

MINUTES OF THE PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD RETREAT

December 6, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
90 Delaware Avenue

Presiding:

Comm. Nakima Redmon, President

Present:

Dr. Laurie W. Newell, Superintendent of Schools

Comm. Oshin Castillo-Cruz

Comm. Eddie Gonzalez

Comm. Jonathan Hodges

Comm. Dania Martinez, Vice President

Comm. Manuel Martinez

Comm. Della McCall

Comm. Kenneth Simmons

Absent:

Comm. Valerie Freeman

Also Present:

Ms. Melissa Espana, Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Shenita Davis, Director of Secondary Education

Comm. Redmon 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:

Board Retreat
December 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
Remote
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.

INTRODUCTIONS

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT RECOVERY

Ms. Melissa Espana presented the Credit Recovery restructuring.

- Credit Recovery is an opportunity for students to regain lost credits from courses they do not pass so they graduate with their high school cohort.
- Edgenuity program will be used. It's an evidence-based program.
- Online course specifically modified to match the Paterson Public Schools curriculum.
- Program for sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
- The program will run from Monday through Friday, and on Saturdays if needed.
- Students must attend in-person four hours per week per course. Students may take two courses during any given Credit Recovery session.
- There will be no free movement throughout the course. Students must sit through every piece of the entire program. Students must complete 100% of the course in order to receiving a passing grade.
- Each course runs 60 hours.
- The program will monitor a student's idle time and active time.

Student graduation rates will reflect a decline as a result of this program.

Principals have sent out letters to parents in multiple languages announcing the program. There is also website notification and robocalls.

It's important that teachers be able to communicate to the students the changes in the Credit Recovery program. They should be the first to detect that the student needs the program, not the parents.

There is a website page available with all the information on the High School Credit Recovery Program for parents. It contains breakdown of grades, requirements for the students, and schedules for each of the buildings the program is housed in.

The courses not found in Ingenuity are:

- Health 1-4
- ESL 1-4
- Spanish 4

Why do students find themselves in need of Credit Recovery in the first place?

- Student attendance is an issue.
- Perception that Credit Recovery is a viable substitute for passing the courses during the school year.
- There is a mentality on the part of some teachers that students can fall back on Credit Recovery.

It's important that teachers are supported by the administration, and that students are held accountable for their efforts to attend Credit Recovery.

Recommendations proposed are a potential daytime adult school for select students who show promise of attendance to earn their diploma. Students would graduate in two different cohorts.

Another recommendation would be for failing freshmen to attend Saturday marking period makeup sessions. If they pass these Saturday courses, that score would be averaged into their marking period failing grade.

GOAL-SETTING SESSION

- Review of Board governance cycle.
- Steps involved in creating Board goals.
 - Identify priorities
 - Engage stakeholders
 - Smart goals
 - Focus on key areas
 - Long-term vision
 - Resources and accountability
 - Flexibility
 - Communication
- Goal development review.
- It's important that the Board present a united front when articulating and supporting these goals before the community.
- In order to fix the problems, the Board needs to be honest and accept them for what they are.
- Vision and mission statement.

September 30, 2023 Retreat Board Goals:

- Teaching and Learning
 - Restructuring of High School Credit Recovery
 - Incremental assessments on the implementation of Credit Recovery program provided quarterly
 - Effective way of measuring and evaluating what's being taught in the classroom
 - Audit of transcript review process from 9 through 12 grades
 - Cycle of teacher retention and vacancies a district problem
 - There should be a teacher professional development department for a district our size
- Facilities
 - Develop concrete action plan for School No. 3

- Schedule a retreat for systemwide assessment of all district facilities
- Communications and connections
- Social-emotional learning

PUBLIC COMMENTS

It was moved by Comm. M. Martinez and seconded by Comm. Simmons that the Public Comments portion of the meeting be opened. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

No speakers

It was moved by Comm. Castillo-Cruz, 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.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.



Mr. Richard Matthews
Business Administrator/Board Secretary