able to hire additional SAC counselors from the Board meeting last March. We have parent refusals. New Jersey legalization of marijuana, now that it's legal in the state the perception of risk is down. Marijuana is safe. My friends are doing it. Everyone I know does it. It makes the possession more common. This chart shows our Report 1 over a couple of years. This year we've had a 105% increase of positive cases. Last year around this time I reported 66. This time I'm reporting 135. To continue our efforts in prevention, in addition to all the additional SAC counselors, we have partnerships all over the county. These are some of them listed for you. You can take a look at your leisure. These are some photos so people can identify what we're seeing in the schools. This slide is showing you marijuana flower and some paraphernalia. This second slide here shows the marijuana vape pens at the top corner. Underneath is a marijuana vape pen next to a nicotine vape pen so you can see the difference. There's a large bag of marijuana. I'm going to stop my part of the presentation and pass it off to Mr. Price.

Mr. Dalton Price: Good evening cabinet, School Board members, and public. My name is Dalton Price, Director of Security for the Paterson Public School District. I will be presenting the violence, vandalism & weapons report for July 2023 through December 31, 2023. This first slide is to innumerate the items we go over every year. These are the items that we must list on the SSDS and report to the state. This year in October we realized that we needed to report other removals. We were notified in October, but we went back to July 1, which is when the recording year starts. We made sure we included all the numbers so everyone would have actual notice of what took place. Other incidents leading to removal – these incidents do not meet the criteria for violence, vandalism, substance, weapons, or HIB alleged or confirmed but do lead to removal of a student from the educational placement for half a day or more. Disciplinary removals are defined as any instance in which a child is removed from his or her educational placement for disciplinary purposes, including in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, and removal to another educational setting. The total of ‘other incidents’ is 1,077. Just to give you a scenario of what these incidents could be, Max and Ricky, both third grade students, were chasing and tackling each other during recess. While they were playing, Ricky picked up an 8-inch stick and swung it around, hitting Max on the arm and causing a small scratch. An aide witnessed the situation and stopped any further contact between the boys. The aide asked Ricky why he hit Max, and he explained that he was just pretending to be a helicopter and did not mean to hurt him. An analysis of the scenario – Ricky did not purposefully, knowingly, or recklessly cause an injury to Max. The injury was accidental. We do not report this unless Ricky received disciplinary removal for more than one-half a day for this incident. In this case, it would be reported as ‘other incidents leading to removal.’ How the situation may differ – Max was bleeding and had to be seen by the nurse to treat the injury. Ricky said, “I meant to hurt him. He was mean to me. I don’t like him.” Report this incident as an assault. Because the small stick cannot readily be used to cause lethal or serious bodily injury, do not report this as an assault with weapon use. From July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, we had 101 acts of violence, 9 acts of vandalism, 6 weapons, and 1,077 ‘other removals’. Overall, we had 1,193 incidents. Just so that we are aware, the district has 20,933 students. Next, we have the types of incidents. We had assaults, 39; fights, 46; threats, 16; damage to property, 5, computer trespassing, 3; no arson; weapons possession, 6; 2 were mace and 4 pocketknives; false fire alarms, 0; sexual assault, 0; sexual contact, 1; other incidents leading to removal, 1,077; for a total of 1,193. Total police involvement - reported were 10 and 0 arrests. Are there any questions?

Comm. McCall: I know that when we were talking about the SACs, we were given 9 last year. Are there any plans on adding more to that number? Last year we were supposed to have 17 and we hired 9. Will the other 6 be considered for the next year? What was the plan to get that number to where it should be?

Dr. Newell: That’s something we can definitely consider as we’re going through the budgeting process now.

Comm. McCall: Thank you.

Comm. Gonzalez: I have a quick question on the sheet that says ‘SSDS findings for violence, vandalism, and weapons.’ You have 2021- 2022. Then you have 2022-2023. The third row is 2023-2024, but it’s only for six months.

Mr. Price: That was an error. It should be from July 1 to December 31, 2023.

Comm. Gonzalez: So it’s a full year.

Mr. Price: No, it's July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

Comm. Gonzalez: So, we're talking about six months. But the two rows before that represent the full year.

Mr. Price: Yes, we're presenting now for the first half of the school year.

Comm. Gonzalez: The prior two years were averaging 121. Now it's 101 for the first six months.

Mr. Price: Correct.

Comm. Gonzalez: Okay.

Comm. Martinez: Thank you all for your presentations.

Comm. Simmons: The other instances leading to removal, for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 they're NA. Were we not counting those instances?

Mr. Price: We were just informed in October that we needed to report those numbers. But instead of starting in September or October when we were notified, we went back to July 1 for transparency.

Comm. Simmons: So that's why the number is so high.

Mr. Price: Yes.

Muslim American Heritage Month

Comm. Martinez: Muslim American Heritage Month officially took place in January but being that we didn't have a meeting in January we had to hold off on doing the presentation until this evening. Thank you all for being patient and bearing with us.

Musical Presentation

Comm. Martinez: I just want to say thanks to everyone who participated in putting that together. For all of our Muslim brothers and sisters, we thank you for all your contributions. The fabric of the City of Paterson is interwoven with so much of your influence. You make our city a richer place and a greater place to live. We thank you all and we honor and respect everything that you've done and continue to do in our city.

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. Rosie Grant: Good evening, Mr. President, Commissioners, Madam Superintendent, Mr. Deputy, staff, and community. My name is Rosie Grant and I speak on behalf of Paterson Education Fund. It was good to see the harassment, intimidation, and bullying report. I particularly noted and want everyone else to note that the incident can happen on or off school property in order to be considered bullying or harassment and can be one or more incidents. I'm pointing that out because I've heard

from people in schools and principals that it was only one incident, and it doesn't count until it gets to three. I've also heard that if it's not on school property it's not our business, so I want to point those out. It is our business as the community and one incident can have a child hurt or worse. Thank you for that. I recommend that this presentation be done to the people inside our schools as well so that it is being applied uniformly. My second comment is around School No. 3. I know that thankfully the SDA has allocated some funding for us here in Paterson. It will probably cost more than what they allocate and I want to invite you again to join me in advocacy. The BA went to the public meeting today. Anyone can go to the meeting. Board members and community, please join us in advocacy to get more money for the School No. 3 repairs or rebuild. Whatever it is, let's do what we can to get them back into the building. Let's get the money from the source that it should come from, not from our local budget. The court decided that the State of New Jersey is responsible for our facilities. If we don't ask for it, we won't get it. If we spend it, it will come from somewhere else and we won't get it back. Finally, I want to congratulate our student representatives and say thank you for taking leadership despite your fears and anxieties. It is good to see students have this opportunity to participate. Thank you so much.

Ms. Sanan Ramadan: Good evening. First of all, I want to thank all the parents with their students here. Shame on the President of the Board for not changing the agenda after seeing all these parents with their children on a school night! Even though you moved the Muslim American Heritage Month with the presentation for HIB, you could have changed the agenda to accommodate all our parents here. Going forward, I want to talk about the rightsizing for our students. When are the parents in the wider school community being involved in this process? What channels are available for feedback? How will it be incorporated into ongoing adjustments?

Comm. Martinez: For clarity, we typically don't engage in back-and-forth. When you are finished with your comments, we will address and respond to your questions.

Ms. Ramadan: Okay. I have another question. What metrics or indicators will the district use to evaluate the impact of the right-sizing exercise on educational equity and equality? How will the district ensure accountability and transparency in this process? Thank you.

Ms. Nyjah Allen: Good evening to the Board and cabinet. Thank you to the parents who waited to speak as well. When you responded to her you said you don't answer questions or go back-and-forth, but I will state my questions. I'm not expecting an answer. We can address it at a later date. This is in reference to the rightsizing and why it does not fit us or our community. How are the decisions being made regarding which staff members are moved and which classes are combined? For example, are you trying to fill more math and science classes? What are the core subjects that are going to be affected during the rightsizing? Is there a transparent criteria that prioritizes students' needs and educational continuity? There's also a teacher shortage, which we know about. You mentioned the national teacher shortage as a contributing factor. What long-term strategies are being implemented to attract and retain qualified educators beyond the immediate right-sizing effort? I do know that Paterson Public Schools has hosted multiple job fairs. But I also know from working as a substitute and being a parent of a student that attends Paterson Public Schools that most long-term vacancies are being filled by instructional aides. Is there any way that you can open up the list more than once a year to provide these instructional aides with tuition reimbursement so that they can become certified teachers? The students have already developed relationships with these teachers as they've been in the classroom for more than half the year. Thank you.

Comm. Martinez: For those of you who have questions, I would ask that you leave your information with Cheryl here so we can make sure to reach out to you to get you the proper and timely responses.

Mr. Gamaliel Soriano: Good evening, everyone. My name is Gamaliel Soriano. I'm the Districtwide President of the PTO leadership as well as at MLK. I did have a long speech, but I will get straight to the questions. I understand that the letter of the Superintendent provides a broad overview of the right-sizing exercise, framing it as a necessary response to the challenge of space in the post-Covid educational landscape. However, it lacks detailed explanations as to how the initiative will directly improve or maintain the quality of the education for all students, especially in light of the larger class sizes and redistribution of staff. While the intention to ensure that every classroom is led by a certified instructor is commendable, the implications of such moves on a quality education, teacher-to-student ratios, and the overall school environment require a deeper examination. It is crucial that the district provides clear and actionable strategies that address the concerns, including how it plans to support both the students and the teachers through the transition, moreover, engaging parents in the community in an open dialogue. A transparent dialogue is essential to building trust and ensuring the right-sizing exercise truly serves the best interests of the students. The success of such initiatives should not be measured solely by operational efficiencies, but by their impact on the educational outcomes and the well-being of the students. How will combining classes and relocating staff ensure that the quality of education is maintained, particularly in large class settings? Can you provide specific strategies or examples? You mentioned that there was a national teacher shortage as a contributing factor. What long-term strategies are being implemented to attract and retain qualified educators beyond the immediate right-sizing efforts that we have established? Thank you very much. Thank you, parents, for being here tonight also.

Ms. Kathy Morgan: Kathy Morgan on behalf of Mi'Ava Morgan. My daughter left because it grieves her every time she comes here or every time she deals with this situation. I understand that you can't tell us what's going on with personnel matters. You talked about HIB, but it works for children and not for adults. My granddaughter is constantly being harassed by this particular teacher on a daily basis. My granddaughter had a panic attack last week. No one called us. No one said anything to us. My daughter was so furious. I made her come here tonight, but she left because she was about to cry. My daughter is a strong woman. She's very outspoken and well-spoken. I'm the emotional one. My baby is being harassed. We had a meeting at the school. My daughter did press charges. Right after the meeting in front of the principal the teacher comes up to her and says, "I got this restraining order in the mail. I have a child to worry about." She stood right in front of Dr. Petretti on his last day. Nobody said anything to her. Aubrey was standing right next to Dr. Petretti when this woman did this. We were in a meeting with the three young girls that were harassing her. That little girl sat there in front of her parents and cried. She was so afraid of this teacher. Her mother asked her what happened and if Aubrey had done anything to her. She said, "Stop crying. Your dad is on his way." When her father got there, she was afraid in front of her parents to tell them that this teacher told her not to talk to anybody but her. She was like the devil. Do you know how they show the angel on one shoulder and the devil on the other? She was like a devil in that little girl's ear, spoon-feeding this child what to go downstairs and say to the guidance counselor about my granddaughter. My granddaughter is still scared to go to school. She's still afraid. If it was a kid, that child would be suspended. What is the recourse? I understand that you have to do your investigation, but she's asking kids, "Is Aubrey in school today?" The principal was on his way out so he didn't care. The guidance counselor sat there. We had our own

meeting. You can say anything you want, but if I go to a meeting, I'm ex-postal. It's CYA all the time, cover your own assets. I'm going to record the meeting. I have that entire meeting recorded because those little girls sat there and told us what this woman did to them, what she said, and how she's keeping tabs on my baby in school on a daily basis. The child had a panic attack. Her grandfather works from home. Her grandmother works right after school. All you have to do is call me. I love you to death, but my grandbaby has an issue. You have work to do. The scale is unbalanced. Something has to be done. Paterson Public Schools is not taking the position to protect Aubrey Davis Morgan. I told her if she does anything to you, if you feel threatened... She told the little girl, "If she attacks, you attack first." This is a teacher. These are the people who are supposed to protect her. Now you have taken all the trust she has in school and administration, and she doesn't feel like she can trust teachers and administration. What's the help for my baby? What's the HIB for this teacher? What's the recourse? Moving her out of the class obviously didn't help. I instructed Aubrey if she feels threatened or like she's coming at you, dial 911, tell them what room you're in, and call me second. Nobody is taking an active position and protecting my grandbaby. Something needs to be done. I understand your investigation, but something needs to be done. She is still experiencing this on a daily basis. At this point, I'm tired. I'm being very honest. I'm about ready to walk up to her and ask her what is her problem. What happened to you that was so detrimental in fifth grade that you have to pin little girls against one another. She told them, "You can't have lunch with me upstairs anymore because you are all rats." Really? An adult? Something has to be done. It's going to get worse before it gets better.

Dr. Newell: Thank you, Ms. Morgan. Are you available tomorrow to meet with Mr. Price? We have an update on the investigation.

Ms. Morgan: What time?

Dr. Newell: 9:00 a.m. Please be here tomorrow. Thank you, Ms. Morgan.

Ms. Greta Mills: Hello, everyone. My name is Greta Mills. I'm a Paterson resident and teacher in the district. It is rough to have to listen to students curse, carry on, and say things that I'm not going to say right now and try to teach in the classroom. I hear that you're talking about rightsizing and trying to put even more children into a classroom when it's clear that we need to have classroom sizes smaller. If 60% of the students are failing, why are we even thinking about putting more students into a classroom? That shouldn't even be an option. The option is to get rid of all supervisors and put them back into the classroom. There need to be five students per adult at this point if we want to raise the scores and get the kids learning. If parents are struggling to teach their own children at home, how do you think a teacher with 25 and 30 students is going to do it? It's just not fair, especially when you have a lot of students who do not get along, have done nothing but cause chaos, refuse to follow directions, and refuse to follow school and district policies. There has to be a better way than trying to lump all the students into one classroom and making it hard on just that teacher in the room. Put those SEL teachers back in the classroom. Put the supervisors back in the classroom. Put all the reading specialists back in the classroom. Get every adult teaching just five children. That's it. We have to get the kids to learning again. You can't keep saying they're failing and then the best we can do is lump them all into a classroom together. That's not the way. We're getting paid too much money to say that's the way. It's a burden and a hardship. The teachers are hurting because they're stressed. There are too many kids and the words I have to listen to while I'm trying to teach are not fair. Please put people back in the classroom. If they don't want to go

into the classroom, they shouldn't be dealing with children. Everybody needs to get back into the classroom. Thank you.

Ms. Tiffany Shepherd-Kearney: Good evening and Happy Wednesday to everyone who loves the youth of Paterson so that should cover everyone in the room. My name is Tiffany Shepherd-Kearney and I'm representing the Great Falls Youth Center located right next to John F. Kennedy High School at 52 Front Street. With the support of Dr. Newell and Ms. Espana, we are excited to inform all stakeholders what we can offer them. The Great Falls Youth Center is an after-school safe space for the youth of our community from eighth grade and above to learn, earn, grow, and have a great time too. We teach to be RAD in everything we do. RAD stands for responsibility, accountability, and discipline. Our goal is to partner with schools in Paterson in an effort to serve your student and staff population with vast resources, enrichment activities, and events. We offer human empowerment, career development, college readiness, culinary arts, music, tutorials, performing arts, nutrition, fitness, self-defense, mental health & wellness, fun & games, and field trips. Our center was founded by and funded through the New Jersey Community Development Corporation. Our mission is to provide for the community from cradle to college and beyond, creating opportunities to transform lives. Our team consists of staff members, AmeriCorps members, and certified teachers. We know how extremely important and beneficial our services are for not only your students, but also your staff and parents. We cannot wait to partner with your school. I am confident we can help relieve, even if in some small part, the stresses stemming from teacher shortages by having our center available for Credit Recovery, homework help, makeup work, etc. If you're just as fired up to serve with us and partner with us as we are with you, please contact us. We are on Instagram and Facebook. I also have business cards. Thank you.

Ms. Dorothy Dickens: Hello, my name is Dorothy Dickens. This is my first time coming to a Board meeting, but I'm happy that I'm here. I have problems with my granddaughter. She went to School No. 12 the year before last. There were so many fights going on with my grandkids. I never lived across town that way. When I had so many problems, my daughter and I had to go to school almost every day. Gangs of girls wanted to jump and fight them. We have a couple of videos too. She went to North Carolina for school, but I went down and brought her back. I've been here all last week because her mom and I had to register her. I was trying to get some understanding. She hasn't been to school since January. They keep telling me that she has to go back to the same school we had drama with. A gang of girls are coming to my house. I called the Paterson police to my house. I had a picture, but I took it out of my phone. They took my little grandson's bike. I had to call the cops and they told me that I had to talk to the parents. I had a meeting at School No. 12 with the principal and parents. Sometimes when kids get to fighting there's a lot of drama. Sometimes parents don't act like real parents because they fall in a trap with the kids. Sometimes they think whatever their child says is the truth. It doesn't have to be the truth. To my knowledge, they all did something. I had to go through that. One parent would tell me she has a bigger brother. I said I have grandsons. It's a shame because the older we are, sometimes people just don't think. I refuse to let me grandchild go back to the same school. My daughter was walking with one of them and a girl ran up and grabbed her hoodie. Good thing my daughter was with her. I guess she thought my daughter was a kid too. I don't know. We have to go through this all the time. Why do I have to send my grandchild back to the same school to start fighting all over again? I work every day. She works. Sooner or later, somebody is going to get hurt. Sometimes parents follow up with their kids. They don't use their brains a little bit. I want to get down to the understanding of everything. If you're going to punish one, you punish all of them. Sometimes things don't happen like that until somebody gets hurt. I don't want

my granddaughter to go back to that school to start all over again. One day I might meet her at the hospital. You never know the way kids are today.

Comm. Martinez: You're right about that, ma'am. I'm going to ask the Assistant Superintendent over School No. 12 to speak with you to gather the information so we can see what type of resolve we can arrive at in ensuring your granddaughter's safety.

Ms. Dickens: I'm not trying to cut you off. I talked to people. People just don't listen.

Comm. Martinez: I do appreciate you taking the time to express your feelings. It is a difficult situation. We will do what we can to not only give you the words you need, but the actions you need to ensure the safety of your grandchild. This is Dr. Warren. She is the Assistant Superintendent over the school. She will sit with you right now to take some information to ensure that we can get you that resolve. We thank you for being bold and brave in coming up and sharing with us. Thank you.

Ms. Grant: This child has not been in school because she's too scared to send her and she's been denied the transfer.

Comm. Martinez: Correct. Thank you, Rosie.

Ms. Menal Ammar: Good evening. I'm a parent of four kids in Paterson Public Schools. Why did you guys decide to do this mid-school year when the students finally got comfortable with the teachers and the teachers got to know each student's needs and wants? It doesn't make sense. Why do it now? Why not do it in the beginning of the school year or for next year? Have a better plan. I understand the teacher shortage, but you guys have to come up with something. This is why this community is going to stay low. If you guys don't have a higher pay for teachers, these poor students are going to suffer. My daughter cried because she found out her teacher is leaving her. It's her math teacher. She was struggling and she was so easy to learn from. Now she has to relearn from a new teacher. You guys have to think about students who have IEPs who don't open up to just anybody. They struggle with that attachment. It doesn't make sense to me. Thank you.

Ms. Amira Abdelhadi: I have school tomorrow and I feel it's unacceptable that it's 8:30. Good evening. My name is Amira. I'm an eighth grader and I go to School No. 9. I believe that this rightsizing is unacceptable and not even right-sizing. How do I already have 27 kids in my class and now you're going to add even more kids? There's not going to be enough attention to each kid. When they need help, how are they going to get it? They're going to start failing. I left my last period class just to see half of my grade hugging their math teacher goodbye while crying because halfway through the school year they will never see her again right before they graduate. Kids are used to their teachers. As she said, kids have relationships with these teachers and it's going to be very hard for them to cope. Especially this teacher, they were so used to her lessons. A lot of kids in my grade struggle with math. The fact that they now don't have a math teacher is unacceptable. How will this affect our mental health? Everybody in the district is always talking about SEL. All the teachers are leaving. Everybody in my grade, their whole schedule is going to be changing. Do you think that's going to help their mental health? No, because now they have to get used to a whole new curriculum halfway through the year. There's NJSLA coming up and their finals. This will help us and tell us what classes we will be in in high school. If we're going to have all the new teachers, lessons, and curriculum, how do you think this is going to help? Their scores are going to be very low. They're never going to see their teachers again. If they're used to these teachers, I don't know what's going to happen. They're going to be

uncomfortable with their new teachers. That's how I feel about the right-sizing. Thank you.

Ms. Jamila Musbar: Good evening. My name is Jamila Musbar. I'm in the eighth grade and I go to School No. 9. I believe that this rightsizing is completely out of hand. I think that taking away teachers from the school and students is wrong and greatly impacts myself as well as my schoolmates. We are all comfortable with the teacher we have now. Removing them will change our learning experience. I have a really good relationship with my teacher, and I think it's unfair for you guys to take her away. Thank you.

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

Comm. Martinez: If I can attempt to address your concerns briefly. I would kindly ask all the speakers who signed up tonight to make sure we have your proper information so we can disseminate accurate information. Before we address it, I want to ensure we have the proper information to share with you. Because this does deal with personnel issues, I do not want to misspeak. I do not want anyone over here to misspeak and share the wrong information with you. I would ask that you share your information and make sure we have the proper contact information. When we gather all the proper information, we can share it with you as timely as possible and continue to have this dialogue. I do understand your concerns and I appreciate you guys coming out tonight and sharing how you feel about this potential move. Everyone who signed up tonight, make sure we have your proper contact information so we can get you the accurate information as timely as possible. I thank you all for coming out this evening. For those of you who are still here, we're going to provide a broad-brush overview of what right-sizing actually is and some of the rationale behind what went into the actions.

Mr. Luis Rojas: Good evening, Commissioners and fellow parents. My name is Luis Rojas, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. I'd like to give an explanation to the public as to what we have done, what we will continue to do, and what we have looked at insofar as the right-sizing activity. We use the term right-sizing as a broad term to move staff around in the district and take a look at specific schools that have either low class sizes or personnel that are not being utilized 100%. We took a deep dive into schedules, class sizes, rosters, and personnel. We looked across the whole district, met with the administrators of each building, and identified certain staff members that we believe could be moved. Some staff members are moving. Some staff members are going to remain in their buildings. Not everyone has been moved in a right-size setting. We have identified roughly 46 teachers out of close to 2,100 in the district. We're really talking about a small percentage of staff that we believe could be utilized to fulfill vacancies in other schools. We have some classes that have gone without a certified teacher as a result of the shortage for a few years now. It's our job, as well as the cabinet and the Superintendent, to try to provide a certified teacher for all students. This right-size exercise is continuing. It's an ongoing process. It's not done. It doesn't mean that we are going to lose staff. No one is being RIF'd as a result. We understand that this is a tough pill to swallow for some parents, but we do have students in other schools that have not been able to have a certified teacher all year. We deemed it necessary to move staff and resources around from one side of town to the other to help those students achieve their academic dreams as well.

Comm. Martinez: Thank you, Mr. Rojas. I kindly ask that you leave your information there so we can be in direct contact with you all and provide you further information as it becomes available. We thank you all for coming out this evening.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Newell: Good evening everyone. I wanted to give you a brief report on what has been happening around the district. First of all, I want to say a very special thank you to our facilities department. For the last few weeks, they have been working very hard on converting this space so that we can accommodate the Board and our families as we have seen here tonight. I'm very happy with the fact that we have replaced just about everything – new carpeting, new painting, and upgraded our facilities to accommodate everyone. I'm happy to invite the Board Commissioners as well as members of the public as we use this space. It is National School Counseling Week and I want to honor our school counselors. We are hosting two events tomorrow, one for our elementary school counselors and the other for our high school counselors. We recognize that our counselors have a tremendous impact on the academic and personal development of all our students and so we want to celebrate the great work that they have been doing. I look forward to addressing the group and commending them for the key role they play in students' lives. If you walk down the hallway, you will see pictures where we have a montage of all our counselors in honor of National School Counseling Week. I also wanted to mention that I was pleased to receive notification from the New Jersey Department of Education that several of our schools met the criteria to exit comprehensive support and improvement, additional targeted support and improvement, and targeted status effective June 30, 2024. The 10 schools that met these goals are School No. 3, Frank Napier School, School No. 5, School No. 7, School No. 8, School No. 19, School No. 24, School No. 27, John F. Kennedy, and Roberto Clemente. This accomplishment is a fine testament to the work of everyone who is involved in closing the achievement gap. We continue to work towards closing the achievement gap districtwide. Finally, I have had the honor of meeting with our high school student council members this week. Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney Henderson and I met with school leadership at each grade level at International High School and STEAM High School. These meetings were very enjoyable and productive, and they gave me an opportunity to hear what our student leaders have to say and what their concerns are as they are bringing them to us on behalf of the entire population. I received valuable feedback, and we discussed proposals that they would like to see implemented in their school to improve their experience. I look forward to meeting with different leadership groups at our remaining high schools in the coming weeks. That's the end of my report. Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS FOR A VOTE AT THE WORKSHOP MEETING

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School District approves payment for the list of bills dated through 2/7/2024 in the amount of \$ 27,319,482.44, beginning with check number 240512 and ending with check number 240982, along with direct deposit number beginning with 1940 and ending with 1963; and

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School District also approves wires in the amount of \$15,000,000.00, bringing the grand total \$ 42,319,482.44; 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 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
*Carlos Miranda	Digistar Hardware/Software Training	January 29-31, 2024	\$492.09 (transportation, lodging, meals)
Planetarium Manager/Paterson P-TECH	Chadds Ford, PA		
*Nicole Brown	2024 National ESEA Conference	February 7-10, 2024	\$699.00 (registration)
Associate Chief Academic Officer	Virtual		
*Liz Rios Otto	2024 National ESEA Conference	February 7-10, 2024	\$699.00 (registration)
Director of Multilingual Learners	Virtual		
*Joanna Tsimpedes	2024 National ESEA Conference	February 7-10, 2024	\$699.00 (registration)
Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services	Virtual		
Dr. Laurie W. Newell	AASA National Conference on Education	February 15-17, 2024	\$3,819.44 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Superintendent of Schools	San Diego, CA		
Alyssa Apryas	Climate Change Workshop Series 2023-2024	February 28, 2024	\$202.16 (registration, transportation)

Science Teacher/Eastside H.S.	Branchburg, NJ		
Tayron Glover	Harvard Medical School: Treating Addictions	March 1-2, 2024 (traveling 2/29/24)	\$1,419.74 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Student Assistance Coordinator	Boston, MA		
Gina Johnson	Harvard Medical School: Treating Addictions	March 1-2, 2024 (traveling 2/29/24)	\$1,409.74 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Student Assistance Coordinator	Boston, MA		
Bridget Miller	Harvard Medical School: Treating Addictions	March 1-2, 2024 (traveling 2/29/24)	\$1,437.60 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Student Assistance Coordinator	Boston, MA		
Rebecca Grassano	NJSSNA Spring Conference	March 15, 2024	\$199.00 (registration)
Nursing Coordinator	New Brunswick, NJ		

Tiffany Kidd Schindler	NJSSNA Spring Conference	March 15-16, 2024	\$249.00 (registration)
Nursing Coordinator	New Brunswick, NJ		
Kimler Williamson	NJSSNA Spring Conference	March 15-16, 2024	\$249.00 (registration)
Supervisor of Nursing	New Brunswick, NJ		
Teresa Afonso	STS – School Transportation Supervisors of NJ	March 20-22, 2024	\$871.88 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Deputy Director of Transportation	Atlantic City, NJ		
Lisa Vainieri-Marshall	STS – School Transportation Supervisors of NJ	March 20-22, 2024	\$871.88 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Director of Student Assignment Services	Atlantic City, NJ		
Nahed Badawy	Carnegie Summit 2024	March 24-26, 2024	\$3,918.00 (registration, transportation, lodging)
Acting Assistant Superintendent	San Diego, CA		
Michele Borak	Infinite Campus Interchange NYC 2024	March 26-27, 2024	\$699.00 (registration)
Supervisor of MIS	New York, NY		
Elizabeth Flores	Infinite Campus Interchange NYC 2024	March 26-27, 2024	\$699.00 (registration)

Supervisor of MIS	New York, NY		
Jason Lockley	Infinite Campus Interchange NYC 2024	March 26-27, 2024	\$699.00 (registration)
Coordinator of MIS	New York, NY		
Lenny Moore	Infinite Campus Interchange NYC 2024	March 26-27, 2024	\$699.00 (registration)
Director of MIS	New York, NY		
Mohammed Saleh	Infinite Campus Interchange NYC 2024	March 26-27, 2024	\$699.00 (registration)
Associate Chief Technology and MIS Officer	New York, NY		
Della McCall	2024 NSBA Annual Conference	April 4-8, 2024	\$5,139.64 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Board Member	New Orleans, LA		
Nakima Redmon	2024 NSBA Annual Conference	April 4-8, 2024	\$5,289.64 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Board Member	New Orleans, LA		

Dr. Laurie W. Newell	2024 NSBA Annual Conference	April 5-8, 2024	\$4,431.28 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Superintendent of Schools	New Orleans, LA		
Melissa España	NY Metro Center's 2024 Equity Conference – Equity Now 70 Years after Brown vs. Board	May 17, 2024	\$326.83 (registration, transportation, meals)
Assistant Superintendent	New York, NY		

***FOR RATIFICATION**

**Total Number of Conferences: 24
Total Cost: \$35,918.92**

Resolution No. 3

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes that the presentation of a school calendar is essential to orderly planning and to the efficient operations of the district; and

WHEREAS, the annual school calendar for Board of Education consideration in collaboration with union associations and the County Superintendent was approved on March 15, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the 2023-2024 School Calendar satisfies the 185 days' requirement for staff employed on a ten- month basis, and a minimum 180 days for student contact, and

in the event the district is closed due to inclement weather or other emergencies, days may be added extending the school year beyond the last day of school noted in this calendar, and

WHEREAS, the district will implement a delayed opening schedule when either weather or other emergent conditions are imminent, which will allow for the timely and safe arrival of students and staff and provide for additional time to reconsider full closure based on developing weather conditions, and

WHEREAS, due to inclement weather thus far, there has been a total of four (4) early dismissal days, two (2) delayed opening days, and four (4) school closure days (December 19, 20, 21 & 22, 2023), that require the district to make up, and

WHEREAS, the administration, in collaboration with the union groups, has recommended utilizing winter break days (February 20-23, 2024) as make up days, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the implementation of the revised 2023-2024 School Calendar.

It was moved by Comm. Redmon, seconded by Comm. Simmons that Resolution Nos. 1 through 3 be adopted. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative, except Comm. Castillo-Cruz and Comm. Redmon who voted no on Resolution No. 3, and Comm. Ramirez who abstained on Resolution No. 2. 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

Instruction and Program

Comm. Castillo-Cruz: I&P met this past Monday. The minutes will be available on the drive. We had a conversation about the resolutions on the agenda. The bulk of our meeting was spent talking about the pathways in the high schools and getting updates on the accomplishments. That presentation is coming to the full Board. It was a twofold conversation on the progress of the pathways. We were then going to move to a facilities meeting on what else is needed so the pathways are successful. You'll see it as an I&P presentation and a facilities one as well. It is good to know about the work that the administration has done with the eighth graders especially to motivate, encourage, and educate them on the pathways available to them and to the parents. There have been various occasions where they have invited parents to the different schools to not only teach them but show them as well. It's about 85, but they're still going through the number of students who have applied for next year. We have more work ahead, but we are going in the right path after all the changes this year. That presentation should be coming shortly, ready for budget season so we can inform the Board on what else the academies will need. Thank you.

Operations

Comm. Ramirez: Operations met today. We discussed the items on the agenda. One item not on the agenda was the implementation of a student registration feature in our current software so that we can allow parents to register and upload documentation online and not have to come here and make those long lines. We're looking forward to moving with that suggestion and that will come to the whole Board in the very near future. That's it for operations.

Fiscal Management

Comm. Simmons: Fiscal met yesterday. We received the presentation today on the audit. We did go through a budget gap review, which will be presented to the full Board at the next meeting. Some other items will be presented at the next meeting that I can't

mention here right now, but they will be mentioned in executive session. Most of the items covered will be discussed in executive session at the next meeting.

Personnel

Comm. Redmon: Personnel met on Monday. The report will be updated on Monday because the personnel committee is asking for an emergency meeting for Monday through the chair for additional items to be added to the resolution.

Governance

Comm. McCall: Governance has not met. We are scheduled to meet tomorrow.

Committee Report

Facilities

Comm. Martinez: Facilities is scheduled to meet next Wednesday.

Family & Community Engagement

Comm. Freeman: We will be meeting next week on Wednesday and then we'll update you.

Policy

Comm. Simmons: Policy has not met. We should have a meeting coming up soon.

Technology

Comm. Simmons: Technology met yesterday. We discussed some of the updates that are happening in the district. We went through some security information that will eventually be presented to the Board. We talked about some of the upgrades that are happening here at 90 Delaware in terms of wi-fi. We're getting new wireless access points throughout the district. We also talked about registration and looking into the possibility of some modules added to Infinite Campus so that parents can submit their information. Once all the necessary paperwork is submitted, the parents are given an option to choose an appointment for registration at that point. We have seen parents not getting appointments until October, sometimes as late as November, and the students are out of school that entire time. We want to try and streamline that process as much as we can.

OTHER BUSINESS

Comm. Martinez: In your packet there was a list of Paterson Public Schools upcoming events. Please feel free to read that at your leisure and share that accordingly so we can get folks to come out and continue to support our events.

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 8:41 p.m.

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

The Board reconvened the meeting at 10:04 p.m.

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 10:05 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard L. Matthews" with a small flourish at the end.

Mr. Richard Matthews
Business Administrator/Board Secretary