

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

January 18, 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
Bryant Horsley, Esq., Souder, Shabazz & Woolridge, LLP
Boris Zaydel, Esq., Board 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

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:

**Special Meeting
January 18, 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.

RESOLUTIONS FOR A VOTE:

Resolution No. 1

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Paterson Public School District approves the payment of the list of bills and claims dated through January 18, 2023, beginning with check number 234814 and ending with check number 235199, in the amount of \$12,343,589.09, and direct deposit number beginning with 1583 and ending with 1590, along with a wire in the amount of \$13,384,520.72, for a total amount of \$25,728,109.81; 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, 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 January 18, 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).

A. POSITION CONTROL ABOLISH/CREATE

B. SUSPENSIONS- N/A

In accordance with the disciplinary code for Cafeteria Workers, it is recommended that **Ms. Yaritza Tavares**, Food Service Manager will be suspended for no less than (3) consecutive days without pay on the basis of violating Group 1 Subsection C Rules as outlines in Article XVI of the PFSA Contract Agreement. Violations include: Making false statements on employee records, timesheets for herself and other employees. Due to immediate action taken against Ms. Whitaker, days of suspension were; December 20, 2022, December 21, 2022 and December 22, 2022.

Account# 60.910.310.100.310.000.0000.000

C.RESIGNATION/ RETIREMENT

D. TERMINATIONS

Action is requested to terminate **Violeta Cajo**, Food Service employee (**PC# 6089**), on the basis of job abandonment effective January 9, 2023. Ms. Cajo failed to return from a unpaid leave.

E. NON-RENEWAL**F. LEAVES OF ABSENCE****G. APPOINTMENT**

Last Name	First Name	School/Location	Title	Salary	Reason
Ambrosini	Christine	School# 13	Teacher Special Education Resource	\$96, 625.00	filling vacancy
Atsu-Swanzy	John	NRC	Teacher Grade 6-8 Math	\$82,555.00	filling vacancy
Benjamin	Matthew	Rosa Parks HS	District Security Officer	\$44,687.00	filling vacancy
Coleman	Tiffanie	Dr. Hani Awadallah School	Teacher Grade 5 ELA	\$63,455.00	Filling vacancy
Cooper	Nathaniel	Security Office	District Security Officer	\$53, 112.00	filling vacancy
Dixon	Bobbie	JAT	Teacher Library Media Specialist	\$63,455.00	filling vacancy
Drakeford	Colette	School# 24	Teacher Preschool	\$ 59, 955.00	filling vacancy
Heffernan	Raymond	Security Office	Part Time District Security Officer	\$30/HR	filling vacancy
Johnson	Michael	JFK HS	District Security Officer	\$53,112.00	filling vacancy
Marcus	Jaime	Central Registration	School Nurse	\$96,625.00	filling vacancy
Marcus	Jaime	Central Registration	School Nurse	\$96, 925.00	filling vacancy
Montague	Sheila	School # 6	Teacher ISS	\$96,625.00	filling vacancy
Moore	Yvenda	MLK	Personal Aide 504 w/ 5241596	\$41,576.00	filling vacancy
Pena	Manuela	School# 24	District Security Officer	\$44,687.00	filling vacancy
Quinones	Michael	Security Office	Part Time District Security Officer	\$30/HR	filling vacancy
Reynoso	Isabella	School# 26	Teacher Physical Education	\$58,455.00	filling vacancy
Steward	Sarah	Academic Services	SEL Data Strategist	\$65,000.00	filling vacancy
Wilson	James	Eastside Highschool	Teacher Special Ed Resource	\$74, 080.00	filling vacancy

H. TRANSFERS

Last Name	First Name	School/Location	Title	Salary	Reason
Albuquerque	Christopher	060A STARS TIES	Instructional Assistant Transition	no change	transfer
Bogdanos	Anne Margaret	School #5	Teacher Kindergarten	no change	transfer
Bruno	Danielle	School #5	Teacher grade 2	no change	transfer

Cruz	Silvia	NRC	Teacher Reading Specialist	\$70,055 + \$400 = \$70,455	transfer
Fontanez	Fabiola	NRC	Teacher Bilingual/ESL Slife	no change	transfer

I. RECALL FROM RIF

J. LEAVE REPLACEMENT

K. DISTRICT/SCHOOL PROGRAM HIRING - N/A

To hire **Howard Baldwin, Stanley Harris, Gillian Furniss, Fabiola Fontanez and Kathleen Ruhle**. Before/after school programs to support learning and SEL 5 Teachers 3 hours per week for 14 weeks at \$35 per hour not to exceed (\$7,400.00) Beginning January 9, 2023 – May 31, 2023.

Account# 15.421.100.101.316.053.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$7,400.00

To hire **Betsaida Tobler** for the before after school program at NRC. Before/after school programs to support learning not to exceed 100 hours (1hour per day (TWTH) Beginning January 9, 2023 – May 31, 2023.

Account# 15.421.100.106.316.053.000.0000 Not to exceed: \$2,500.00

L. STIPENDS

This action is requested for **Sharon Waller** to teach a 6th class for vacant **PC# 3327**. The start date will be 11/4/22

Action is requested to stipend one (1) Teacher for the After School Program for Students in Grades 2-8 (In Person Program) 2022-2023 School Year at Alexander Hamilton Academy as follows:

1. Scott Wienbrock

1 Teacher x \$35.00 an hour x 75 hours = \$2,625.00

Account# 20.483.100.100.653.083.1650.001 Up to and not to exceed: \$2,625.00

This action is requested for **Sarah Langan** to teach a 6th class. The teacher is on a long term medical leave. The start date will be 11/28/2022 – end date 6/30/2023.

C. Enste on LOA **PC# 2096**. This is extending off of the original **PTF# 23-1158**.

Action requested for staff members on attached list to receive stipend to attend training session and to conduct bus inspections for driver's credentials and documentation for an hour a day beginning January 3 – June 23, 2023. Commencing January 3, 2023; stipend amount vary due to different staff titles. (see attached list)

Staff member (s)	Title	Stipend per Hr.
Warthell Gause	INTERIM SUPERVISOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$35.00
Lenny Moore	DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS	\$76.49
Travis Parker	SCHOOL/COMMUNITY PROGRAM COORDINATOR	\$19.00
Dr. Yelena Gould	SUPERVISOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$40.00

Anita Fulmore	TEACHER READING INTERVENTION	\$35.00
Idamis Urena-Falette	ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON FOR TRANSPORTATION	\$32.57
Marcel Javier	SUPERVISOR OF STAFF ATTENDANCE HEALTH BENEFITS AND PENSION	\$47.24
John Machin	TEACHER SPECIAL ED RESOURCE	\$35.00
Erica Bernard-Parker	TEACHER GRADE 2	\$35.00
Jennifer Jaworowski	TEACHER TECHNOLOGY	\$35.00
Jennifer Cassini	SUPERVISOR OF MATHEMATICS	\$40.00
Edwin Rios	INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE PRESCHOOL SPECIAL ED	\$25.00
Sabrina Tanner	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	\$29.19
Mohammed Saleh	ASSOCIATE CHIEF OF TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SERVICES	\$101.19
Ramon Solis	NETWORK TECHNICIAN	\$44.89
William Best	TEACHER PHYS ED/HEALTH	\$35.00

Account# 11.000.230.100.701.053

Not to exceed: \$72,000.00

M. AMENDMENTS

Action to amend **PTF# 23-1150** to adjust the name of **Noelia Colon** to **Noelia Roman**.

To correct amount from previously approved **PTF# 22-2115**. Action is to hire **Jorge Cruz** and to reclass Teacher ESL/BSI **PC# 5260** at the Paterson Adult & Continuing Education.

Account# 13.602.100.101.410.000.0000.000

To correct salary percentage and accounts number from previously approved **PTF# 22-1679**. State grants funds to re-employ **Natalia I. Montero, PC# 4186**, according to the guidelines and procedures of state funded programs for FY 2022-2023 continuation of program. 100% State funded.

50% - 20.605.200.105.410.000.0000.001

50% - 20.621.200.105.410.000.0000.001

Account# See accounts above

Not to exceed: \$53,855.00

N. ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES

Process payments for the attached list as outlines in the negotiated agreement between the district and the Non-Bargaining contract for Vacation Day Buy-Back program.

Payments due one January 31, 2023.

Last Name	First Name	Location	NONBARG	Buy-Back Days	Daily Rate	Total to be Paid
Solis	Ramon	643 Network Technology	X	10	\$ 314.20	\$ 3,142.00
					Total:	\$ 3,142.00

Account#: 11.000.291.290.690.055.000.00

Not to exceed: \$3,142.00

O. SICK/VACATION DAY PAY OUT

P. WITHHOLDING OF INCREMENTS

Q. HEALTH BENEFITS

The PEA and COSA contract mandates payments to PEA and COSA members who waive their health benefits coverage. In accordance with Paterson Public Schools' policy, employees who are members of the Non-Bargaining Group will also be eligible for these payments. In accordance with State Law these payments cannot exceed the lesser of 25% of the employer savings or \$5,000 per employee per year. For the February 15 2023 board meeting. Not to exceed \$884.00 **SERRANO, MICHELLE**
HB Acct 15000291270005 \$884.00

R. MISCELLANEOUS

Last Name	First Name	School/Location	Title	Salary	Reason
Caulfield Wolfe	Melissa	JFK HS	Teacher Reading Specialist	\$78,005 +\$400= \$78,455	salary adjustment - CST Stipend
Gehrmann	Megan	School #18	Teacher Grade 3-5 ELA	no change	reclassify

S. MISCELLANEOUS (FUNDING.)

T. ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

U. Administrative Longevity

V. RESTORE INCREMENTS

Action is requested to restore the 2022-2023 increment of **Cecelia O'Toole**, Principal as per settlement. Ms. O'Toole will receive 3.25% added to her base salary as per PAA contract effective July 1, 2022. Salary adjustment is as follows;

FROM: \$164,006 base salary + \$10,300 longevity = \$174,306

TO: \$169, 336 base salary + \$10,300 longevity = \$179,636

W. NEGOTIATIONS

X. JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Y. Grievance Settlements

Resolution No. 3

WHEREAS, Paterson Public Schools (the "District") has entered into an emergency contract for the purchase of the following goods/services; custodial service to mobilize

on an emergent basis, to extract any contaminated water, clean and sanitize the impacted areas and remove and restore impacted drywall partitions;

WHEREAS, this contract was necessary to address the following emergency conditions affecting the health or safety of occupants at PS# 12; standing sewer water and impacted wet drywall in multiple student areas;

WHEREAS, boards of education may negotiate award any contract without public advertising for bids when an emergency affecting the health of safety of occupants of school property requires the immediate delivery of goods or the performance of services in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-7;

WHEREAS, the District's need for such goods/services was not reasonably foreseeable or arose notwithstanding the District's good faith efforts to plan for the purchase of necessary goods/services, as required by N.J.A.C. 5:34-6.1(a)(3);

WHEREAS, the District awarded this contract through a non-fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A- 20.4 and 20.5, for a contract term not to exceed 12 consecutive months, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:34-6.1(a)(5);

WHEREAS, various vendors will provide services to remediate and restore the impacted areas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education ratifies the emergency contract with various vendors for the declared emergency on December 23, 2022 at P.S. 12.

Resolution No. 4

WHEREAS, Paterson Public Schools (the "District") has entered into an emergency contract for the purchase of the following goods/services; custodial service to mobilize on an emergent basis, to extract any contaminated water, clean and sanitize the impacted areas and remove and restore impacted drywall partitions;

WHEREAS, this contract was necessary to address the following emergency conditions affecting the health or safety of occupants at Edward W. Kilpatrick School; standing sewer water and impacted wet drywall in multiple student areas;

WHEREAS, boards of education may negotiate award any contract without public advertising for bids when an emergency affecting the health of safety of occupants of school property requires the immediate delivery of goods or the performance of services in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-7;

WHEREAS, the District's need for such goods/services was not reasonably foreseeable or arose notwithstanding the District's good faith efforts to plan for the purchase of necessary goods/services, as required by N.J.A.C. 5:34-6.1(a)(3);

WHEREAS, the District awarded this contract through a non-fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A- 20.4 and 20.5, for a contract term not to exceed 12 consecutive months, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:34-6.1(a)(5);

WHEREAS, various vendors will provide services to remediate and restore the impacted areas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education ratifies the emergency contract with various vendors for the declared emergency on December 25, 2022 at Edward W. Kilpatrick School.

Resolution No. 5

WHEREAS, the districts' 5-Year Strategic Plan: Paterson- A Promising Tomorrow's Goal 1 is to create a student-centered learning environment to prepare students for career, college readiness, and lifelong learning, and;

WHEREAS, field trips afford students a firsthand educational experience that is not available in the classroom, and;

WHEREAS, the Assistant Superintendents have approved/recommended the addition of the attached field trip locations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Paterson Board of Education accepts the addition of the attached List of approved destinations as appropriate field trip sites for the students of the Paterson Public Schools for the 2022-2023 school year.

Resolution No. 6

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
**Kenneth L. Simmons	NSBA Equity Symposium & Advocacy Institute	January 28-30, 2023 (Travel Day January 27, 2023)	\$2,779.08 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Board Member	Washington, DC		
Michael D. DuBose	PESI: Section 504 Law in New Jersey Today	February 3, 2023	\$219.99 (registration)
Supervisor of Guidance	Parsippany, NJ		

Tamisha McKoy	PESI: Section 504 Law in New Jersey Today	February 3, 2023	\$219.99 (registration)
Director of Guidance	Parsippany, NJ		
Camille Lewis-Francis	New Jersey International Dyslexia Association	February 4, 2023	\$300.00 (registration)
Reading Specialist/School 21	Virtual		

***FOR RATIFICATION**

****RESUBMISSION**

Total Number of Conferences: 4

Total Cost: \$3,519.06

Resolution No. 7

WHEREAS, The Five Year Strategic Plan of the Paterson Public Schools Goal 1 Area#1: Teaching and learning, Objective 1: Create high quality opportunities for educators to deliver research based strategies that will ignite motivation and promote lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, the district is eligible for additional Chapter 192 Nonpublic Funding in the amount of \$10,377.00 to provide Compensatory Education services to Paterson students attending non-public schools in the City of Paterson: and

WHEREAS, there is no matching fund requirement for this grant; and

WHEREAS, the district will comply with the terms and conditions of the grant, will target grant funds for the academic advancement and achievement of the students, and will expend the funds in the most effective and efficient manner; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Paterson Board of Education approve the acceptance of the Chapter 192 Nonpublic Additional Funding grant in the amount of \$10,377.00 to provide Compensatory Educational services for Paterson students attending non-public schools located in the City of Paterson for the grant period of January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

Resolution No. 8

WHEREAS, The Five Year Strategic Plan of the Paterson Public Schools Goal 1 Area#1: Teaching and learning, Objective 1: Create high quality opportunities for educators to deliver research based strategies that will ignite motivation and promote lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, the district is eligible for additional Chapter 192 Nonpublic Funding in the amount of \$7,016.00 to provide E.S.L. services to Paterson students attending non-public schools in the City of Paterson: and

WHEREAS, there is no matching fund requirement for this grant; and

WHEREAS, the district will comply with the terms and conditions of the grant, will target grant funds for the academic advancement and achievement of the students, and will expend the funds in the most effective and efficient manner; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Paterson Board of Education approve the acceptance of the Chapter 192 Nonpublic Additional Funding grant in the amount of \$7,016.00 to provide Allocation of E.S.L. Educational services for Paterson students attending non-public schools located in the City of Paterson for the grant period of January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

Resolution No. 9

WHEREAS, the District's priority under the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan is to promote student-centered teaching and learning, and the Department of Special Education has aligned its programs to meet this priority;

WHEREAS, the District is required to identify, evaluate, and address the unique educational needs of each student with a disability;

WHEREAS, consistent with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-5.1(c)(1), the District may contract for the provision of related services by private providers who are appropriately licensed and credentialed according to State statutes and rules;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the following contracts with private providers of 1:1 nursing services, effective January 23, 2022 through June 30, 2023, at an annual cost not to exceed the amounts listed:

Nursing Services Provider Name	Cost Per Day	ESY Days	RSY Days	Total Days	Total Cost
PREFERRED HOME HEALTH CARE	\$372	-	65	65	\$24,180.00
(PreK Registration @ Central Office)					
<i>Total Cost Not to Exceed:</i>					\$24,180.00

Resolution No. 10

WHEREAS, the first District's priority is effective academic programs under the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Special Education Programs has aligned its education goals and efforts to accomplish and promote high standards of academic achievement for all students; and

WHEREAS, the District is required to under N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.5 to provide appropriate supplementary aids and services to ensure that students with disabilities have access to the general education curriculum and provides students with disabilities a free, appropriate education result; and

WHEREAS, the District has determined that it will contract with American Speech-Language Association (ASHA) for the web-based services; and

WHEREAS, American Speech-Language Association (ASHA) represents that it is fully qualified to provide such services, and has and will maintain all required licenses, approvals and certifications; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District approves to provide payment to American Speech- Language Association (ASHA) for providing virtual Professional Development to help Para-educators working with student's disabilities learn to be more effective and academic performance through a web-based service for a total cost not to exceed \$172.80 during the 2022-2023 school year.

January 19, 2023 - October 31, 2023

Virtual Professional Development - $\$86.40 \times 2 = \172.80 (add'l staff members)

Resolution No. 11

In accordance with Paterson Public School District policy 9550, all educational research by persons other than district employees must be approved in advance by the Superintendent and Board. Paterson Public School District policy 3245, any research project involving pupils must be approved by the Board; all other research projects involving district personnel, facilities, and/or resources may be approved by the Superintendent.

WHEREAS, A written application for approval must state the purpose of the research, the specific ways in which pupils will be involved, the estimated duration of the project, the persons who will conduct the research project and their relevant affiliations, and any possible benefits to pupils or to the school district.

WHEREAS, Approval will be granted only to those projects that will serve the interests of pupils and the educational program; approval will not be granted to projects that will impede or significantly disrupt the instructional program approved by the Board;

WHEREAS, the sponsoring graduate school and/or organization along with graduate candidate complies with requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) and will ensure these requirements are followed in the conduct of this research in accordance with the Institutional Review Board (IRB); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Paterson Board of Education approves the research studies request through Fordham University Cicely Warren: The Impact of Project Based Learning on Academic Achievement during the 2022-2023 school year.

Resolution No. 12

WHEREAS, the District awarded a contract to VANWELL ELECTRONICS, LLC & ALARM AND COMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES. during the 2020-2021 & 2021-2022 school year(s), with a provision for either one (1) year extension, one (1) two-year extension or two (2) one-year extensions; and

WHEREAS, the District is allowed to extend/renew such contract during the 2022-2023 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Director of School Security recommends that the bid for SECURITY ALARM SERVICES DISTRICT WIDE, PPS- 225-21, be extended for a 6-month period, during the 2022-2023 school year at no price increase in rates as follows:

VANWELL ELECTRONICS, LLC 320 Essex Street Ste. 3 Stirling, NJ 07980	ALARM & COMMUNICATIONS TECH. 25 Ross Street Wharton, NJ 07885
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WHEREAS, the vendor has agreed to extend the contract for the 2022-2023 school year at no increase in rates over the previous contract for the 2020-2021 & 2021-2022 school year(s) and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with Paterson - A Promising Tomorrow Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Area #2, Facilities, Objective 4 - Develop a comprehensive preventative maintenance program that is geared towards the long term upkeep of all Paterson Public Schools Facilities; now

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Paterson Public School District approves the renewal of the contract for SECURITY ALARM SERVICES DISTRICT WIDE, PPS-225-21, as per attached bid summary, to VANWELL ELECTRONICS, LLC & ALARM AND COMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES respectively, for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year at an amount not to exceed \$72,000; pending budget approval.

Resolution No. 13

WHEREAS, recognizing our proud traditions and diverse community and partnerships, the mission of the Paterson Public School District is to provide an academically rigorous, safe and nurturing educational environment; by meeting the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students as we prepare them for post-secondary education and career.

WHEREAS, increasing student achievement through effective academic program is Goal 1: Priority 1 of the Strategic Plan for Paterson Public Schools and creating and sustaining partnerships with community organizations, agencies and instructions is Goal 3: Priority 3:

WHEREAS, School No. 21 has developed partnerships with community agencies to support student needs and goals. School No. 21 is partnering with New York Life which has been trained and will become a Grief Sensitive School.

WHEREAS, School No. 21 would like to partner with Bright and Beautify Therapy Dogs Agency, 80 Powder Mill Rd., Morris Plains, New Jersey. Robert D. Amico owner of an Australian Labradoodle, a hypoallergenic breed to have them visit School 21 twice monthly to support our students who have recently experienced loss of an immediate family member.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Paterson Board of Education approves this partnership and the use of Lulu the therapy dog to support our students as they process their grief associated with these losses, at no cost to the District.

Resolution No. 14

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

WHEREAS, the Manager of Central Stores determined that the District has a need for heavy-duty trucks to assist with the daily operations of Central Stores and provided the technical specifications for the bid process; and

WHEREAS, this solicitation was made by advertised public notice appearing in The Bergen Record and The North Jersey Herald News on July 5, 2022 and July 25, 2022, in which no vendors responded on both occasions; and

WHEREAS, as a result of no bid responses on two (2) separate bid invitations, the District wishes to invoke statute 18A:18A-5(c), "Bids have been advertised pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-4 on two occasions and no bids have been received on both occasions in response to the advertisement" and purchase heavy-duty trucks (2023 Chevrolet 6500 XD), by board resolution, from Hawthorne Chevrolet, utilizing ESSER funding; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Paterson - A Promising Tomorrow Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Area #2: Facilities; To enhance and maximize learning opportunities provided by first-class facilities and technological improvements that prepare students for 21st century learning; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to 18A:18A-5(c), the Paterson Board of Education, authorizes the Department of Central Stores to purchase heavy-duty trucks (2023 Chevrolet 6500XD and 7500 XD), from Hawthorne Chevrolet, by board resolution, at a not to exceed amount of \$350,000.00, for the 2022-2023 school year.

It was moved by Comm. Simmons, seconded by Comm. D. Martinez that Resolution Nos. 1 through 14 be adopted. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative, except for Comm. Hodges who abstained on Resolution No. 2 and Comm. M. Martinez who voted no on Resolution No. 2. 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 COMMENTS

It was moved by Comm. M. Martinez, 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.

Ms. Rosie Grant: Good evening. I have two things that I want to talk to you about today. One is about our Superintendent search. Is there any way you can share publicly some information about the process? We had the community meeting back in the fall and then we heard nothing. We know that Teaneck hired one of our top three candidates and they immediately announced it. I would like for the shroud of secrecy to be removed from the Paterson process and please give us some solid information. There are lots of stories out there. As I said before, when you don't give people information, they make up their own versions. Secondly, we've seen the test scores and we know that they're problematic across the board, not only in Paterson. However, I'm not hearing or feeling any sense of urgency from our Board of Education. I know the administration is doing what they need to, but we need some urgency around getting our kids to where they need to be, particularly around third grade reading, which sets the stage for the rest of their education career. Thank you so much.

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.

Comm. Hodges: Madam President, can we find out how many are listening or sharing this viewing at home?

Comm. Redmon: Sure. To answer Ms. Grant's question, the Superintendent search process has paused because of the Board reorganization. We have scheduled an executive session tonight to talk about the process to continue with the Superintendent search. That's where we are tonight.

Comm. M. Martinez: I normally don't like to respond to comments made by the public, but I feel a little inclined to do so. There is most definitely urgency on behalf of this Board and folks who work in committees and cabinet members. I don't want that to go overlooked. If it's not on social media or meetings where we're talking about it, it doesn't mean that it's not happening. While I understand the scores are not where we want them to be, I can assure everyone out there that there is urgency and things are happening in committees and on this Board. I don't want it to come across as if there's no urgency or nothing is being done. There absolutely is urgency and there are things being done. Just because it's not being shouted from the hilltops doesn't mean that it's not happening. It certainly is happening. I just wanted to put that on the record.

Comm. Hodges: Unfortunately, I hate to disagree with my colleague here. I've been here for 20 years and I'm looking at these test scores remaining where they are. I'm looking for an increased sense of urgency because these kids aren't getting much better. The urgency may be existing, but it's not translating into real improvements for these kids. I welcome that urgency, or an increased sense of urgency, on the part of this Board to demand that our kids get the education that they deserve and that they're capable of pursuing. If we're saying that we're doing the best that we can, then that means it won't get much better.

Comm. M. Martinez: No one said we're doing the best, but there are things happening.

Comm. Hodges: I'm agreeing that we can do more.

Comm. M. Martinez: Absolutely. I do not disagree with that. I never said we're doing our best. We can absolutely be doing more. But we also have to keep in mind we're coming off of a two-year COVID streak and that killed us, as well as a lot of other districts. To say that there's no urgency, I take exception with that.

Comm. Hodges: It was devastating nationwide.

Comm. M. Martinez: Absolutely, inclusive of our city.

Comm. Hodges: Before COVID, we were in trouble and not moving dramatically to improvement. That's all.

Comm. Redmon: Just to add, I would like to invite the Superintendent to have a say with regards to the test scores and what the district is planning to do.

Ms. Shafer: Prior to the pandemic, we had more kids reading on grade level by third grade than the district ever had before. We had a full-blown campaign about reading at third-grade level. Unfortunately, we did have this pandemic that not only destroyed that program, but also across the nation test scores took a big hit. The district adopted one program, which was the Wonders Reading Program, and we did see success. We are now getting our students caught up. We're using intervention programs. We are using the Wonders Reading Program to get our students back on track and bring that success back. We were doing much better prior to the pandemic. I'm going to ask Joanna to add anything else to that.

Ms. Joanna Tsimpedes: Good evening Commissioners. As Ms. Shafer pointed out, prior to the pandemic we had seen a positive result in the number of students. I agree with everyone it is not where we want it to be. Nor are we saying that it is where we want it to be. Please understand that being remote for a year and a half was a detriment to where students were in the educational process. We are building back

from where they were prior to the pandemic. We are seeing students advancing in their levels of reading when it comes to how they are measured. We are continuously looking at their running records, progress monitoring, and those intervention platforms, which also allow us to see where the students started from and where they continue to grow from. If they're not growing, why aren't they growing? Have the teachers utilized the data from there to inform them within their instructional practices on what to do with flexible grouping? When I presented the data for both Start Strong and NJSLA, there was a comprehensive report in there on what the district is doing since the pandemic and return to in-person instruction to address these deficiencies that we have. One of the most important things is having the after-school programs for our students to continue to build those gaps, as well as going back to having a mandatory summer program for our students in grades 3-8, which are the students who are showing the most deficiencies in reading and mathematics. It's going to take a whole army to get our kids back to where they were pre-pandemic. As Dr. Hodges pointed out, and he's absolutely correct, prior to the pandemic we were not where we wanted to be, but we were seeing the gains by continually providing professional development to teachers. We did not have the teaching shortages that we are facing right now. There are a lot of elements. They are not excuses. They are facts. We are doing the best that we can with what we have. As we speak, there's a job fair taking place to continuously recruit teachers because we know that we need teachers in the classroom to instruct our students. At the next Board meeting in February, we're going to be presenting the goals update. You're going to see the progress students have made in k-3 because we do know that's the foundational area and basis for students growing and being able to read on grade level. Those facts will be put out there. I also want you to understand that these things were shared at prior Board meetings with an in-depth comprehension of what we did since the pandemic to get to where we need to be. There are many things in place, but as the research states, it's not going to happen overnight. It is going to take years to take us back to where we were prior to the pandemic and continually grow our students to where they need to be in order to be proficient and college ready.

Comm. Castillo-Cruz: I agree with both of my colleagues. Four years ago, we started writing curricula because not all the students in the district were following the same curriculum. At that point, we gauged that it would take about three years for us to start seeing a difference in the students' education. It was right before we got hit with the pandemic where we did start to see some growth, in addition to everything else the district was implementing. We weren't at all where we needed and wanted to be, but it started with writing curricula so every student in the same grade level across the district was learning the same thing, at the same time, and in the same way, which is still something that we're working on with our teachers. We made progress, but we went a few steps backwards as well. How do we work three times as hard to make sure that we provide additional support and access to our kids? I know those conversations are being had and we have them all the time. How do we do that even faster with the shortage that we have and the disadvantage that we have and are still trying to catch up from? It's not something we'll resolve as soon as we want to. How do we throw everything but the kitchen sink at different supports and access for our kids at this point?

Comm. Redmon: I would task the Superintendent and the I&P committee to come up with a presentation that the full Board can review and make suggestions on test scores, how we can improve, and some things that we can learn about improving the test scores.

Comm. Hodges: As we are pressing the City Council for a meeting to discuss our taxes, what they immediately throw back at us is the performance of our students.

That's their biggest complaint and the biggest complaint from this community, and with good reason. If people aren't seeing a real sense of urgency, then there needs to be one, a heightened sense of urgency. That's all I'm trying to say. It can't be enough because what's happening educationally to our children isn't enough. Any improved sense of urgency is welcomed here and I'm certainly going to do my best in this last year to bring what I can to the table in that area.

Comm. Redmon: I'm glad you said that. That's the reason why I'm tasking the I&P committee in conjunction with the full Board to come up with that presentation. We can come up with strategies to help increase our student's performance. Do we have any other questions, comments, or concerns with regards to student performance or anything else?

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LITIGATION AND PERSONNEL

It was moved by Comm. Hodges, seconded by Comm. D. Martinez that the Board goes into executive session to discuss litigation and personnel. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

The Board went into executive session at 6:25 p.m.

Comm. Hodges: Comm. McCall, have you had any luck convincing the City Council to put together a meeting for us yet?

Comm. McCall: I have made contact. I thought there was going to be some type of meeting prior to our meeting with the Superintendent and the administration. From my understanding, that has taken place.

Comm. Hodges: I watched their meeting last night.

Comm. McCall: This was a meeting with the administration and the Superintendent to talk about joint services so that when we have our meeting there would be an agenda. That was according to the President. I did speak to him. He did assure me that the meeting will be happening, but he wanted to have a solid agenda. He wanted them to at least meet ahead of us to discuss some shared services agreements.

Comm. Hodges: Do they have ideas for shared services?

Comm. McCall: I do believe they meet either yesterday or today. That's what I'm being told.

Comm. Redmon: Can you have them send something to the Superintendent and us? At this point, I haven't gotten any communication from them with regards to us meeting.

Comm. McCall: Not a problem. I was under the impression that they met to talk about shared agreements so that when we all come to the meeting that would be part of our agenda. I guess we have to ask the Superintendent if that meeting actually happened.

Comm. Redmon: I don't know because on this end we haven't gotten anything.

Comm. M. Martinez: They need to have some meetings about the meetings so we can have our meeting, if that makes sense.

Comm. McCall: Well said.

Comm. M. Martinez: It makes us scratch our heads because we all know what we want to meet about, but they want to meet to discuss what they want to meet about so when they do meet with us...what?

Comm. Hodges: Let's just try to get the meeting for the time being and work on that.

Comm. McCall: I'm working on it.

Comm. Hodges: We all know what it is.

Comm. Redmon: We'll keep requesting and we'll keep waiting to see. We will make sure to document that we are requesting the meetings at this point.

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

The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Ms. Williams: There are 61 viewers.

Comm. Redmon: Thank you. The last time we had 44, so we had an increase.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Comm. M. Martinez, seconded by Comm. D. Martinez that the meeting be adjourned.

Comm. Hodges: Is the Superintendent on?

Comm. Redmon: She's not here. She logging in, Dr. Hodges.

Comm. Hodges: I'll call her directly. I want to thank Comm. McCall for her efforts.

On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.



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