

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

June 7, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.  
Remote - Zoom

Presiding: Comm. Nakima Redmon, President

Present:

Ms. Eileen F. Shafer, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Susana Peron, Deputy Superintendent  
Khalifah Shabazz-Charles, Esq., General Counsel  
Boris Zaydel, Esq., Board Counsel

Comm. Oshin Castillo-Cruz  
Comm. Valerie Freeman  
Comm. Jonathan Hodges  
Comm. Dania Martinez, Vice President

Comm. Manuel Martinez  
Comm. Della McCall  
Comm. Kenneth Simmons

Absent:

Comm. Eddie Gonzalez

Student Representative:

Ms. Paris Higgs

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:

**Workshop Meeting  
June 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.  
Virtual  
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.

## **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Ms. Shafer: Good evening, Board Commissioners, Paterson community, and staff. I just want to give you an update on what's happening with the fires in Canada. It looks like we've seen the worst of it today. It's supposed to get better tonight and tomorrow

as well. Friday is supposed to be the best day out of the week, becoming more likely that there will be a significant improvement in both visibility and air quality. In the meantime, today and tomorrow we will not have any students going out for recess or any outdoor activities. Windows will continue to be closed and air purifiers will be on in every classroom. We sent another email today to all the principals to remind them and also did a Robo-call to all the parents. We have the air purifiers in the classrooms, which is a big plus especially with what's going on with the fires. From Kennedy High School, Yusef Elzabar won the NJSIAA State Sectional North 1 Group 4 in the shotput. That's from Kennedy High School. Mekkaï Pierce jumped a personal best with a 6.0-foot jump in the high jump, placing fourth. We have two students moving on to the Group 4 championships this coming weekend. At Eastside High School, Samar Harrison won the State Group 4 North I sectional high jump. You'll see in the agenda that I'll be presenting to our two student non-voting Board members \$500 scholarships. One is going to Howard University and the other to Kean University. That concludes my report.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**It was moved by Comm. M. Martinez, seconded by Comm. D. Martinez 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. I'm here because I sent an email in reference to being moved and the issue with moving teachers from different grades that have totally different standards. I'm in fourth grade and they're trying to move me to seventh grade and this has been going on now for the last couple of years. I came here before and spoke about it and nothing was said. I sent an email out. This is a really serious thing because we're supposed to be trying to reach the students and then you're getting put into a grade to teach standards that you haven't taught. How is that helping the students? I really would like for someone to take the time to look into this. Look at the standards posted by the district to see the differences between the grades. You shouldn't just take a teacher and haphazardly move them around in different grade levels. What purpose is that going to serve outside of just causing disarray and causing people to have to uproot, get new things, get new materials, and get things that need to be done for the kids? It's not helpful. It's just stress. Thank you.

Ms. Linda Reid: Good evening, everyone. On behalf of Paterson Education Fund, I would like to thank everyone who came out to the 50 Book Club celebration on Thursday. It was a successful day. We had over 1,000 kids read 50 books. We appreciate all the staff, volunteers, Ms. Shafer, Dr. Hodges, and Joanne who came out to celebrate with us and show their support for the students. We're hoping that you will join us next year as we continue to increase and get the word out about the students reading 50 books early in September. I also want to remind everyone that on Saturday, June 10 at 2:00 p.m. we will hold PEF's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jazz Brunch at Berkley College. We will be celebrating Ms. Shafer on her outstanding support and dedication to the students of Paterson Public Schools. We hope that you will be able to join us. It's not too late. Just give us a call, text, or email if you would like to come. Have a great night.

Ms. Annie Hodges: Good evening, everyone. I'm here on behalf of my children. I have some issues that have been weighing heavy on my heart. Ms. Shafer, I emailed you almost a week ago on this matter. I'm having issues with Rosa Parks High School. My kids are going through a lot of things. They were placed there because I was a concerned parent. I asked if they could be moved there because I didn't want them to

attend Eastside or Kennedy. Since my children have been there, there have been a lot of issues going on. I was just afraid to speak up about them. One of the issues is they're trying to take my child and transfer her into an alternative program. I was never told about this. I was never aware of this. I just received this phone call last week on June 2. I got a call from Ms. Douglas, who is one of the individuals that I've been having a problem with ever since my children have been there. I have been chased down for a 504 plan that I have provided to the schools. They said my child was failing. I asked them when they were going to help my child so that she wouldn't fail. I was told by a lady named Ms. Payne from the alternative program that they were waiting to see if she could bring her grades back up. That was one. Two, they violated my rights and my children's rights. They called my doctor's office asking questions about my children over the phone without my permission. My children supplied this 504 plan to the school. When they did, the school nurse took orders from Ms. Thompson and Ms. Douglas to call my doctor's office questioning the 504 plan. They then went on to request from my doctor's office a prescription.

**It was moved by Comm. Hodges, seconded by Comm. McCall that the Public Comments portion of the meeting be closed. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative, except Comm. Freeman who voted no. The motion carried.**

Comm. Redmon: Ms. Shafer, will someone from the cabinet reach out to that parent so we can get the information while we're on the Board meeting?

Ms. Shafer: On May 31, I received an email from her. I sent it to Dr. Warren and Ms. Thompson, the principal. I'm sure that Dr. Warren contacted the parent, but I'm going to send her the email again. I'll have her contact the parent while we are on the call to find out what's going on and then she can report back to us before the meeting is over.

Comm. Hodges: I'm a little concerned about the outreach to a physician's office about information which would be HIPAA protected. I would really like to know how that worked out because that's very concerning. I'm sure you'll move expeditiously to try to get that resolved. Last week I attended a tour of Dr. Hani Awadallah. I came to this Board because I wanted to see certain changes in the way our children were being educated. One of my primary concerns was that we seem to struggle as a district in our students' critical thinking and analysis skills. I brought to the district some ideas around bringing computer programming. The other issue was that when they encountered a roadblock, they would quit. They wouldn't go further. They would just stop once they reached a problem that they couldn't solve. I thought some ways to address that would be computer programming. By its nature, it causes you to analyze mistakes and go around roadblocks. You have to analyze it thoroughly. Another area was Maker Spaces, which are used across the country. It's an environment where students go in and learn some techniques and apply their own imaginations to designing projects and making them work. This helps with critical analysis and encountering roadblocks and moving forward. On that tour of Kennedy, I saw one of our Maker Spaces. We have 15 in the district. As Ms. Shafer's staff will tell you, I was smiling from ear to ear when the instructor told me that the kids rushed to get back in there on their own free time. When they encountered problems, they worked their way around them on their own, which is precisely what I wanted to have happen. I was extraordinarily excited and pleased to see that take place. They also had a Maker Space site at Dr. Hani Awadallah where this was occurring on the elementary level. These kids were enjoying themselves while learning and inventing. When you see something that you've asked for put in place, it's extremely gratifying to have it work out and see it being implemented in the district. In addition to that, we visited the TV studio, another project that I tried to push. To see how it has taken off and what they have done with it was extremely gratifying. That

whole day I was extremely happy to see these things occurring. The last area that I saw was the stock exchange. As some of you older Board members know, I was demanding that we teach financial literacy before 2005. I wanted the student-run bank. I wanted every student to have an account at a student-run bank, which we have, and the teaching of stocks and securities as part of their training. That is taking place at Kennedy. When I saw all these things that I had worked on and asked for implemented, I was extremely pleased and excited. I wanted Ms. Shafer to hear that from me. Usually, she and her staff hear complaints. I don't shy away from that. There are some things I'm not happy about, like cursive writing and note-taking. I don't see that, but these things I saw, and the students were enjoying the opportunity. I wanted to say publicly that I appreciate your efforts in those areas.

Comm. Freeman: Ms. Shafer, did you say that Dr. Warren was going to contact the parent? I'm curious as to what she was speaking about. I know when we're virtual it's two minutes and they get cut right off, but they need to be informed that their time is almost close to being up so they can speed you whatever they're saying instead of just being cut off. I don't like that.

Ms. Shafer: Dr. Warren is reaching out to the parent and also to the principal of Rosa Parks. We'll get to the bottom of it and find out what's happening and report back to the Board. Thank you, Dr. Hodges, for your comments. This is a team effort. Dr. Peron did the High School Restructuring along with all of the cabinet members and staff. Sarah and Joanna were responsible for the Maker Spaces in the 15 schools.

Comm. Hodges: I hope that we fully expand that program to other schools because it seems to be very inspirational. The students seem to enjoy themselves and they're learning at the same time. That's exciting to see, particularly when they want to come back and spend additional time on their own. That to me is what a school should look like. Thank you very much. If we can get the note-taking and cursive writing, I'll be even happier.

## **RESOLUTIONS FOR A VOTE AT THE WORKSHOP MEETING**

### **Resolution No. 1**

Whereas, the Paterson Public School District approves the payment of bills and claims dated through June 7, 2023, beginning with check number 235431 and ending with check number 237440, in the amount of \$15,765,605.59, and direct deposit number beginning with 1711 and ending with 1732, along with a wire in the amount of \$3,882,455.30, for a total of \$19,648,060.89;

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.

**It was moved by Comm. M. Martinez, seconded by Comm. D. Martinez that Resolution No. 1 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
- Downtown Special Improvement District
- Celebrate Paterson

Comm. Valerie Freeman

- Self
- Family

Comm. Eddie Gonzalez

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

Comm. Jonathan Hodges

- Self
- City of Paterson

Comm. Dania Martinez

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Ilearn Schools
- Paterson Arts & Science Charter School

Comm. Manuel Martinez

- Self

Comm. Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson

Comm. Nakima Redmon

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

Comm. Kenneth Simmons

- Self
- Family

## **Resolution No. 2**

Whereas, Paterson-Promising Tomorrow Strategic Plan, Goal 1, to create a student centered learning environment to prepare students for career, college readiness, and lifelong learning, And

Whereas, The Paterson Public Schools District has participated in National History Day for over twenty years. Two students from School 28 have qualified as alternates from the New Jersey State Competition to the National Competition. The advancing students are eligible to attend the National Competition on June 11th to the 15th at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Whereas, the New Jersey Student Learning Standards serve as the foundation for all research projects for this competition.

Whereas,, the competition inspires students to conduct extensive research in the annual theme "Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas". The research conducted is displayed in one of the five categories: website, exhibits, documentaries, performances, or papers. Students develop complex cognitive skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and creative thinking skills while creating entries which are judged on both historical quality and clarity of presentation.

Therefore be it Resolved, that Paterson Board of Education approves students from School 28 to attend the 2023 National History Day Competition Not to Exceed \$2,595.00.

**It was moved by Comm. M. Martinez, seconded by Comm. D. Martinez that Resolution No. 2 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
- Downtown Special Improvement District
- Celebrate Paterson

#### Comm. Valerie Freeman

- Self
- Family

#### Comm. Eddie Gonzalez

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

#### Comm. Jonathan Hodges

- Self
- City of Paterson

#### Comm. Dania Martinez

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Ilearn Schools
- Paterson Arts & Science Charter School

#### Comm. Manuel Martinez

- Self

#### Comm. Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson

#### Comm. Nakima Redmon

- Self

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

Comm. Kenneth Simmons

- Self
- Family

**Resolution No. 3**

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
*Maria Choy	Rutgers University Public Purchasing Educational Forum	May 2-4, 2023	\$939.00 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Purchasing Coordinator	Atlantic City, NJ		
*Kim Johnson	Rutgers University Public Purchasing Educational Forum	May 2-4, 2023	\$939.00 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Purchasing Coordinator	Atlantic City, NJ		
*Theresa Miller	Rutgers University Public Purchasing Educational Forum	May 2-4, 2023	\$939.00 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Purchasing Coordinator	Atlantic City, NJ		
*Chalyce M. Glover	Cognitive Behavior Institute – Center for Education	May 18-23, 2023	\$99.00 (registration)
School Based Mental Health Therapist	Virtual		
*Jacqueline Bounouk	The College of NJ, Ready Set Go! Teaching Climate Change to K-5 Students Conference	June 1, 2023	\$325.00 (registration)
Teacher/School 21	Ewing, NJ		
*Veronica Mower	Color Accounting Learning System	June 6-8, 2023	\$99.00 (registration)
Business Teacher/JFK	Virtual		

Sakena Thompson	NJSACC Soaring Beyond Expectations	June 9, 2023	\$72.00 (registration, transportation)
Program Manager/FSCS	Monroe Township, NJ		

Dorothy Daniello	OpenSciEd Train the Trainer HS Curriculum Launch	June 23-30, 2023	\$1,550.00 (registration)
Supervisor of Science	Virtual		
Michael Kleeman	OpenSciEd Train the Trainer HS Curriculum Launch	June 23-30, 2023	\$1,550.00 (registration)
Supervisor of Science	Virtual		
William Mirra	OpenSciEd Train the Trainer HS Curriculum Launch	June 23-30, 2023	\$1,550.00 (registration)
Supervisor of Science	Virtual		
Jin-Young Ahn	Arts Integration Leadership Institute/FEA, NJPSA, Dodge Foundation	July 18-20, 2023	\$75.00 (registration)
Special Education Teacher/Paterson STEAM H.S.	Princeton, NJ		
Nellista Bess	Arts Integration Leadership Institute/FEA, NJPSA, Dodge Foundation	July 18-20, 2023	\$75.00 (registration)
Vice Principal/Paterson STEAM H.S.	Princeton, NJ		
Elizabeth Caccavella	Arts Integration Leadership Institute/FEA, NJPSA, Dodge Foundation	July 18-20, 2023	\$75.00 (registration)
Math Supervisor	Princeton, NJ		
Michelle Clements	Arts Integration Leadership Institute/FEA, NJPSA, Dodge Foundation	July 18-20, 2023	\$75.00 (registration)
World Language Teacher/Paterson STEAM H.S.	Princeton, NJ		
Lakisha Kincherlow-Warren	Arts Integration Leadership Institute/FEA, NJPSA, Dodge Foundation	July 18-20, 2023	\$75.00 (registration)
Science Supervisor	Princeton, NJ		
Sarah Mostafa	Arts Integration Leadership Institute/FEA, NJPSA, Dodge Foundation	July 18-20, 2023	\$75.00 (registration)
English Teacher/Paterson STEAM H.S.	Princeton, NJ		
Hafiz M. Saleem	Arts Integration Leadership Institute/FEA, NJPSA, Dodge Foundation	July 18-20, 2023	\$75.00 (registration)
Instructional Technology Supervisor	Princeton, NJ		



Louis Sayed	Arts Integration Leadership Institute/FEA, NJPSA, Dodge Foundation	July 18-20, 2023	\$75.00 (registration)
Science Teacher/Paterson STEAM H.S.	Princeton, NJ		
David Scala	Arts Integration Leadership Institute/FEA, NJPSA, Dodge Foundation	July 18-20, 2023	\$75.00 (registration)
Pathway Associate Supervisor/IHS & Paterson STEAM H.S.	Princeton, NJ		
Jaymie Stein	Arts Integration Leadership Institute/FEA, NJPSA, Dodge Foundation	July 18-20, 2023	\$75.00 (registration)
Art Teacher/Paterson STEAM H.S.	Princeton, NJ		
Sarah Sterling-Laldee	Arts Integration Leadership Institute/FEA, NJPSA, Dodge Foundation	July 18-20, 2023	\$75.00 (registration)
Director of STEAM	Princeton, NJ		
Michelle Van Hoven	Arts Integration Leadership Institute/FEA, NJPSA, Dodge Foundation	July 18-20, 2023	\$75.00 (registration)
Supervisor of Fine & Performing Arts	Princeton, NJ		
Lakisha Kincherlow-Warren	OpenSciEd Train the Trainer High School Curriculum Launch	August 4-11, 2023	\$1,550.00 (registration)
Science Supervisor	Virtual		
David Scala	OpenSciEd Train the Trainer High School Curriculum Launch	August 4-11, 2023	\$1,550.00 (registration)
Pathway Associate Supervisor/IHS & Paterson STEAM H.S.	Virtual		
Michael Kleeman	NJ Science Convention	October 17-18, 2023	\$310.00 (registration)
School Based Science Supervisor	Princeton, NJ		
Riwa Dandan	NJ Science Convention	October 17-18, 2023	\$310.00 (registration)
Science Teacher/John F. Kennedy H.S.	Princeton, NJ		
Kathleen Sayad	NJ Science Convention	October 17-18, 2023	\$310.00 (registration)
Science Teacher/John F. Kennedy H.S.	Princeton, NJ		

**Total Number of Conferences: 29**  
**Total Cost: \$18,528.00**

**It was moved by Comm. D. Martinez, seconded by Comm. Castillo-Cruz that Resolution No. 3 be adopted. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative, except Comm. M. Martinez who voted no. The motion carried.**

**Paterson Board of Education  
Standing Abstentions**

Comm. Oshin Castillo-Cruz

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Transportation
- Downtown Special Improvement District
- Celebrate Paterson

Comm. Valerie Freeman

- Self
- Family

Comm. Eddie Gonzalez

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

Comm. Jonathan Hodges

- Self
- City of Paterson

Comm. Dania Martinez

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Ilearn Schools
- Paterson Arts & Science Charter School

Comm. Manuel Martinez

- Self

Comm. Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson

Comm. Nakima Redmon

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

Comm. Kenneth Simmons

- Self
- Family

## **Resolution No. 4**

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for complying with the New Jersey purchasing laws for obtaining the most competitive and responsive proposal for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, the District has a need for a Broker of Record for Property/Casualty Insurance coverage district-wide and provided the specifications for the formal public Request for Proposal process; and

WHEREAS, Twenty (20) vendors were mailed/e-mailed bid specifications (the list is available for review in the Purchasing Department), which five (5) responded to the district's solicitation; and

WHEREAS, this solicitation was made by advertised public notice appearing in The Record and The Herald News on May 7, 2023. Sealed proposals were opened and read aloud on May 25, 2023 at 11:00 AM in the Conference Room, 4th floor, 90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07503 by the Purchasing Department resulting in the attached bid summary; and

WHEREAS, the District recommends that Alamo Insurance Group be deemed the most response vendors with the highest technical criteria score and be awarded a contract; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Paterson Board of Education approves the awarding of the contract for Broker of Record-Property/Casualty RFP-421-24, to Alamo Insurance Group located in Secaucus, NJ at no cost to the District annually. Vendor shall collect commissions from the insurance carriers based upon the New Jersey Insurance Group (NJSIG) agreement.

**It was moved by Comm. Hodges, seconded by Comm. D. Martinez that Resolution No. 4 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
- Downtown Special Improvement District
- Celebrate Paterson

#### Comm. Valerie Freeman

- Self
- Family

#### Comm. Eddie Gonzalez

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

Comm. Jonathan Hodges

- Self
- City of Paterson

Comm. Dania Martinez

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Ilearn Schools
- Paterson Arts & Science Charter School

Comm. Manuel Martinez

- Self

Comm. Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson

Comm. Nakima Redmon

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

Comm. Kenneth Simmons

- Self
- Family

**Resolution No. 5**

Whereas, the district's Five Year Strategic Plan's Goal #3: to establish viable partnerships with parents, educational institutions, and community organizations to support Paterson Public Schools educational programs, advance student achievement and enhance communication; and

Whereas, Tri-State Health and Wellness Medical Center located at 31-00 Broadway, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410 will donate massage services and medical assessments for district staff on June 12th at 90 Delaware Ave. Paterson NJ 07503.; and,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Paterson Board of Education supports and approves the donation of services by Tri-State Health and Wellness Medical Center at no cost to the district.

**It was moved by Comm. Hodges, seconded by Comm. D. Martinez that Resolution No. 5 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
- Downtown Special Improvement District
- Celebrate Paterson

Comm. Valerie Freeman

- Self
- Family

Comm. Eddie Gonzalez

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

Comm. Jonathan Hodges

- Self
- City of Paterson

Comm. Dania Martinez

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Ilearn Schools
- Paterson Arts & Science Charter School

Comm. Manuel Martinez

- Self

Comm. Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson

Comm. Nakima Redmon

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

Comm. Kenneth Simmons

- Self
- Family

**Resolution No. 6**

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 7, 2023 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).

## **D. TERMINATIONS**

Action to terminate **Boswell Anglin (PC# 3751)** from his position as Instructional Aide Alternative Education at Alonzo T. Moody Academy effective May 3, 2023 as result of conduct unbecoming a Paterson Public School District employee.

**It was moved by Comm. Castillo-Cruz, seconded by Comm. D. Martinez that Resolution No. 6 be adopted. On roll call all members voted as follows:**

Comm. Castillo-Cruz: Yes.

Comm. Freeman: No.

Comm. Hodges: No.

Comm. D. Martinez: Yes.

Comm. M. Martinez: No.

Comm. McCall: No.

Comm. Simmons: Yes.

Comm. Redmon: Yes.

**The motion did not carry.**

## **Paterson Board of Education Standing Abstentions**

### **Comm. Oshin Castillo-Cruz**

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Transportation
- Downtown Special Improvement District

- Celebrate Paterson

Comm. Valerie Freeman

- Self
- Family

Comm. Eddie Gonzalez

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

Comm. Jonathan Hodges

- Self
- City of Paterson

Comm. Dania Martinez

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Ilearn Schools
- Paterson Arts & Science Charter School

Comm. Manuel Martinez

- Self

Comm. Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson

Comm. Nakima Redmon

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

Comm. Kenneth Simmons

- Self
- Family

## **Resolution No. 7**

Whereas, our Five Year Strategic Plan, Goal Area #1: Teaching & Learning states: “To create a student-centered learning environment to prepare students for career, college readiness and lifelong learning” and

Whereas, In accordance with P.L. 2021, c.446, which was signed into law on January 18, 2022, and codified at NJ.S.A. 18A:12-1.3 and NJ.S.A. 18A:36A-11.2, the Paterson Public School District selected two (2) 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to serve as non-voting student representatives on the Board of Education, and

Whereas, The Superintendent of Schools wishes to recognize these students for their dedication and leadership since being appointed to serve as non-voting student representatives on the Board of Education since August 10, 2022, and

Whereas, in recognition of their accomplishments and service to the Paterson Public School District as non-voting student representatives, and to encourage them to continue pursuing academic excellence, the following students will each receive a \$500.00 scholarship:

- Ms. Paris Higgs, Eastside High School Student – Scholarship to Howard University
- Ms. Yaneliz Mejia, Paterson P-Tech Student – Scholarship to Kean University

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Paterson Board of Education approves the disbursement of \$1,000.00 from the Paterson Public Schools Scholarship Bank Account donated by the Superintendent of Schools to the above-named students.

**It was moved by Comm. D. Martinez, seconded by Comm. Hodges that Resolution No. 7 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
- Downtown Special Improvement District
- Celebrate Paterson

#### Comm. Valerie Freeman

- Self
- Family

#### Comm. Eddie Gonzalez

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

#### Comm. Jonathan Hodges

- Self
- City of Paterson

#### Comm. Dania Martinez

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Ilearn Schools
- Paterson Arts & Science Charter School

#### Comm. Manuel Martinez

- Self

#### Comm. Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson



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. D. Martinez: We met on Monday to discuss the items for a vote. We discussed about the bilingual need and staffing. That's about it.

Comm. Hodges: The concern I brought to the table at that meeting was the need of citizens who are not foreign-born who only speak English to be able to learn at least Spanish in this community. The complaint from the community is that they can't get jobs in Paterson because they don't speak Spanish and cannot serve the greater community. The question was to have some attempt to find a way to develop a bilingual program for students in the elementary grades and pre-k through 5 so that we can begin to give them some instruction in at least Spanish. It will be easier to do because they won't know the difference between that and their native language. It will be part of their normal language development and will help assist them to at least get grounding in that language while they're in school forming their speech patterns. I asked to have a presentation by the staff because it does require some money. They need to talk about what they would need in terms of teachers. We need to establish some sort of priority along those lines. This is a problem that's growing in the community. That was a significant conversation during that meeting. If you're born in Paterson and you don't speak Spanish, that's an issue.

Comm. Freeman: Point of order. I'd like to change my vote on Resolution No. 6 to no.

***Operations***

Comm. D. Martinez: We met today. We went over the items up for a vote for next regular meeting. Some of the concerns and questions that were brought up were the possible usage of a bus company with whom we had prior issues, American Star. It was reported that they're in compliance and following all the regulations that are needed. They have routes that they will be servicing during summer school. It was also brought up about the student ambassadors from John F. Kennedy High School who requested courtesy busing in the form of tickets. That will be further discussed with the Board in August. There are still conversations that need to be had regarding that matter. We discussed the equity of the transportation services as far as what the student ambassadors brought up.

***Fiscal***

Comm. Simmons: Fiscal hasn't met.

## ***Personnel***

Comm. Redmon: Personnel met on Monday. We discussed items pertaining to the new substitute services that we are acquiring and the transition from the old to the new company. We also discussed the actual vacancies. We have 10 less than where we were. I think it was 143. We also talked about other positions that will be available for summer school.

## ***Governance***

Comm. M. Martinez: Governance did not have a scheduled meeting thus far.

## **Committee Report**

### ***Facilities***

Comm. M. Martinez: Facilities has an upcoming meeting scheduled and we'll report back at the regular meeting.

### ***Family & Community Engagement***

Comm. D. Martinez: We are scheduled to meet next Monday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, and I'll report at our regular meeting.

### ***Policy***

Comm. Simmons: Policy is scheduled to meet tomorrow.

### ***Technology***

Comm. Simmons: Technology met yesterday. A large part of our discussion centered on the preparation for Chromebooks being returned by students and the redistribution of those Chromebooks. They are starting to be delivered to the schools. Our free and reduced lunch number has dropped 10%. We are currently at 72% and that number affects our E-Rate funding. As long as we're above 75%, we receive 90% E-Rate funding. Anything below 75% drops us to about 80%. I know we have to get back to making sure we push that the parents complete those lunch forms. They are important because they affect funding. One of the things Mr. Saleh will be looking into is whether or not we can put those forms online. We will have to reach out to the federal government. I think right now those forms are only available in English and Spanish. We will need to find out if those forms can be translated into some of the other languages that are spoken in the city. That's being looked into as well. We also talked about the fact that during the pandemic a lot of these things were automatic. Once we came back to school, it impacted a lot of folks getting used to completing that paperwork. We're going to emphasize this upcoming school year that that paperwork is completed because it affects funding. We see it immediately in the E-Rate area and that affects how we're able to purchase technology and continue to move the district forward technologically. We'll be waiting for the report on whether or not it can be uploaded, and families can complete those forms online. Hopefully we can. I didn't ask Mr. Saleh yesterday, but hopefully there's a way for us to do it through Infinite Campus. Whenever students are registering or families are completing that work, we can get those forms flagged so we know ahead of time, and we can reach out to those parents that have not completed that work. We will continue to keep the district and Board updated on the progress.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

**It was moved by Comm. Hodges, seconded by Comm. D. Martinez 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 as follows:**

Comm. Castillo-Cruz: Yes.

Comm. Freeman: Can I make a statement before I vote?

Comm. Redmon: Yes.

Comm. Freeman: I'm receiving a lot of text messages from parents and stakeholders in the community saying they signed up well before 5:00 to speak and they never received an email back or confirmation. Can we just make sure in the future that anybody who emails receive the confirmation to be able to speak? There are about eight or nine people texting me. I just wanted to make a note of that on the record.

Comm. Hodges: Is there any way that we can entertain those discussions before executive session if they're able to get on?

Comm. Redmon: There were only four people who signed in.

Mr. Zaydel: There were four people who signed up before 5:00. One person signed up at 5:18. The people who signed up before 5:00 received an email at exactly 5:00 with login information. There were only three people who spoke so one person who signed up didn't come onto the meeting. I think that's where we are.

Comm. Redmon: What is the cutoff for the public to get the information?

Mr. Zaydel: 5:00 p.m. If there were more people who wanted to sign up, it's possible they sent it to the wrong email address. The correct one to use is [public@paterson.k12.nj.us](mailto:public@paterson.k12.nj.us).

Comm. Redmon: And the notification for this link goes out to the public a day before the meeting? Am I correct?

Mr. Zaydel: Everyone who signs up before 5:00 gets an email at about 5:01 or so with information on how to get onto the meeting. As long as they sign up some time between after this meeting ends until the next meeting is held by 5:00 p.m. the day of they will be added to the registration.

Comm. Redmon: They can start to log onto the meeting for public comment. We'll be in-person for the next meeting.

Mr. Zaydel: For the next meeting they will just need to appear in person at the meeting and sign up there.

Comm. Freeman: I have one parent who is on. She signed up at 1:52. I just texted her and told her that she can be at the in person next week.

Comm. Hodges: Unless there's an opportunity for us to hear them now. If we were in person, we would do that.

Comm. Redmon: I have no issue with that, as long as she can get into the link at this point. You would have to reopen public portion in order for her to speak.

Comm. Hodges: I'd be prepared to do that.

Comm. Redmon: We have to table the motion to go into executive session and make a new motion to reopen public portion.

Comm. Hodges: Can they call back in now?

Mr. Zaydel: There's nothing stopping them from logging back into the meeting if the Board reopens public session as long as they're on the meeting and not simply watching from the livestream on our website. They would need to use the Zoom link in the confirmation email.

Comm. Hodges: Is there any way you can let them know that?

Comm. Freeman: I sure will.

Comm. Simmons: We started the roll call, so we need to figure out how we back out of it at this point because roll call was started.

Ms. Shabazz-Charles: The motion just needs to be withdrawn. If you so choose, you can also reopen public portion after the executive session.

Comm. Hodges: We don't know how long that will last. I withdraw my motion to go into executive session.

Comm. D. Martinez: I withdraw my second.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS II**

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

Ms. Shannara Gilles: Good afternoon. I was calling on behalf of the teacher who was fired from Al Moody Academy. This is a young man who has been a very good example to the community and students. We're still here wondering what is going on with this situation, whether he will be getting his job or not. This is someone who has changed the lives of so many students within that high school. High school students are still calling in, sending emails, texting, and asking what's going on with this teacher. They're coming to school looking forward to seeing him and he's no longer there. A lot of people in the community are also asking about the situation. Boswell Englund is someone that we dearly want in the school system and he's no longer there. We think that he's missing. The school is missing a very big part of them. The students are yearning for this teacher. As a community, we just want to know what's going on with this situation. We have come in person and sent emails. We haven't heard anything back. We just wanted to see what was happening with the situation. Thank you.

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

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**It was moved by Comm. D. Martinez, seconded by Comm. M. Martinez 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 7:05 p.m.

Comm. Hodges: Comm. Freeman, they were looking for you to attend that tour of Kennedy and Dr. Hani Awadallah. The students created a present for you and Eddie Gonzalez there, which they made at the site. They had two mementos for you.

Comm. Freeman: I'll reach out to them. Thank you, Dr. Hodges.

Comm. Hodges: It was exciting for me. It's one of the things that you will enjoy when you put forth ideas and you see it come to fruition. It's a feel-good situation because you know kids are going to benefit. I encourage all the Board members to look at those Maker Spaces and the TV room and stock exchange room at Kennedy. It's a touch of what we can do.

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

The Board reconvened the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Comm. Redmon: Before we adjourn, I would like to say I wish Comm. Gonzalez a successful surgery. That's why he's not here with us. He was scheduled for surgery sometime this week. We wish him and his family a successful surgery. We will keep him in our prayers.

Comm. Freeman: Ms. Shafer, did Dr. Warren reach the parent?

Ms. Shafer: Let me just check. I'm calling her now. Because we are in a public meeting there are some things about the student that she will not go into detail about. She's going to follow up tomorrow with the principal and Nicole Payne. Tonight is the Rosa Parks prom.

Ms. Shabazz-Charles: There shouldn't be any in-depth discussion about the student. Her purpose for getting on is to say she generally has spoken to the person and is looking into the allegations. Parents can choose to get on and disclose information about their kids, but we can't do the same.

Ms. Shafer: Cicely, if you can just give us a summary of your conversation without implicating the student. I know that tomorrow you will follow up. Rosa Parks has their prom tonight, so Ms. Thompson is unavailable.

Dr. Cicely Warren: Good evening. I just finished my call with the parent. I asked the questions I needed to ask about her concerns. Some of them are procedural. Some of them are things that need to be explained a little bit more clearly and ensuring that the students have the appropriate support they need. In order for me to make sure that happens I have to speak with staff at the school, which I will do tomorrow and Friday. She has an appointment for a phone call with me on Monday before we get her together with the staff.

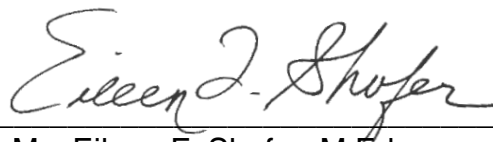
Comm. Hodges: I will reach out to the Superintendent tomorrow to ask about this approach to the doctor's office. I don't want to have that public conversation, but I do have some concerns about that. I'll do that offline.

Comm. Redmon: Thank you, Dr. Warren. Are there any other questions?

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eileen F. Shafer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ms. Eileen F. Shafer, M.Ed.  
Superintendent of Schools/  
Board Secretary