

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

April 28, 2021 – 5:40 p.m.
Remote - Zoom

Presiding: Comm. Kenneth Simmons, President

Present:

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

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

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

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 notice of this meeting:

**Special Meeting
April 28, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
Remote - Zoom
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

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the City of Paterson, as Landlord, leased certain real property commonly known as Hinchliffe Stadium, an approximately 5.64 acre tract of land located at 186-218 Maple Street, Paterson, New Jersey (currently Block 801, Lot 6.01, formerly and at that time Block 801, Lot 6) (the "Stadium") to the City of Paterson, as Tenant, pursuant to a certain Lease dated June 8, 2010; and

WHEREAS, a developer has proposed to preserve and rehabilitate the Stadium and to also develop an abutting lot (currently Block 801, Lot 7.01, formerly and at that time

Block 801, Lot 7) with multifamily housing, financed by a multi-layered financing strategy including, but not limited to, New Jersey EDA ERG State Tax Credits; and

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2019, the Board of Education of the City of Paterson and the City of Paterson amended the June 8, 2010 Lease in order to facilitate the said rehabilitation of the Stadium and the development of the abutting Lot 7 (the “Amended Lease”); and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2020, the Board of Education of the City of Paterson approved by resolution a purchase and sales agreement for Lot 7, an option to purchase lease hold interest, and an amended and restated lease (the “Restated Lease”) between the Board Education of the City of Paterson and Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal, L.P.; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2021, the City of Paterson acquired fee simple title to Lot 7 for One Dollar (\$1.00), by quitclaim deed from the Board of Education of the City of Paterson with the Board of Education of the City of Paterson retaining a right of reversion if the developer fails to develop the property; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2021, the City of Paterson assigned its rights under the Amended Lease to the developer, known as Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal, L.P., a New Jersey limited partnership; and

WHEREAS, Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal, L.P. intends to enter into a new lease, which amends and restates the Original Lease in its entirety, with the Board of Education of the City of Paterson with respect to the Lot 6.01 prior to or simultaneously with the closing of all financing necessary for the Stadium Project for the purposes of 1) clarifying the uses of the Stadium in Section 5 of the new lease, 2) clarifying the role of the joint advisory board in Section 28 of the new lease and the contemplation of bylaws for the advisory board, and 3) approving the Stadium Sub-Lease and Affiliate Sub-Lease pursuant to Section 21(k) of the new lease; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the City of Paterson acknowledges that upon execution of the new lease with Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal, L.P., the new lease will replace and supersedes the Original Lease, the Amended Lease, and the Restated Lease; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF PATERSON hereby approves the Amended and Restated Lease as, Exhibit A and authorizes the Superintendent of the Board of Education of the City of Paterson to execute and the counsel to the Board of Education of the City of Paterson to attest the Superintendent’s signature and for said designees to take all actions necessary or desirable to implement the said Agreements.

Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the City of Paterson, as Landlord, leased certain real property commonly known as Hinchliffe Stadium, an approximately 5.64 acre tract of land located at 186-218 Maple Street, Paterson, New Jersey (currently Block 801, Lot 6.01, formerly and at that time Block 801, Lot 6) (the “Stadium”) to the City of Paterson, as Tenant, pursuant to a certain Lease dated June 8, 2010; and

WHEREAS, a developer has proposed to preserve and rehabilitate the Stadium and to also develop an abutting lot (currently Block 801, Lot 7.01, formerly and at that time

Block 801, Lot 7) with multifamily housing, financed by a multi-layered financing strategy including, but not limited to, New Jersey EDA ERG State Tax Credits; and

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2019, the Board of Education of the City of Paterson and the City of Paterson amended the June 8, 2010 Lease in order to facilitate the said Rehabilitation of the Stadium and the development of the abutting Lot 7 (the “Amended Lease”); and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2020, the Board of Education of the City of Paterson approved by resolution a purchase and sales agreement for Lot 7, an option to purchase lease hold interest, and an amended and restated lease (the “Restated Lease”) between the Board Education of the City of Paterson and Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal, L.P.; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2021, the City of Paterson acquired fee simple title to Lot 7 for One Dollar (\$1.00), by quitclaim deed from the Board of Education of the City of Paterson with the Board of Education of the City of Paterson retaining a right of reversion if the developer fails to develop the property; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2021, the City of Paterson assigned its rights under the Amended Lease to the developer, known as Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal, L.P.; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2021, the Board of Education of the City of Paterson approved an amended and restated lease (the “Second Restated Lease”) with Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal, L.P. with respect to the Lot 6.01 prior to or simultaneously with the closing of all financing necessary for the Stadium Project for the purposes of 1) clarifying the uses of the Stadium in Section 5 of the Second Restated Lease, 2) clarifying the role of the joint advisory board in Section 28 of the Second Restated Lease and the contemplation of bylaws for the advisory board, and 3) approving the Stadium Sub-Lease and Affiliate Sub-Lease pursuant to Section 21(k) of the Second Restated Lease; and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the City of Paterson intends to state it’s understanding of the terms of the Second Restated Lease to Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal, L.P. through a memorandum of understanding for Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal, L.P. to provide information to its lenders and subtenants about 1) the uses of the Stadium, 2) the role of the advisory board, and 3) the receipt of the Stadium Sub-Lease and Affiliate Sub-Lease; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF PATERSON hereby approves the Memorandum of Understanding for Hinchliffe Stadium Lease as, Exhibit A and authorizes the Superintendent of the Board of Education of the City of Paterson to execute and the counsel to the Board of Education of the City of Paterson to attest the Superintendent’s signature and for said designees to take all actions necessary or desirable to implement the said Agreements.

Resolution No. 3

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the City of Paterson, as Landlord, leased certain real property commonly known as Hinchliffe Stadium, an approximately 5.64 acre tract of land located at 186-218 Maple Street, Paterson, New Jersey (currently Block 801, Lot 6.01, formerly and at that time Block 801, Lot 6) (the “Stadium”) to the City of Paterson, as Tenant, pursuant to a certain Lease dated June 8, 2010; and

WHEREAS, a developer has proposed to preserve and rehabilitate the Stadium and to also develop an abutting lot (currently Block 801, Lot 7.01, formerly and at that time Block 801, Lot 7) with housing with a multi-layered financing strategy including, but not limited to, New Jersey EDA ERG State Tax Credits; and

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2019, the Board of Education of the City of Paterson and the City of Paterson amended the June 8, 2010 Lease in order to facilitate the said Rehabilitation of the Stadium and the development of the abutting Lot 7 (the “Amended Lease”); and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2020, the Board of Education of the City of Paterson approved by resolution a purchase and sales agreement for Lot 7, an option to purchase lease hold interest, and an amended and restated lease (the “Restated Lease”) between the Board Education of the City of Paterson and Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal, L.P.; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2021, the City of Paterson acquired fee simple title to Lot 7 for One Dollar (\$1.00), by quitclaim deed from the Board of Education of the City of Paterson with the Board of Education of the City of Paterson retaining a right of reversion if the developer fails to develop the property; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2021, the City of Paterson assigned its rights under the Amended Lease to the developer, known as Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal, L.P., a New Jersey limited partnership; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2021, the Board of Education of the City of Paterson approved an amended and restated lease (the “Second Restated Lease”) with Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal, L.P. with respect to the Lot 6.01 prior to or simultaneously with the closing of all financing necessary for the Stadium Project for the purposes of 1) clarifying the uses of the Stadium in Section 5 of the Second Restated Lease, 2) clarifying the role of the joint advisory board in Section 28 of the Second Restated Lease and the contemplation of bylaws for the advisory board, and 3) approving the Stadium Sub-Lease and Affiliate Sub-Lease pursuant to Section 21(k) of the Second Restated Lease; and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the City of Paterson intends to state it’s understanding of the terms of the Second Restated Lease to Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal, L.P. through a memorandum of understanding for Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal, L.P. to provide information to its title company and lenders; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the City of Paterson and Hinchliffe Master Urban Renewal, L.P. acknowledge pursuant to Section 21(k) of the Second Restated Lease that the attached Memorandum of Lease shall be used as the short form of the Second Restated Lease; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF PATERSON hereby approves the Memorandum of Lease as, Exhibit A and authorizes the Superintendent of the Board of Education of the City of Paterson to execute and the counsel to the Board of Education of the City of Paterson to attest the Superintendent’s signature and for said designees to take all actions necessary or desirable to implement the said Agreements.

It was moved by Comm. Redmon, seconded by Comm. Capers that Resolution Nos. 1 through 3 be adopted. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative, except Comm. Hodges who recused himself. The motion carried.

**Paterson Board of Education
Standing Abstentions**

Comm. Arrington

- Self
- Family

Comm. Capers

- Self
- 4th and Inches
- Westside Park Group
- Insight
- Jersey Kids

Comm. Castillo-Cruz

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

Comm. Hodges

- Self
- City of Paterson

Comm. Dania Martinez

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

Comm. Manuel Martinez

- Self

Comm. Redmon

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

Comm. Simmons

- Self
- Family

Comm. Teague

- Self
- YMCA

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comm. Simmons: The last time I checked, we had 161 or 168 speakers scheduled. Can you confirm the number?

Ms. Rodriguez: It's 162 speakers.

Comm. Hodges: Mr. President, can you limit the total minutes, as opposed to confining people to just one minute to speak?

Comm. Simmons: For a point of clarification and for transparency, I want folks to know that we did extend an offer to the union leadership to allow a specific amount of time for them to speak on behalf of their membership. As of now, it is my understanding that that offer has not been accepted. I'll entertain a motion to limit public portion to one hour. Each person would receive two minutes. Unfortunately, it will limit us to 30 people.

Comm. Redmon: In all fairness, if you have 162, I'd rather do the whole minute and let them go ahead and speak, whoever we can get to, instead of limiting it to an hour. That's still going to be an hour.

Comm. Capers: I agree.

Comm. Simmons: No, that's not going to be an hour. 162 people at two minutes each isn't an hour.

Comm. Redmon: Not two minutes. I said one minute.

Comm. Simmons: That's not an hour either.

Comm. Capers: At one minute.

Comm. Simmons: Even at one minute, that's a lot more than an hour.

Ms. Shabazz-Charles: I know how many have registered. How many are on the call now?

Ms. Rodriguez: As of now, there are only 28.

Ms. Shabazz-Charles: One of the options that we can perhaps move forward with, since there are only 28, is amending it so that no other speakers are allowed after we open public portion.

Comm. Simmons: Even if you did two minutes at 28, we are right at about the hour mark anyway.

Comm. Redmon: I'm fine with that.

Mr. Shabazz-Charles: Just for the record, to make sure all are in agreement, I think there should still be a motion to close any new entries into public portion.

It was moved by Comm. Hodges, seconded by Comm. Redmon that the Public Comments portion of the meeting be limited to one hour, to two minutes per speaker, and to those speakers who are currently on the call. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

Comm. Simmons: Please be reminded that you have two minutes. At the two-minute mark, you will be cut off.

Ms. Rosie Grant: Good evening, Commissioners, Madam Superintendent, staff, and community. I was hoping to react to Ms. Shafer's report for the reopening of school. Not having that opportunity, I just want to say I have seen other reports that are unofficial and videos that indicate there are places and spaces that are not ready to receive children and adults. That's all I'll say today. Thank you for the opportunity given that I don't have Ms. Shafer's information with which to weigh it. I implore you to ensure that our kids and the adults who serve them are safe and will be safe before we reopen the buildings. Thank you.

Mr. Errol Kerr: Hello. I also wanted to comment on the school reopening. Unfortunately, there has not been a report regarding that. However, I want to revisit my statement on the last meeting regarding the standardized test. I think there has been some discussion at the state level regarding standardized tests, but we have not heard anything from our district regarding whether or not they are supporting the idea of testing our kids in the spring. There are some districts that are more affluent and fortunate than ours who were able to get their kids private tuition during the year regarding COVID. They have broadband and they were able to be instructed. My problem is if you are going to take our kids and test them against those kids who had the benefit of instruction, I don't think there would be any equity there. I believe this is something that we should not encourage. I would like to have the district's position regarding whether or not they are in support of the standardized test for this past year. Thank you.

Mr. Charles Ferrer: Good evening. First to let you know, Mr. McEntee was in the meeting but somehow, he got kicked out. He has been trying to get back in. I gave him the number where he could call into the Zoom, the meeting ID, and all of that. Because no report has been given by the Superintendent, we understand there are issues that we saw through the walkthroughs. Understand that at the end of the day, our objective is still the same. We support opening the schools, but we need to make sure they are completely safe. The only way to do that is to provide all the requested information, whether it's on paper, the reports that the chief custodians submit for our review and help us understand why things that should have been repaired have not been repaired, such as windows and roofs. In joint worksite safety meetings, we have been told that roofs were repaired. Thank god we got that rain on the 21st because that showed a whole lot. It just makes you wonder what's really going on. Maybe somebody can help us with that. Board members, I recommend to you that you request to see all the work order requests. I'm pretty sure you have a committee that meets so that you know when these things are done so that you have a timeframe as to when it should be complete or what is the holdup. Roofs that have been leaking for some time should have been done by now. Would this be acceptable in your own home? I doubt it. It definitely wouldn't be in mine. If we have a company that can't get the job done, then we need to find somebody else. Roofs and windows should be repaired. We were told that the bulk of the windows would open with no problems. We didn't see that. Thank you.

Mr. John McEntee: Good evening. I was in the meeting via the Zoom. Somehow, I was bounced out a few times. I had to re-call in. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I was prepared to give a PowerPoint presentation this evening. I know that our attorneys on both sides have been going back and forth, working hard for their respective constituents. Unfortunately, because I'm not in I can't do that. I won't take much time here this evening. I know that Charles spoke very well about where we stand. There is no one that wants to get back to school more than all the educators who work in the Paterson Public Schools. In fact, that is our first goal. Our first goal is to get back in. If there are Board members on this call that feel the same way, know

that we agree with you. We want to get the schools open as quickly as possible, but the caveat to that is it must be safe. Windows can't be bolted shut. We can't have situations where we can't inspect the air filtration systems. There's a lot I want to say here this evening. Unfortunately, I am unable to do that in the way that I had prepared to do it. I do look forward to meeting with the School Board. I do look forward to open lines of communication, especially with the Board President and the Vice President. Know that we will work with you, but the games need to end. Windows being bolted shut during a global pandemic? That kind of stuff can't fly. To the Board's credit, there are some schools that are ready to reopen. They are few and far between, but there are a few that are ready to reopen. Our goal is to take all those schools that are close to reopening and get them ready. We wasted an entire month. We were ready to do this back in March. We were blocked and couldn't get in.

Mr. Gennaro Tortoriello: Thanks for the opportunity to speak tonight. I want to talk about what I saw with my own eyes at Kennedy High School. Seven closed classrooms, two in SET and five in BTMF. The library is not available, which is a common area that staff can use to keep distance from each other on prep periods. We need every space that we can get. I'm only speaking about the one school I saw with my own eyes, but I saw the other pictures. There's a roof that's been under construction since at least 2018. At this point in time, what are the students returning to? They are going to return to unsafe environments to come back and take standardized tests. They're actually going to lose instructional time if they come back. Let's do it right. Let's keep everybody safe and let's focus on doing it right for September. We all want our lives back. We all want to be back to work. Many of us have children. I have three children who have been home. I see what it's done. But we have to keep our people safe. Thank you very much.

Ms. Rana Omar: Good evening, everyone. I just have a few questions regarding if we are to reopen the building when it's safe. Hopefully, we get safe and we can open up. If we have to quarantine because of an outbreak in the school, are teachers going to be able to go all-remote with students? Or are we quarantining? What days are we using? Are there going to be days the district provides for us? Or are we expected to use our own personal sick days if we have to quarantine because of an outbreak in school? We were told at one point that we might have to clean the desks between the students coming and going in between classes. For middle school and up, they will be transitioning between each class. As teachers, are we required to clean it? What about the chemicals that are going to be used? What if there's an incident with a student or parent or an allergic reaction? That's important to know. How are we expected to do that? For us to disinfect the desks, chairs, doors, and everything between classes is a major concern that I have. I want to get back into the building. That's the biggest thing. I want to be teaching my students face-to-face because it's been difficult. But I want to do it when it's safe for them, safe for myself, and safe for my family. This is still the pandemic. The numbers are still going up in the state and it's scary. I just want to make sure that we are all safe when we go into the buildings, and that everything is provided for us and the students as well and their families, and just making sure that we're all safe. If we have to quarantine, will we be all remote? What's going to happen? We haven't been given direction on that. Like I said, we all want to get back into the building, but we want to be safe. That's the most important thing. Thank you.

Ms. Nikki Baker: Thank you for your time. Good afternoon, Board members, staff, and distinguished members of the community. First and foremost, I want to say that our working conditions are our student's learning conditions. When those repairs are done and completed, that is the optimal environment for our students to learn in as well as for us to teach. Thank you for starting the work that you have begun. I'm asking that you

complete the repairs so that we are ready to safely return to our schools. Routines are important. Rushing us back isn't good for the students. Hopefully, we will finish by the end of the year and be ready for September. Secondly, I want to acknowledge the passing of our special education assistant who worked at Rutland Center, Ms. Juana Figueroa. Please keep her family, friends, and colleagues in prayer. She recently passed on Sunday. She brought life to her students, her colleagues, and her family. We just want to acknowledge her at this time, hopefully with a moment of silence. Thank you.

Ms. Jessica Katz: This is Jessica Katz. I just wanted to say that I very much believe we need to be extremely careful about our buildings and our people. We need to support all the good faith that the union did work towards when it comes to going into the buildings and all the effort they made to protect the students. That's what this is essentially about, protecting the students and the staff of the community and making sure that everyone is well, healthy, and safe. Thank you very much.

Ms. Jennifer Doherty: Hi, how are you? I want to take this time to thank you. I'd also like to thank Ms. Shafer for allowing two substitutes to be in each building. But I do have some concerns to that measure that she brought up in the last meeting. First, do we have the substitutes to cover the members that are currently on maternity leave? Will we be able to cover those members who will be requiring a remote medical accommodation? Will staff members have sick, personal, and family illness days? Will we have the staff members in a substitute capacity to cover those? People are entitled to take those days. Lastly, have we taken into account staff members who will be taking a leave on the NJFLA-COVID leave for lack of childcare? Will we also have substitutes for those in that capacity?

Comm. Hodges: Mr. President, does Ms. Charles know that there is no other public portion?

Ms. Cheryl Coy: She's not here for public portion. She's here for district response if needed.

Ms. Jennifer Rodas: I hope everyone is having a good evening and thank you for allowing me to speak. I was actually one of the delegates that did a safety inspection. The roof is still leaking. There are three classrooms in our building that students are not able to go into. These issues have not been addressed. Last year, there was a tarp put over it. There's paint falling on students. I have four biological children of my own, but every single student that I teach is my child. I would not allow my own children to be in certain conditions. Other conditions were very well addressed, but there still needs to be work done. I hope that you look at other items as well. Thank you for allowing me to speak and have a great night.

Ms. Deirdre Karcher: Thank you for taking a moment and listening to what I have to say. My school is one of the few that is ready to reopen. Our principal has done an awesome job putting this all together and making sure that everything has been tied up and done right. I do have concerns about other schools, which I think you've heard. I just want to say ditto. The other schools need to open up with us. I do have a suggestion. If you do reopen, one of the concerns in our school is going until 3:00 o'clock. The teachers spend a lot of time putting things together, grading papers, and getting them back, and the bandwidth is kind of narrow. If we go until 3:00 o'clock, the workload is going to be the same but the amount of time to tend to it is going to be different. The other thing is eating within the building. I don't think it's such a good idea. I would recommend a grab-and-go lunch like they do in other districts where the schools

close at 12:45. The kids take their lunch with them and they go home. That's one of my recommendations. It would also bring down the chances of contact if we do end up going back. I, for one, think that the schools need these 60 days for the ones that still need repairs to be taken on and then we can continue to open in September. Thank you very much.

Ms. Monifa Mears-Greer: Thank you so much for your patience. Good evening, Superintendent Shafer and Board of Education. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I just wanted to express some concerns. First, I would love to say that I love teaching. I enjoy it very dearly and it's not that I don't want to return, but I have some fears. My fear is that I am concerned about all of our safety. Eating in the classroom is questionable because we have to remove our masks and once the mask is removed, I'm not sure who has it and who doesn't have it. I just think it would be unsafe to remove our masks. Travelling to and from the classroom, I'm a little concerned about using the partitions too because some children may not use them properly in the hallways. In my classroom alone, there's no ventilation even with the windows open. If there's nothing circulating, I don't know how safe that would be, even though we may have the air filters and the scrubbers. One main concern is if a teacher is absent, how are we going to teach more than 10 students safely with social distancing in place? We won't have that if we have more students being placed in our classroom during the time of teaching due to teachers being absent. I just want to thank you so very much for what you do, but I want safety in order to continue to go back to school. Thank you so much.

Ms. Cecilia McGrotty: I'm concerned because I did a walkthrough in our school the other day with a bunch of other delegates. We still see a lot of rooms that are under construction and that don't have the screens on the windows. There were some rooms that we couldn't even get into so our school is not ready to go back, the students or the teachers. There's still a lot of work to be done in our school.

Ms. Michelle Hamlett: I just wanted to point out one thing. Nobody wants to go back more than I do. Teaching is my life and my students mean more to me than I can even begin to say. However, I really feel we need to take the next several weeks to spend some time getting the buildings ready properly. I know my classroom is in the basement in GOPA at Eastside. I have windows that open onto an enclosed courtyard so they don't open. Passaic County's numbers are one of the highest in the state and we said that we would use science and data. I think we just need to give the opportunity for people who still need to be vaccinated so that when we are able to come back, hopefully in September, we are ready to hit the ground running. Some of my students are afraid to come back. I think we need to consider the possibility that some of our students may need some counseling because they've been out of school for a year and a half.

Ms. Tiffany Shepherd: Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I'm going to take my time to pray for us all. Heavenly father, in the name of Jesus, I pray to you tonight first to thank you for keeping us and sustaining us up to this very moment. I lift up every person under the sound of my voice to you asking for bountiful blessings from you. Bless them and their families. Bless their household. Bless their comings and their goings. They are on this call for a reason and I claim that they are here because they truly care about our staff and students. Lord, I especially ask that you be with our leaders and decision-makers on tonight. Be in their hearts and minds as they make the highly controversial decision whether to reopen our school buildings for the students and some staff. Thank you for keeping and sustaining all our secretaries, child study team members, guidance counselors, administrators, and all

those who have been required to go into those buildings every single week. Guide our decision-makers in their decision to keep the health and safety of everyone involved as their number one concern. They know if the buildings are safe. Please guide them to make the right decision. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen. Thank you and goodnight. God bless you all.

Ms. Greta Mills: Hello everyone. Thank you for that prayer. I hope everyone is okay. I just want to point out I was one of the people who did the walkthrough at School No. 26. That sick room was massively hot, 99 degrees. It was blistering. We definitely need to deal with that. The screens and the windows are a major issue in our building that needs to be dealt with. We didn't get to see the univents at all, which is a concern of mine. I do have a question. Years ago, it was said that there was a certain piece missing for the vents to make them filter the air. You need the Merv filter along with some special piece so that it can have air flowing through the building. Is that true? Looking at the price of the purifiers for \$1,400, wouldn't it have been better to get that piece in there to get us where we need to go? We also need a teacher for sixth grade. Please, a sixth and seventh grade math teacher is needed at our school. Please help.

Ms. Melissa Margaritis Gettleman: Good evening. The pictures speak for themselves. Paterson schools are just not ready. Forcing students and staff to sit in overcrowded buildings with closed classrooms, moldy ceiling tiles, exposed wires, broken windows, and roofing fumes in downright detrimental to the health and learning of our students. Facilities matter. The research tells us that dilapidated buildings such as ours lead to lower academic outcomes for students and lower well-being for teachers and administrators. Please take this unique time and opportunity to ensure our schools are not derelict places to learn. We cannot accept these conditions as our norm. Paterson deserves better. Thank you.

Ms. Lizandaa Alburg: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. As the previous speaker mentioned, a picture is worth a thousand words. In the case of the PEA walkthroughs, the pictures are worth thousands of lives. After 13 months, the district is still not ready. Delayed walkthroughs and the district is still not ready. I'm addressing the district a whole. I have to commend School No. 28 and the administrative team there for having minor issues that need to be addressed, but those photos definitely tell a different story. My question for the Commissioners and Superintendent Shafer is, where is the urgency and demonstration of the high health and safety standards for our students, staff, parents, and community members? I am asking the district to better prepare for the reopening of schools in the fall using the four months from May to September to address facility issues. If the buildings were not cleaned for a planned inspection, they will unlikely be clean for the daily business of safely learning during a global pandemic. Today I heard some information that is alarming regarding students who have contracted COVID. Sasha Wolf, our PEA UniServ rep, relayed to us that approximately 2,000 students in Paterson Public Schools contracted COVID. That's 6.6% of our student population. The national rate is less than 1%. We must make sure that our buildings are safe for all. I have a few final questions. What is the district's logistical plan to increase custodial and facility staffing? What is the plan to address transportation and social distancing? How will the district monitor and clean the filters on the devices, the air purification systems? How is the district going to address arriving and dismissal procedures and building schedules? Currently, many schools do not incorporate travel time or have delays regarding arrivals and dismissals. Thank you so much for your time.

Ms. Paula Fonder: Good evening. My concern about the reopening is being afraid. My mother passed from COVID and I watched her suffer for 27 days. When I saw the

pictures, it just upset me to think that we are going to try to open up the school not telling if somebody else is a carrier or has it. We are all going to suffer this pandemic. I don't think we are ready. I think we should wait and not rush. I understand there are some kids that are failing, but we have to think about our health. I would rather have my health than to rush into something that we are not ready for. Thank you.

Ms. Mercedes Davidson: Good evening. Having seen the results of the PEA inspections, it should be clear there is still much to be done. Much of the supplies that we got were only recently sent to schools. Time is ticking. Again, I reiterate we want our schools open, but only when it's safe. Will you take the small window left of this school year and summer to prepare our buildings for opening in earnest? Will you make them safe for all stakeholders? Remember, haste makes waste. It is your choice and responsibility. Thank you.

Ms. Anntonette Ybarra: Good evening, everybody. Thank you for allowing me to speak tonight. I have many concerns regarding the reopening of schools and the safety for our staff and students. The most pertinent issue on my mind is regarding remote accommodations for those with compromising health conditions. Being pregnant myself, among other health issues, I have been identified by my doctor as high-risk. Are you aware that there has been an increase in deaths in women who have contracted the coronavirus while pregnant? This is frightening to myself and to many others. It's my understanding that providing remote accommodations for compromising illnesses has recently been deleted from the reopening plan. Why was this removed from the plan? If the district does decide to reopen, what reasonable, safe accommodations will be provided to those individuals whose doctors have deemed it absolutely necessary for them to continue to work remotely? I pray and hope that you make the right decision tonight. Thank you.

Mr. Sasha Wolf: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen of the Board of Education. I represent the New Jersey Education Association. I am proud to represent over 3,000 members of the Paterson Education Association and approximately 200 members of the Paterson Food Service Association. I don't want to belabor the points already made. I will say that I am a little disappointed that the Board chose not to allow PEA President John McEntee the ability to present information. PEA has been very forthcoming through this whole process, trying to communicate issues and concerns. We believe that presenting this information tonight directly to the Board members would have gone a long way to help resolving these issues. I also want to say that while the CDC recommends that the best place for students is in schools, it does add the following caveat. In communities where transmission rates are high, schools may not be the best place for students, especially where preventive strategies cannot be put in place. You've seen the community data. You've seen the conditions in some of our schools. Unfortunately, because of the national averages regarding student transmission and COVID rates, unless these buildings are fixed, these students are simply going to pass it on to each other and bring it right back into the community. Again, knowing the data, we can't afford to do this. Let's push for a reopening in September when all these problems can be addressed. There's more money coming from the federal and state government. Let's make sure we don't keep doing a deferred maintenance strategy. Let's fix these buildings once and for all so they are safe for all staff and students alike. Thank you.

Ms. Kimberly Reardon: How are you doing tonight? Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I am concerned about transmission rates in Paterson. I am concerned about the state of the building. What scares me even more is the fact that we are going to have indoor dining in the classrooms. While that is a choice to the rest

of the community, it is forced upon the students and the teachers here. There is no reason why we can't do a grab-and-go. My town, which is an urban district, does a grab-and-go which contains a breakfast for the following day so the children can eat before they come to school. I have a real problem with being forced to do indoor dining, nor have I heard anything back about my medical exemption paperwork that was submitted. Since the push is for May 3, I am concerned about what is going on. How will people find childcare on a moment's notice? What happens when there's an outbreak in the school? We will have to shut down on a moment's notice, which has happened here in my town. We were given eight hours' notice of a closing. I think these things need to really be thought out. I think we should give the district and the Board time to fix the buildings and make things safe, good, and the way they are supposed to be. Make it right for everybody because our children live in multi-generational houses. How would it feel to have an eight-year-old bring home COVID to grandma and then she's dead a month later? I watched my mother die last May. It was the worst thing in the world that I had to do. I don't want any child to witness it in our district, to watch their parent or grandparent die and blame themselves because they went to school. Thank you.

Mr. Patrick Barry: Good evening. I just want to say one thing. You are not ready. The school is not ready. The schools haven't been ready. We've seen videos of the schools. Yes, we saw a video that you put out of how the students are supposed to act in a school building. Again, they are not ready. The schools aren't ready. The facilities aren't ready. You guys are not prepared yet. You are closer. I will give you that, but you are not ready. I wouldn't get in a plane with only one wing. I wouldn't want to send children to a building that they are not ready for. They are not safe and you guys need to work on these buildings before you send us back. I would just urge all the Board members that we can see you. You should be paying attention to our real concerns instead of talking on the phones and not paying attention to our real concerns here because we all have them. While I think you think it's funny, we are all very anxious and we are all very concerned about our health of ourselves and the well-being of our students. Thank you.

Ms. Shaye Brown: Good evening, Commissioners and Madam Superintendent. For many parents and staff at this time of the year, the hybrid model would be a choice of working or having to take a leave. I'm looking forward to returning to safe buildings for the benefit of my students, their families, my colleagues, and my administrators. As a single mother of a seven-year-old son with autism and a 10-year-old daughter, I do not have the option or financial luxury of hiring a child sitter nor placing my children in a daycare setting on days they are remote. As a parent of a child with special needs, finding free childcare, even with my salary, I don't qualify for 4C's. I do not have a high salary. What will you do for the many other staff like me who will have to make a choice between working hybrid or having to take care of their family due to this ongoing pandemic? What about parents of our students who plan for a hybrid model but then will have to change if someone is COVID positive in that school building? With less than two months upon us, please be mindful of the mental stressors you are projecting onto the families and the staff of Paterson schools. I am a parent of a child with special needs enrolled in Paterson schools. I am a taxpayer. I am a registered voter. I am a Paterson resident. I am a Paterson special education teacher. I hope my voice is heard for who I am in every one of these roles. May I add that working remotely is not an easy task, especially as a single mom of young children who are also learning remotely. Believe me when I say I am more than ready to return. I hope you and your families all remain safe. Thank you and I hope you all have a great evening.

Ms. Patricia Cadet: Thanks for letting me speak tonight. I spoke last time at our Board meeting. When we had the Board meeting, we didn't get answers to our questions and we were all told that we would have our answers emailed to us. The answers were never emailed. We didn't get any emails. Everybody put the emails into the Zoom because that's how we have to sign in, but none of the questions posed and nothing was answered. I feel that was not the responsible thing to do. As teachers, we all have to complete our paperwork. We all have to be respectful of our principals. To not have our valid questions answered was not the responsible thing to do. We all had concerns just like the mom who just spoke. I had valid concerns about my children's childcare. My children go to school in the next town over from Paterson and they are in school half-days. I don't have family that will take care of my children. Because we have been remote all year, my children go half-days to school. One goes two days a week and the other one goes four days a week half-days. All the daycares are booked up. One is in sixth grade and one is in second grade. I can't get them in anywhere and I don't have anybody who will watch them. I don't know what to do. I can't take a leave. The schools are not safe and ready to go back. This is causing me major anxiety. If I go to the doctor and get more medication to control my anxiety, I don't know if I'll be ready to work. As it is, this is a horrible, anxiety-producing condition. Thank you for listening.

Ms. Kathleen Schnorr: Good evening, everyone. I am a proud teacher at John F. Kennedy Educational Complex in the district for 22 years. Let me begin by saying I want to go back to in-person instruction. I was part of the safety inspections last week on both days with the PEA. I noticed the building was clean and had proper PPE. However, understand there were deep-seated issues found. Many of the issues are long-standing in the building, but now that we are in a pandemic the problems are magnified and pose a safety hazard. With all due respect, in my humble opinion, we should fix the problems over the summer, re-inspect, and return to school in September when it's safe. In the future, try to keep up better with the repairs so we do not get to this point again. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak. Good night.

Mr. Sahil Shah: I'm Sahil Shah. I have been a teacher in Paterson for about nine years, 12 years if you count my time as a substitute teacher. I'm all for going back to school, but when the buildings are safe. I want to go back where the students can get back to doing actual projects and getting their hands dirty. Right now, I don't feel safe with these buildings from what I'm hearing. I think we need to revisit what's going on right now. I'm not going to restate what everyone else has been saying, but we need to really look into what needs to go on. We need to reconsider what's going on. That's all I have to say.

Ms. Noreen Veloz: Hi. I just want to address that we need to follow the science and the science has not changed. The numbers have not changed. I have been following them daily and they have not changed. The number of positive cases has increased. It has spiked. All the buildings are not ready. Are they going to be cornered off? I have an issue with the video. It was a beautiful video of a model school. Most of the schools are not like that. It was a disservice to the children of Paterson to show model schools when most of the schools are not like that. I want to go back. I'm ready to go back, but not if the schools are not ready and the cases are increasing. Ms. Shafer, do what you said you were going to do, follow the science. That's it.

Ms. Carmen Clinton: Good evening. Thank you for allowing me to speak. My concern in returning back to school is not having enough bathrooms in our school, which is School No. 3. Our building is over 100 years old and we only have one bathroom for the male and female teachers, two for the students, and one which will be used for the

sick children. I feel that this school will not be ready to open with the COVID pandemic that's going on. Thank you.

Mr. Ge Soriano: Hello, Board. How's everyone doing today? There are so many things we can talk about. I know everybody is under pressure. Everything is very difficult right now. I'm PTO President at School No. 30. It's definitely not ready. We had a flood going on over there. We have wires all over the place. We have construction signs up. We have the computer room, library, cafeteria, and teacher room out. I think we have mold. We need to get an asbestos test. I know we are all trying to do it and get there, but I think safety first is the key. If we try to get in there and the school is still not completed, I think it will cause more issues for everybody all the way around. Our school is not capable of accepting any children at the present moment. Thank you, Commissioners, Superintendent, and everybody at the Board for giving me the opportunity to speak. Have a good evening.

Ms. Anita Bozzo: Good evening. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I'm glad to hear from Mr. Soriano because I was in the building inspecting and it's not ready to be open. We have seven closed classrooms. We have a cafeteria gone. The teachers' room is not there. We have two bathrooms to service all the teachers in the main building. There are no air purifiers in any of the bathrooms in the entire place. They are unvented and windowless. The bottom line is I don't think this is going to be good for the children. They are going to be going from comfortable in their homes, seeing my face and my expressions, to seeing me with a mask on all day. I do not see how those little babies are going to look at me with a mask walking around the room. Our instruction is going to go to a crawl. I have very few children coming back. The parents are afraid and justifiably so. Our district has an extremely high transmission rate. According to the New Jersey Department of Health Matrix, we should not be going back anyway. We are in the condition where we say they should be remote and six feet apart. In some of our classrooms, that will not be possible. We just have to look out for the kids. In my heart, I really don't think this is going to help them at all. I'm vaccinated. I'm not terrified. I don't like having to eat with them. I think that's a poor choice because I agree with what a few other people said. They are going to bring it home. Our asset is the children's families, the grandmas, the grandpas, and the aunties that are watching the kids. To have them possibly bring that back to these multi-generational families that are supporting our kids terrifies me. We have wonderful families and I just want to do the best for our children and families. I think we need to wait until September. Thank you.

Comm. Simmons: I know we started with 28, but that was actually 32. I think we went over, but it's all good.

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

UPDATE ON COVID STATISTICS

Ms. Shafer: Good evening, Board Commissioners, staff, and Paterson community. Let me start by thanking everyone who spoke tonight and remind you that the safety and the security of our staff and our students has always been and will continue to be a priority. We have been guided through the entire pandemic by the science and the data and we will continue to be. On April 26, New Jersey confirmed 1,930 new cases of COVID-19, representing a 72% decrease in cases statewide since January 2021. During this period, the case rate has declined by approximately 15% in Paterson and

Passaic County. Officials attribute this drop to an 86% increase in vaccinations over the past month with more than one in three adults now fully vaccinated. St. Joseph's Medical Center is operating out of Dr. Hani Awadallah School and is now offering our youth 16 years of age and older the Pfizer vaccine. We will have a video on our website with the information and it will all be sent to our parents as well as a parent workshop on how to register your child 16 years or older for the vaccination. I also want to let you know that the video we did about a day in the life of a student when we return is now on the website in four different languages. We are going to move into our PowerPoint presentation on our safety walks as we did them using the checklist. Before we begin, I want to thank the cabinet members for all their hard work through the pandemic since it started, the principals who conducted the walks, the administrator leads who were on the safety walks, our chief custodians, all our facilities, security and food service departments, and our central stores folks who did a lot of the delivery for all the devices and products that we are using. I thank all of them for getting our buildings ready. I also want to thank the PEA delegates and the union leadership who also joined the walks. This presentation includes all COVID-related items in accordance with CDC guidelines and the State Department of Education Road Back to Recovery Guidelines. Thus far, we have spent \$19,610,600 on preparing our schools to open.

DISCUSSION ON BUILDING READINESS FOR THE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS

Ms. Shafer: We are going to move on now into the presentation. On April 21, the walkthroughs included 31 different locations. As you can see from here, we had the central office lead, the school principal, the chief custodian, and the Paterson Education Association delegate. We also had Board of Education Commissioners do walkthroughs with Deputy Superintendent Peron at School No. 2, School No. 10, and John F. Kennedy High School. On April 22, we did walks in 22 locations with the same individuals. We had Board of Education Commissioners walk with me at the Dr. Frank Napier School, School No. 27, and Eastside High School.

Ms. Susana Peron – Video Demonstration of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Provided by PPS

Mr. Steve Olimpio – Video Demonstration of PPS Signage

Mr. David Cozart: Good evening, my name is David Cozart, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Unit III. I have the privilege to present the school readiness walkthroughs for security. The security section was divided into three components – temperature scanners, updated health screening signage, disposable masks and gowns for our visitors, staff, and students. This slide represents Units I and II. These two units represent 31 of our 49 schools. As you see, at Units I and II, temperature scanners were present in all locations. Disposable masks and gloves were present at each location and were available for future use. However, the updated screen signage of what you just saw from Mr. Steve Olimpio, our Security Supervisor, we're missing a sign in Unit I and Unit II. If you look at Units III, IV and V, you will see that each school has all the appropriate signage, temperature scanners, as well as disposable masks. In conclusion for this unit, you will see that 49 locations received their temperature scanners, 49 locations have disposable masks and gloves, and as of today, we are proud to say that all 49 schools have received the updated screening signage. Therefore, in terms of security, all areas have been addressed as of today.

Ms. Sandra Diodonet: Good evening, Paterson Public School family and community. My name is Sandra Diodonet. I'm here to discuss the readiness walkthroughs with signage findings by unit. As a follow up to Mr. Olimpio's video on the different protective

signage, I will briefly discuss the findings for each unit, as well as the remediation. Just in case you want to know which unit is what, Unit I belongs to Ms. Warren, Unit II is supervised by myself, Unit III would be Mr. Cozart, Unit IV is Ms. Tsimpedes, and Unit V would be Ms. Coy. The different signs that we will discuss here are regarding wearing a mask, six feet social distancing, stay to the right, elevator signs, restroom signs, teacher room protocols, wiping down copy machines, arrows to stay to the right, and also the Right to Know board. For Unit I, there are eight schools because there are only eight elevators in that unit. One school out of the 14 for Unit I did not have the signage for the restroom. For Unit II, there were only 12 schools that had elevators and there was only one sign missing in the teachers' lounge regarding protocols. Unit III, out of the 10 schools, they only have six elevators and one restroom sign was missing, one for the copier, and one for arrows. Unit IV, we are at 100% on all signage, six out of six, and the same thing for Unit V at 100%. For the remediation, please know that any locations that were missing signs, the signs were received and the district is in the process of translating these signs into Spanish, Bengali, Arabic, as well as Turkish. We only have 33 elevators districtwide and they all have the signs available. This concludes my report for signage. Thank you.

Ms. Cicely Warren: Good evening, Paterson and Commissioners. My name is Cicely Warren, Assistant Superintendent for Unit I. I will be discussing the findings for our restrooms and I will return later on in the presentation to discuss our classrooms. The findings regarding restrooms are divided into two categories, whether the bathrooms are stocked with toilet paper, hand towels, and soap, and if the sanitation schedule was posted in the restroom. In Unit I, there are 14 sites. All of them had the appropriate toilet paper, hand towels, and soap. One site did not have the sanitation schedule posted. In Unit II, all 17 locations were in compliance. In Unit III, all 11 locations were in compliance in those two categories. Units IV and V were at 100%. Districtwide, all 49 locations have the appropriate supplies and sanitation schedules posted. Thank you.

Ms. Joanna Tsimpedes: Good evening, Paterson community. My name is Joanna Tsimpedes and I will be presenting you the operations findings. Please bear with me as there is a lot of writing on here, but I will break it down for you. With regards to operations, our checklist had several items on there. I'm going in order of the bar graph so you can follow along. We looked to see if there were gloves, face shields, air scrubbers for classrooms without windows, student trifold partitions, with exception of preschool who are not going to use them, plexiglass partitions for our teachers as you saw in Ms. Peron's video, an air purifier in every classroom, office, faculty room, auditorium, hydration stations, which are touchless and will be found on one per floor, the sanitizing of the drinking fountains that remain in the buildings, arrival and dismissal procedures for students and staff, scheduling for touchpoint sanitation, our cafeteria sanitation schedule for in between lunch periods, ensuring the cafeteria is separated and organized for social distancing, and a schedule in place for meal distribution for our students who are in Cohort C. We also have sanitizing stations by our swipe machine, office, and hallways, spray bottles with the disinfectant and paper towels for every staff member, hand sanitizer in teacher break rooms along with paper towels, hand sanitizer in every classroom mounted on the wall, and mask inventory for our staff upon returning to schools for hybrid learning. In Unit I, I'll go down to where the deficiencies were found. Out of 14 schools in Unit I, nine of them were prepared with air scrubbers for classrooms without windows. Plexiglass partitions were documented in 12 out of the 14 buildings and air purifiers in every classroom and office. This doesn't mean that the whole building did not have. It may have been just one or two classrooms that did not have the article in place that we are talking about. The one place where you do see a large deficiency was the hydration station. Seven schools did not have it installed and

you'll see when we do the remediation that these will be in place before the end of June. Another area was the spray bottles with disinfectant and paper towels. 12 out of the 14 schools were completely in compliance with that. If we move on to Unit II, there are 17 schools. 14 out of the 17 had their air scrubbers for classrooms without windows. We go back down to the hydration station and we see that we are also waiting for installation. Another item on here was the schedule for touchpoint sanitation. 15 out of 17 schools had everything listed. The cafeteria with the sanitation schedule and the social distancing, 16 out of 17 schools were ready to go. There are 11 schools in Unit III. As you see again, nine out of 11 schools were complete with hydration stations installed. We also had nine buildings with air scrubbers for classrooms without windows that were fully in compliance, and it's the same thing with the cafeteria. Nine out of the 11 schools had their schedule and their social distancing in the cafeteria ready for our students. In Unit IV, there are six schools, hydration station being the main one that had three out of the six schools in compliance ready to go. Air scrubbers, five out of the six were ready. Student trifold partitions, five out of the six. Most of the schools were ready in Unit IV. In Unit V, schools were in compliance with everything that was on the checklist. Finally, this brings you to the big picture, districtwide operation in total. As you see, there are 49 schools. The main one which we are not at 49 primarily are the hydration stations, which we are currently working on to install in the buildings. In the districtwide findings, in terms of hydration stations, they will be delivered by June 28 of this year to all the buildings that do not have them. In air scrubbers, there were 10 findings. Out of the 10, five were completed, three are pending, and two were found to be non-applicable. On plexiglass partitions, there were five findings. They are all complete. The air purifiers, there were five findings in auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Complete were two and pending are three and pending means we are waiting for delivery of the items. In scheduling of sanitizing all drinking fountains, there were five findings, pending four, and one non-applicable. Cafeteria separated and organized for social distancing, four findings, two pending, and two non-applicable. The sanitation schedule in the cafeteria, there were four findings, two pending, and two non-applicable. Spray bottles in the teacher's classroom, three findings, one was complete, and pending are two. The schedule for remote student's Cohort C, two findings and pending are two. The touchpoint sanitation, there were two findings and two are pending. Arrival and dismissal for students and staff, there were two findings and two are pending. Student trifold partitions with the exception of preschool, two findings, one is complete and the other one is non-applicable because it was a preschool.

Ms. Warren: In this section, I will be discussing our classroom findings. The classrooms had several categories including web cameras for every classroom and a Promethean board. Do at least two classroom windows open? Have the classrooms been set up to reflect social distancing? That can include having the desks spaced or having them taped off indicating Cohorts A and B. Do special education classrooms have gowns for teachers and IAs? Do those same classrooms have gloves for teachers and IAs? Do those classrooms have face shields for teachers and IAs? Please note that an array of all the PPE that's available to staff was on display at every school, as well as the requisition process and form for providing those supplies to each individual staff member who requires it. In Unit I, there are 14 sites. In all the areas, excluding the Promethean board installation, which is ongoing, and classrooms, there were two locations where there were windows that did not open and stay open. The Promethean board installation is underway and you'll see more about that later. In Unit II, there are 17 sites. The Promethean board installation is in progress. Currently, 12 have been completed. Out of the 17 sites, there are 13 classrooms that have windows that open as per the requirements. They are in compliance in all of the areas. In Unit III, out of the 11 sites, there's one site where the classrooms do not have their web cameras and the Promethean board installation is underway and has been completed at eight sites.

There are three remaining. In Unit IV, out of the six sites, Promethean board installation has been completed in two. There are five classrooms where the windows do open and the classrooms have been set up to reflect social distancing in five sites. That means there is one pending in each of those areas. Unit IV is in compliance in all areas regarding classrooms. Districtwide, out of our 49 sites, 48 have web cameras in every classroom and 31 sites have had their Promethean boards installed. The rest are pending. 43 of our sites have sufficient windows that open. 48 sites have desks that have been set up to reflect social distancing and all 49 of our schools are in compliance in the remaining areas. Regarding the remediation in reference to the findings that I indicated, the one site where the web cameras are not available is pending. The Promethean boards will be installed by the end of May. One site which had a window finding is complete and six are pending. Three of the locations are at Eastside Campus. There are 329 windows as of today. 12 windows need to be repaired. There are six rooms at that site that do not have two windows that open. The one site that indicated a classroom not set up to reflect social distancing is pending.

Ms. Cheryl Coy: Good evening, everyone. I will be presenting the school readiness walkthroughs from medical room findings by unit. Throughout the district, there are 49 schools that achieved compliance in the following categories. Is there a designated location? Area has gowns, gloves, hand sanitizers, and face shields. There were two schools in Unit I that did not have the area of air purifiers. Districtwide remediation has occurred to achieve compliance for all 49 schools. School readiness walkthroughs, nurse's rooms findings by unit. For the nurse's rooms, 49 schools passed in the following categories. Area has air purifier, gowns, gloves, hand sanitizers, and face shields. Guidelines/protocols for reporting positive cases - contact tracing. There was one school in Unit I that did not pass the findings. As a result, districtwide nurse's room remediation has been completed for all 49 schools to maintain compliance in all categories.

Mr. Neil Mapp: Good day. My name is Neil Mapp. I am the Chief Officer of Facilities and Custodial Services for the school district. Today, I'd like to talk to you about some of the deficiencies that were identified in earlier presentations relative to equipment and materials. I just want to note that those units, equipment and material, are onsite. They're at our warehouse and they are currently being delivered. The pending notation and status that you see is that the equipment will be delivered within the next 24 to 36 hours. HVAC has been an active talking point relative to the entire COVID environment. Everything that we have discussed thus far was relative to COVID prevention and mitigation. We have not discussed repair maintenance and life safety issues. Everything we've talked about so far and our walkthroughs were relative to COVID prevention. HVAC means heating, ventilation, and air conditioning. Throughout the district, we have a myriad of different types of ventilation units, be it rooftop units that are on some newer schools, unit ventilators that are in most of our schools, Airedale units, and compact cassette units with split systems. We have a myriad of systems that provide heating, ventilation, and air conditioning for our schools. During the walkthrough, we looked at our IAQ logs that represented our preventive maintenance on our HVAC systems. On that log, you would find the filter checks and other checks on the various systems that we have throughout our schools. A number of issues came up where the inspectors or persons who walked our district could not look at filters within our HVAC units, such as unit ventilators and air handling units. The reason for that is that filters are now considered biohazards. There are possible microbial contaminants that may be on those filters. Since we are in a COVID environment, we could not open the units and expose those units and the harmful microbial contaminate to persons in the room at the time. We did not open any of our unit ventilators to prevent any microbial contamination in the room. Due to those possible microbial contaminations,

we afforded all our inspectors, the persons walking our school sites, the IAQ logs for every school that outlined every HVAC unit in every occupied space in the building. Those logs were available onsite the same day. I think there were about three schools that were not available onsite on those particular days, Wednesday and Thursday, and they were made available on Friday and Saturday. The other issues around opening ventilators and showing filter conditions and other conditions of our louvers within our unit ventilators comes back to not only microbial contamination issues, but also health and safety issues where OSHA protocols call for two people to open a unit ventilator in order to service it. There are mitigating circumstances where we cannot just open the unit ventilator to show the conditions within the unit. We demonstrate those conditions through our IAQ logs. The district has many types of HVAC equipment, rooftop units that provide centralized heating, cooling, and ventilation to various parts of a school building. We have unit ventilators that provide individualized ventilation for single classrooms. We have Airedale units that provide ventilation for multiple classrooms, two maximum at a time. There are many schools that have different types of HVAC units. There are some schools in our district that have no mechanical ventilation systems, such as at School No. 29 and STARS Academy. We were fortunate enough to get grant funding to provide air scrubbers with HEPA filters in those spaces that do not have mechanical ventilation.

Ms. Peron: That concludes our walkthrough presentation. In our walkthrough presentation and during the walkthroughs, some of our administrators captured some of the comments that the PEA delegate that was walking alongside them actually said. These are direct quotes. I'm only going to read a few of them, but it's important to note that there were very positive comments. One said, "This is more than they have at my kid's school. The building looks great." A third one was, "My child's school district does not have all of this. Wow, this school is very clean. Looking good, looking good!" When delegates saw how the thermal scanner worked, positive comments were heard from all. Those were some of the direct quotes that we captured on our COVID-related walks. I just want to give thanks to all the district staff that is continually working diligently to prepare our schools. Your work doesn't go unnoticed. Are there any questions?

Comm. Simmons: I have to be mindful of the pending litigation. I would prefer that we have further discussion in executive session. I know that Madam Superintendent wanted to add something.

Ms. Shafer: Let me first thank everyone who presented tonight. As you can see, a lot of work went into the preparation of reopening schools. I just want to make two comments that were asked during the questions. One was in regard to remote accommodations. We took the remote section out of our restart plan. We have to follow, have always followed, and will continue to follow in accordance with all ADA district policies, federal state laws, and regulations. We are continuing in human resources to have interactive conversations with staff who have submitted the paperwork to continue to stay remote after we open up. There was also a question about the questions that were asked at the last Board meeting. There is a Q&A on our website and all the questions are on the website. We didn't want to send one person the question and the answer. If one person had the question, we wanted everybody to have access to the answers. That concludes my report, Mr. President.

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

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

The Board went into executive session at 7:39 p.m.

RECONVENE

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

The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.