

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

June 24, 2020 – 5:13 p.m.
Remote - Zoom

Presiding: Comm. Kenneth Simmons, President

Present:

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

Comm. Vincent Arrington
*Comm. Emanuel Capers
Comm. Jonathan Hodges
Comm. Manuel Martinez, Vice President

*Comm. Joel Ramirez
Comm. Nakima Redmon
Comm. Corey Teague

Absent:

Comm. Oshin Castillo-Cruz

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:

**Public Hearing/Executive Session
June 24, 2020 at 5:00 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.

**PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS THE AMENDED CONTRACT OF
THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

It was moved by Comm. Martinez, seconded by Comm. Redmon 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 Commissioners, Madam Shafer, members of the staff and community. Thank you for this opportunity. I just want to make a note as I begin

that my comments are based on observations, having not seen the amended contract. I want to say that the community is more engaged than ever before with our schools based on PEF's 37-year history working with education in Paterson. We need community buy-in. It is important for our children's success. Our children, our parent's children, our community's children and our schools need our support and we've never been invited to the table in the way that we are now. I want to highlight some of these things that have increased community participation. The Full Service Community Schools initiative has grown. We are implementing Restorative Practices across the district in 14 schools at my last count, but also outreaching to people who serve youth in the community, to make sure that they are also using these practices. The Superintendent's Roundtables with various constituency groups, engagement of the business community and the clergy as well as other groups, and the Paterson Reads initiative have been able to bring organizations who want to help us into the district. Learning Ovations is one such who came in with a federal grant and started working with three schools and is up to five and expect to serve us districtwide at no cost to the district next year. They are helping teachers with professional development around getting kids to read on grade level. They have a success story that is phenomenal so I recommend that they come in a present to the Board at some point. We brought in Sharon Miller's performing arts studio and they have teaching artists in classrooms working with kids, not only on dancing but connecting it to math and literature. So, as we move forward and as you consider the amendment of the contract, I ask you given where we are with COVID-19, I'm putting in a strong plea to put Maslows ahead of Blooms when we return and while we are in shutdown. It's important that kids' physiological safety needs are met before we pour knowledge into their heads. We need both but I think Ms. Shafer has been a strong leader in making sure that our kids are well. It's a common African proverb that when you want to know how a society is doing you ask how the children are. We need to make sure the children are well, and then we need to make sure that they are performing at the level at which they need to perform. Thank you again.

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

Comm. Simmons: Before we go into executive session to do the summary conference with the Superintendent for the evaluation, I did want the public to know that the amendment to the contract is the Board basically removing merit pay, which a lot of districts around the State are moving away from. We will take a portion of that merit pay and roll it into the Superintendent's base salary and that is the amendment to the contract.

Comm. Martinez: If I may, I just want to expand a little bit on your statement that these amendments will reflect in detail the cost savings potentially to our district. I just wanted to throw that out there and be very brief in stating that.

MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO CONDUCT A SUMMARY CONFERENCE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

It was moved by Comm. Martinez, seconded by Comm. Redmon that the Board goes into closed session to conduct a summary conference with the Superintendent. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

The Board went into closed session at 5:24 p.m.

*Comm. Capers and Comm. Ramirez joined the meeting during closed session.

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

The Board reconvened the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.