

**MINUTES OF THE PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD GOVERNANCE TRAINING/RETREAT**

September 23, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting (via Zoom)

Presiding: Comm. Kenneth Simmons, President

Present:

Ms. Eileen F. Shafer, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Susana Peron, Deputy Superintendent
Bryant Horsley, Esq., General Counsel
Boris Zaydel, Esq., Board Counsel

Comm. Vincent Arrington
Comm. Emanuel Capers
Comm. Oshin Castillo-Cruz
Comm. Jonathan Hodges

Comm. Dania Martinez
Comm. Nakima Redmon, Vice President
Comm. Corey Teague

Absent:

Comm. Manuel Martinez

Comm. Simmons read the Open Public Meetings Act:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of, and to attend the meetings of the Paterson Public School District, as well as other public bodies at which any business affecting the interest of the public is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this law, the Paterson Public School District has caused adequate and electronic notice of this meeting:

**Board Retreat
September 23, 2022 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.

OPENING REMARKS

- Board members spoke about successes/challenges over the past two years

WORKING AS A COLLECTIVE TEAM: BOARD GOVERNANCE BEST PRACTICES

- **Overview of Previous Retreats: Building the Bridge**

Discussed Board norms

- Board receives supporting documentation from the Superintendent in a timely manner, but it's still a challenge to read all information prior to board meetings
- Discussed the challenges and importance of keeping confidentiality
- Board has made improvement at being respectful of one another's opinions and internal communication between board members has improved
- Board has improved at staying within proper parameters on social media
- The administration has utilized the public relations department to control the narrative and shape the district's public image

BREAKOUT GROUPS EXERCISE

Reflective Question: "What is Your Greatest Hope and Fear About the Governing Team's Ability to Ensure All Students Receive the Best Educational Experience in the Paterson Public School System?"

- **Group 1** – Fears the political influence/pressure that comes from outside and impacts the students and the district. Hopes to continue to advocate and push back against that negative influence for the benefit of the children.
- **Group 2** – Fears the role of politics and how it prevents the students from receiving the programs they need. Students are not always consulted about the programs they might be interested in receiving. Hopes that the administration will do a better job at hearing students' concerns and that the Board begins to act to benefit the students.
- **Group 3** – Fears that politics plays too strong a role in education. Hopes that political pressure decreases and becomes less of a factor in the educational decisions made.
- **Group 4** - Fears that the Board too easily applauds the presentations from the administration and their ability to produce positive educational outcomes. Hopes that the Board will better transmit to the staff its sense of urgency to produce educational results. Hopes that the Board improves in its ability to challenge what's being delivered educationally to the students.

Some Board members strongly feel that the students are not reaching high levels of academic achievement. It is not the Board's role to applaud the presentations of the administration, but to ask critical questions and hold them accountable for producing programs that truly address the educational needs of students.

Discussions are held in committees, but there is a lack of communication as to what specific questions were asked.

Board should develop process of communication that keeps everyone informed of the questions being posed to the administration.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

It was moved by Comm. Teague, 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.

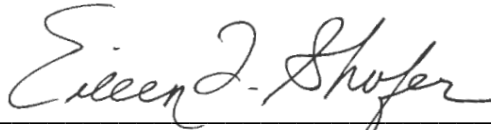
No speakers.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 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