

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

February 12, 2018 – 5:05 p.m.  
Administrative Offices

Presiding: Comm. Oshin Castillo, President

Present:

Ms. Susana Peron, Acting Deputy Superintendent  
Robert Murray, Esq., General Counsel

Comm. Emanuel Capers  
Comm. Jonathan Hodges  
Comm. Manuel Martinez

Comm. Joel Ramirez  
Comm. Nakima Redmon, Vice President  
Comm. Flavio Rivera

Absent:

Comm. Vincent Arrington  
Comm. Kenneth Simmons

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

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 notice of this meeting:

**Special Meeting  
February 12, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.  
Administrative Offices  
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.

Comm. Castillo: Just to let everyone know, Comm. Simmons and Comm. Arrington won't be part of the search, the interview, or the deliberation on Wednesday because they both have relatives that work for the district. So they won't be participating in this part. We will be moving the executive session into the assessment room. Can we all just head in that direction afterwards?

## **MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS OF THREE CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**It was moved by Comm. Capers, seconded by Comm. Ramirez that the Board goes into closed session to conduct interviews of three candidates for the position of Superintendent of Schools. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.**

The Board went into closed session at 5:08 p.m.

## **RECONVENE**

The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Comm. Castillo: Thank you to those who waited. It was a great executive session and we got a lot of information.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

Mr. John McEntee: Good evening Madam President, members of the Board, and Deputy Superintendent. I'm here this evening to first thank my teachers for coming out this evening and serving our parents at back-to-school night. I know that these evenings are very late and I want to thank them for being out. As you know, we're going through a superintendent search process here and I also want to thank the committee because it takes a lot of time from one's day. It's not for pay. Our folks come out and they're volunteering their time. I especially want to thank our member of the committee, Lizandaa Alburg, who lives kind of far now. But everyone on the committee has done a fantastic job, so thank you. I've been reading in the newspaper about qualifications for the superintendent. The union's position is simple. It takes someone with integrity. Whoever the candidate is going to be it does not necessarily mean you have to have a certain certificate. What's funny is that the School Board has removed from one of our salary guides the horizontal movement. That would eliminate all of the employees in our bargaining unit from becoming superintendent, if the PhD were to be a qualification of employment. I certainly know that we have plenty of people here in Paterson who have gone through the ranks that would do a fantastic job if they made it to the final round. Ms. Shafer, if you had asked me this question two years ago when I was up on tenure charges, has been a welcomed addition to the union. We pick up a phone and I literally have an answer within minutes on most of our issues. It's a breath of fresh air to meet once a month with the Superintendent. My one and only interaction with her predecessor was a meeting at Francesca's and the chauffeur let him know when the meeting was over. That was our one and only meeting between the union and the predecessor. I don't know who the final candidates are going to be. It hasn't been made privy to the union. But I can certainly tell you that the union has worked very well with Ms. Shafer and if she makes it to the final round she would be a welcomed addition. To the School Board, on a separate note, you know that we're working without a contract. I hope that you understand the potential losses for our employees with regards to Chapter 78. Our members are working extremely hard with all of the students and I hope that at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting we can make some progress towards a contract. Thank you very much.

Mr. Anthony Davis: Good evening. Actually, I was under the impression that all nine of you Commissioners would be here. I think I will just say a few words and leave my main reason why I'm here for another day when all nine of you are here. However, I understand the process that is going on with the superintendent search today and I'm not aware of any of the candidates other than Ms. Shafer. I think Ms. Shafer brings something that's needed and that has been overlooked for a long time in this district. I'm not going to sit here and say the angel or devil that you don't know or do know is good. I know you guys have a hard task at hand, but I just pray that you do the right thing. Select the candidate that we need. I go on record as stating that I am in support of Ms. Shafer. She has been in this district for years and she knows the district. We need someone that wants to help Paterson and that is for Paterson's youth because our youth are really... You know the deal. We're hurting as a district and we're hurting as a community. I'm just going to say that I hope that you guys will move in that direction. Thank you.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Comm. Castillo: I just want to remind everyone before we leave that we will be holding a community forum tomorrow at John F. Kennedy High School at 5:30 p.m. All Board members, I would hope to see you there just so we can observe the process and what the community is looking for and what their questions are. We will be back here on Wednesday for some deliberations.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.