

MINUTES OF THE PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

April 25, 2023 – 6:27 p.m.
Joseph A. Taub School

Presiding: Comm. Nakima Redmon, President

Present:

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

Comm. Oshin Castillo-Cruz
Comm. Valerie Freeman
Comm. Eddie Gonzalez
Comm. Jonathan Hodges

Comm. Dania Martinez, Vice President
Comm. Manuel Martinez
Comm. Della McCall
Comm. Kenneth Simmons

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

Comm. D. 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:

**Special Meeting
April 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
Joseph A. Taub School
202 Union 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.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

Ms. Shafer: Good evening Board Commissioners, staff, and Paterson community. At this time, I'd like our Business Administrator, Mr. Richard Matthews, to come forward and give us an update of where we are with the budget for the final vote.

Mr. Richard Matthews: Good evening. Thank you, Commissioners and Madam Superintendent. Today we are at the end of the budget process for 2023-2024. We started back in July and now we're up for an adoption. Before I go into my quick update, I want to give thanks to my budget team that has worked tirelessly over the last

year to make sure this budget was what the kids and staff deserve. I want to give special thanks to my Assistant Business Administrator Ms. June Gray, Ms. Katori Walton, Comptroller, Ms. Kennia Fulgencio, Accounting Supervisor, and Ms. Cecilia Dailey, Budget Manager. These ladies have met with over 109 call centers throughout the year to make sure that we can deliver a balanced budget and provide students and staff with a chance for a thorough and efficient education. Nothing has really changed since we handed in our budget at the preliminary meeting on March 20. It went to the County with all the required documentation. The County had no questions whatsoever. For the record, the total operating budget for 2023-2024 is \$604,615,624. Some of the highlights in terms of the budget, we're going to do a turf field behind the Eastside High School trailers. The budget includes programs to support academic achievement, instructional math programs for k-12, and instructional software for science programs and for English language learners. The budget includes purchase service contracts for risk management, legal, insurance, health benefits, and professional development. We also added positions to address the growing bilingual population. We've added additional Board guards to reduce our dependency on contracted vendors. We've added new positions in facilities to keep our schools clean. We've added new SAC positions. We've totally reorganized our technology department. All the different budget priorities that we were given throughout the year from the community forums and Board members, such as Urban Leadership, blacktop at Eastside and Kennedy High Schools, everything that was asked from the Board and community was put into the budget. We've made no cuts at all. As stated earlier, we've added positions. I feel that this budget process that we went through this past year has been our best and most thorough budget we've ever given. It's very complete and provides students and staff with the best opportunity for a thorough and efficient education. I'll take your questions.

Comm. Hodges: What is the percentage of the tax increase?

Mr. Matthews: 8%.

Comm. Hodges: Thank you.

Ms. Shafer: I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Matthews and his team, June Gray, Katori, CC and everyone else who helped him. This was a budget process where we held community forums, met with all the principals, department heads in central office, and gave the Board ample opportunities to meet with us to go over any issues and concerns that they may have had. Even up to last night we had a meeting scheduled. I want to thank Mr. Matthews for all the time you put in as well as your staff for presenting a balanced budget for the fourth year where we have not had to eliminate any staff and this year had the opportunity to add staff. Hopefully, that will be the trend going forward, so that we won't have to eliminate any staff moving on. Thank you and your team.

Mr. Matthews: Thank you, Ms. Shafer.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

It was moved by Comm. McCall, 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. Rosie Grant: Good evening. Thank you so much for this opportunity. It's important to note that the State of New Jersey is still underfunding this district. When we stopped doing the math several years ago, we were at \$300 million. I'm sure we have not done

that calculation. I want to urge members of the Board and community to continue to advocate for full funding of the School Funding Reform Act. We will never get back that \$300 million that we were entitled to that the State of New Jersey did not give us. As for this budget, thank you for your diligence and the work that you put into it as Board members with your questions and concerns and setting your priorities. To Mr. Matthews and his team, my calculation says that we have 32,446 students when we include all the kids that are in outsourced spaces. I believe that leads us to \$24,000 per student. There was some debate about that at the last couple of meetings. Given where we are and the work that we have to do to get our children to improve outcomes, I support this budget. Thank you again for your work on it.

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. The motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS FOR A VOTE:

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools forwarded Paterson Public Schools' preliminary 2023-2024 budget to the Commissioner of Education and the Passaic County Executive County Superintendent of Schools for review and approval on March 20, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary 2023-2024 budget for the Paterson Public School District was prepared consistent with the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) focusing on quality performance indicators in all five areas of school district effectiveness: Operations Management, Instruction and Program, Fiscal Management, Personnel and Governance; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary 2023-2024 budget was prepared consistent with the district's revised Fiscal Policy 6220 addressing budget preparation, with primary consideration given to educational priorities identified by the Board and Ms. Eileen Shafer, Superintendent of Schools, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the 2023-2024 preliminary budget submitted by Ms. Eileen Shafer, Superintendent of Schools, which budget reflects an increase in the local tax levy and use of CAP adjustment increase SDA district local share available for 2023-2024 to support the general fund as reflected herein;

	2022-2023 <u>Pre-Budget</u>	1-Feb <u>YTD Actuals</u>	2023-2024 <u>Budget</u>
Maximum Travel	\$154,706	\$14,415	\$250,000
<u>General Fund Revenue</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy included</u>	
Local Sources	\$ 77,686,575	\$	73,168,370
State Sources	\$ 534,272,462	\$	0
Federal Sources	\$ 1,544,842	\$	0
Budgeted Fund Balance	\$ 27,111,745		
Total General Fund	<u>\$ 640,615,624</u>		<u>\$ 73,168,370</u>

<u>Special Revenue Fund (net of operating budget transfers)</u>		<u>Local Tax Levy included</u>
Local Sources	\$ 507,100	
State Sources	\$ 58,433,239	\$ 0
Federal Aid	\$ 77,580,710	\$ 0
Transfer from Operation Fund:		
Pre-K Special Education	\$ 2,560,096	\$ 0
Total Special Revenue Fund	<u>\$ 139,081,145</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
 <u>Debt Service -Fund 40</u>		
Budgeted Fund Balance	<u>\$ 789,042</u>	
 Grand Total Revenues	 <u>\$ 780,485,811</u>	 <u>\$ 73,168,370</u>

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools hereby fixes and determines that the amount of money necessary to be appropriated for the use of the public schools for the 2023-2024 School Year is \$780,485,811 of which \$73,168,370 is the General Fund local tax levy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools will authorize the reallocations and modifications needed to present a balanced 2023-2024 budget with an adequate amount of funds to provide for a thorough and efficient education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools shall hereby forward to the Commissioner of Education of the State of New Jersey the budget statement, budget statement certification, form A4F (Certification and Report of School Taxes, 2022-2023 School Year) and supporting documentation as required by statute and code; and

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

It was moved by Comm. M. Martinez, seconded by Comm. D. Martinez that Resolution No. 1 be adopted. On roll call all members voted as follows:

Comm. Castillo-Cruz: Yes.

Comm. Freeman: No.

Comm. Gonzalez: No.

Comm. Hodges: Pass.

Comm. D. Martinez: Yes.

Comm. M. Martinez: Yes.

Comm. McCall: Pass.

Comm. Simmons: Yes.

Comm. Hodges: No.

Comm. McCall: Yes.

Comm. Redmon: Yes.

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, the Paterson Board of Education ("School District") is the owner of

Hinchliffe Stadium (the "Stadium"); and

WHEREAS, the City of Paterson and the School District have entered into various agreements for the restoration and redevelopment of the Stadium and surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the School District has executed Ground Lease Agreement with Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal L.P. ("Ground Tenant") and envisions that Hinchliffe Stadium, upon its redevelopment, shall be used as a facility for sports activities, entertainment, dining and other cultural activities; and

WHEREAS, in order to encourage these purposes, the School District has expressed a desire for concessions to be sold at the Stadium and understands that the Ground Tenant has contracted with Shekinah Hospitality Group LLC ("SHG") to be the vendor of food and beverages at the Stadium; and

WHEREAS, SHG has expressed a desire to sell alcoholic beverages at the Stadium; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 33:1-76 provides that a license to sell alcoholic beverages shall not be issued within 200 feet of a school without a waiver of the duly authorized governing body of the school; and

WHEREAS, the Stadium is within 200 feet of a school; and

WHEREAS, SHG has requested the School District waive the 200-foot requirement of N.J.S.A. 33:1-76 subject to the terms and restrictions of this Resolution and the Alcoholic Beverage Concession Agreement ("Agreement") between the School District and SHG which is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, SHG, subject to the Agreement, has affirmed to the School District it will not sell any alcoholic beverages at the Stadium during any youth, high school or other events hosted or sponsored by the School District or another governmental entity; and

WHEREAS, SHG, subject to the Agreement, has affirmed it will only sell beer, ale, malt liquor, and wines during permitted events; and

WHEREAS, the School District has determined that the sale of alcoholic beverages at the Stadium is an important element to the success of the Stadium's redevelopment and will not have a negative impact on the school so long as the sale of alcoholic beverages are restricted as defined and controlled by the terms of this Resolution and the Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of the Paterson Board of Education shall provide a waiver of N.J.S.A. 33:1-76 to SHG;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary of the School District shall provide an executed copy of this Resolution to SHG for submission to the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

It was moved by Comm. M. Martinez, seconded by Comm. D. Martinez that Resolution No. 2 be adopted.

Comm. Gonzalez: Move to have executive session on this.

Comm. Redmon: We have a motion on the floor so you might want to ask them to remove their motion for executive session to discuss.

Comm. Gonzalez: Can I have them removed?

Ms. Shabazz-Charles: Is there a request to withdraw the motion? Is that request being granted?

Comm. M. Martinez: Just for clarity, the request is to remove this to go into executive to discuss?

Comm. Hodges: If you rescind your motion, then it goes back to the discussion period.

Comm. Gonzalez: To come back later and...

Comm. M. Martinez: Can we put a time cap on the executive session?

Ms. Shabazz-Charles: That's within the Board's purview.

Comm. Redmon: It's within the Board purview, but you don't have to rescind your motion if you don't want to.

Comm. M. Martinez: I don't mind allowing for a discussion. I don't want to be back there for an hour. I'm being frank. If we can keep it to a capped time, I'm fine with it. I want to afford everyone the opportunity to discuss, but I don't think it needs to be overly belabored anymore.

Ms. Shabazz-Charles: Again, just for clarity for the executive session, is it the belief that the discussion that we will have will fall within the exceptions to the Open Public Meetings Act as legal in nature contract negotiations?

Comm. Gonzalez: Potentially based on the previous discussion we had in the last meeting which resulted in this same result, yes.

Ms. Shabazz-Charles: The actual motion, because it is executive session, is a motion to go into executive session, which needs to be seconded. Quite frankly, you don't have to withdraw. That is a motion that can prevail over the current motion on the floor.

Comm. Redmon: I just have to be mindful that we have two other Commissioners and we just have to make sure that they're also available for executive session since they're remote.

Ms. Williams: The link is already set up.

Comm. Redmon: Would they have the same access in the other room?

Ms. Williams: Yes.

It was moved by Comm. Gonzalez, seconded by Comm. Hodges 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: No.

Comm. Freeman: Yes.

Comm. Gonzalez: Yes.

Comm. Hodges: Yes.

Comm. D. Martinez: No.

Comm. M. Martinez: Pass.

Comm. McCall: Yes.

Comm. Simmons: No.

Comm. M. Martinez: Yes.

Comm. Redmon: Yes.

The motion carried.

The Board went into executive session at 6:45 p.m.

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

The Board reconvened the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

It was moved by Comm. Gonzalez, seconded by Comm. D. Martinez that Resolution No. 2 be adopted.

Comm. Gonzalez: I would like to amend the approval of the license for Hinchliffe Stadium to include an annual \$10,000 flat fee to be paid to the school district which will go 100% directly to our youth in elementary and middle schools who do not benefit directly from the use of Hinchliffe Stadium to repair and maintain existing playgrounds at various school sites. Also, I'd like to remove the language in Section III that says that this contract would be automatically renewed every year moving forward for the length of the contract between the vendor and the developer. I'd like to replace that language with giving the Board the right and authority to renew, terminate, or amend the contract as needed on an annual basis. The current existing language is very limited to what we can do after we approve this. For sake of clarity, the developer has a lease agreement for 75 years so whatever we do today is going to last up to that amount of time. That's a very long time and if we don't reserve the right to review this and modify or amend it as needed on an annual basis we're really going to lose out. This is partly why I voted no on the taxes.

It was moved by Comm. Gonzalez, seconded by Comm. Hodges to amend the contract to include a \$10,000 flat fee on an annual basis to be paid to the school district that will go 100% directly towards our kids who are not going to benefit

directly from Hinchliffe Stadium, to go towards existing playgrounds at school sites. Also, I'd like to remove the language in Section III that says this contract would be automatically approved every year moving forward. I'd like to replace that language with giving the Board the right and authority to review, terminate, or amend the contract as needed on an annual basis.

Comm. Hodges: Did you want \$10,000 annually?

Comm. Gonzalez: \$10,000 annually because once we approve this, based on the current language, it says that it's going to be done automatically. I'd like \$10,000 annually to go directly to the kids that are not going to be able to play at Hinchliffe Stadium. We're talking about the preschoolers, elementary kids, and middle school kids. Indirectly, it would benefit the underfunded schools that don't have funds to replace things like mulch. We can replace the wood mulch with rubber mulch at a cost-savings to the district. As we do this on an annual basis we are able to repair more playgrounds throughout the school district.

Comm. Hodges: Counsel, would it be possible to get your opinion on the likelihood of us moving forward with this course of action? How difficult would it be to bring that into being?

Ms. Khalifah Shabazz-Charles: This is becoming known now. Assuming it is legal to do, it would be something we would have to bring back to the vendor and discuss.

Comm. M. Martinez: The other way would be to vote on the amendment. I call the question. Let's vote.

On roll call all members voted as follows on the amendment:

Comm. Castillo-Cruz: No.

Comm. Freeman: No.

Comm. Gonzalez: Yes.

Comm. Hodges: Pass.

Comm. D. Martinez: No.

Comm. M. Martinez: No.

Comm. McCall: Recuse.

Comm. Simmons: No.

Comm. Hodges: Yes.

Comm. Redmon: No.

The motion did not carry.

On roll call all members voted as follows on Resolution No. 2:

Comm. Castillo-Cruz: Yes.

Comm. Freeman: No.

Comm. Gonzalez: No.

Comm. Hodges: No.

Comm. D. Martinez: Yes.

Comm. M. Martinez: Yes.

Comm. McCall: Recuse.

Comm. Simmons: Yes.

Comm. Redmon: Yes.

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
Sham Bacchus	Innovative Schools Summit	July 4-9, 2023	\$3,336.41 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Principal/New Roberto Clemente	Las Vegas, NV		
9 Board & 16 Staff Members	NJSBA Workshop 2023	October 23-26, 2023	\$2,100.00 (registration only)
Various	Atlantic City, NJ		

Total Number of Conferences: 26

Total Cost: \$5,436.41

It was moved by Comm. M. Martinez, seconded by Comm. D. Martinez that Resolution No. 3 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

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED CONTRACT FOR THE NEW
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS DR. LAURIE W. NEWELL**

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. Rosie Grant: Thank you. I support the contract for the new superintendent. I know that there was some community conversation around the amount of the salary. Having served on the search team, I know that we have a highly qualified candidate and that the School Board at the time set and advertised that salary in order to attract a highly qualified candidate. Anything other than that would be bait-and-switch, which I hope we won't do. We are the third largest district in the State of New Jersey. Based on the calculation I used earlier, we have 32,446 children to serve. As you make your vote, I do want to say also that it is no bearing on the performance of Superintendent Eileen Shafer. We celebrate your work and will continue to do so and work with you for the rest of your tenure. Thank you.

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

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS BY THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Comm. Redmon: I would like to thank the public here and also the viewing audience. I want to give a bit of the history of how we got here and why we're doing what we're doing. After four decades of dedicated service as an educator, the current Superintendent Eileen Shafer is retiring on June 30. In an upcoming meeting, we will speak about and express our appreciation for her dedication and advocacy to the students of Paterson. The Board began this process in June 2022. The Board hired a search firm to conduct a national superintendent search. The Board was comprised of a 15-member committee with leaders, parents, and union leadership. It was convened in July 2022 to discuss the superintendent selection process. Within that process, the search firm held focus groups and interviews with numerous groups throughout the community and advertised the online survey to receive input for the new superintendent. The search committee conducted face-to-face interviews on October 8 and narrowed the field of candidates to the three finalists. The Board interviewed the three finalists on October 15, 2022, and they were presented to the community in a forum on October 18, 2022, to answer any questions for their vision for Paterson Public Schools. Once the current Board was seated in January of this year, the Board agreed to engage in contract negotiations with Dr. Laurie Newell to fill the upcoming vacancy of the Superintendent of Schools. The Executive County Superintendent has reviewed and given written approval of this four-year contract between the Paterson Board of Education and Dr. Laurie Newell. I wanted to give the public advance notice of what we did and how the process was followed. This took several months. We're really happy that we have come to this point.

RESOLUTION FOR A VOTE:

Resolution No. 4

WHEREAS, the Board of Education ("Board") began the process of selecting a new Superintendent of Schools ("Superintendent") due to the retirement of the current superintendent, effective June 30, 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Board began meeting in June 2022 to determine the superintendent's search format, and

WHEREAS, after the competitive contracting process, the Board interviewed three firms as potential consultants to conduct the superintendent search, and

WHEREAS, at a board meeting on June 23, 2022, the Board approved retaining the firm Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates as consultant to conduct the search for the Superintendent to ensure a thorough and extensive scope, and

WHEREAS, a fifteen-member committee was convened in July 2022 to discuss the timeline, process/expectation, and confidentiality agreement, and

WHEREAS, during the process, the search firm conducted Focus Group Interviews with numerous groups throughout the community to receive input on the selection of the next Superintendent, and

WHEREAS, as part of the search for a Superintendent, the search firm advertised an online survey to be completed by all citizens in the City of Paterson, as well as all staff members, on the qualities desired in a new superintendent, and

WHEREAS, the search committee completed face-to-face interviews on October 8, 2022, of the six candidates who were selected for the first round, and then narrowed the field of candidates to three finalists, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education interviewed the three finalists on October 15, 2022, and the three finalists were presented at a Community Forum on October 18, 2022, to answer questions on their vision for the Paterson Public School District, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education deliberated in closed session on October 27, 2022, and November 2, 2022, on their recommendation for the next Superintendent of Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Paterson Board of Education desires to employ Dr. Laurie W. Newell as Superintendent of Schools; and

WHEREAS, that the Paterson Board of Education engaged in contract negotiations with Dr. Laurie W. Newell to fill the vacant position of Superintendent of Schools, pending approval from the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kesha Drakeford, Interim Executive County Superintendent for Passaic County, has reviewed and given the written approval of the State of New Jersey Department of Education to the Superintendent Employment Contract between the Paterson Board of Education and Dr. Laurie W. Newell;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Paterson Board of Education hereby appoints Dr. Laurie W. Newell as Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027, for a term of four (4) years at a starting base salary of \$285,000 with a 2% increase for each of the remaining years, and subject to the remaining terms and conditions of the Superintendent Employment Contract, attached to this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President and Administration are authorized to execute the Superintendent Employment Contract (Appendix 1) on behalf of the Paterson Board of Education.

It was moved by Comm. M. Martinez, seconded by Comm. D. Martinez that Resolution No. 4 be adopted. On roll call all members voted as follows:

Comm. Castillo-Cruz: Yes.

Comm. Freeman: Recuse.

Comm. Gonzalez: Recuse.

Comm. Hodges: Pass.

Comm. D. Martinez: Yes.

Comm. M. Martinez: Yes.

Comm. McCall: Yes.

Comm. Hodges: Yes.

Comm. Redmon: Yes.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Comm. Redmon: Dr. Laurie Newell, welcome to Paterson Public Schools. This body and the students of Paterson look forward to working with you in the near future.

Ms. Shafer: When I was applying to be the Superintendent, I believed that I had three very important strengths. One was that I was a woman, I was no stranger to Paterson, and I loved our children and wanted the best for them. Now the time has come for me to pass the torch to somebody else. I must say that it feels great to know that the person receiving it is a woman, she is no stranger to Paterson, and she wants what's best for the children and the families of Paterson. Dr. Laurie Newell has served families and students of Paterson Public Schools before. She has maintained relationships in Paterson throughout her educational career. She will bring her knowledge and expertise to build upon what we have accomplished in the past and in the first two years of local control. She will also bring her knowledge of the Great City of Paterson as well as what is needed by the students and families. Dr. Newell, you have a great team. The cabinet will be with you every step of the way. I wish you all the best in your tenure as Superintendent of Schools. I ask all of you to please welcome Dr. Laurie Newell. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



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