



# WELCOME BACK! DR. LAURIE NEWELL

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, RETURNS TO ENSURE THAT THE STUDENTS AND STAFF OF THE DISTRICT OF PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOL ARE SUCCESSFUL AND EXCEPTIONAL!**



Dr. Newell has returned to Paterson after seven years of serving as the Superintendent of Schools for the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission (ERESC), a receiving school district that operates schools for Special Education, Alternative Education and At-Risk youth. Originally serving first as the Executive Director of Human Resource Services and then as the Chief Reform and Innovations Officer during her first round with Paterson Public Schools from 2010 to 2016, her return is something of a home coming for the new Superintendent.

Dr. Newell has a deep understanding of the issues faced by large urban school districts and is motivated to find innovative ways to increase the capacity for learning and development. She was honored twice in her previous position. First, as the 2023 Essex County Superintendent of the Year, as nominated by her peers, and second as the 2023 Regional Superintendent of the Year for Region I, as selected by the New Jersey Association of School Administrators (NJASA).

When asked what she wants to bring to the District from her previous experience in Essex County, Superintendent Newell said, “[I want to strengthen the sense of unity in the District. We are all working towards the same goal: the betterment of our children.](#)”

[In an interview with TAPinto Paterson](#), Dr. Newell shared her perspective on quality education, “I approach the work with a mother's perspective. When I step into a classroom, I ask myself if it's not good enough for my own children, (if it's not) then it's not suitable for other kids. That's always at the forefront of my mind – ensuring we provide the best we can for these students. This is why I'm persistent in asking questions and pushing for excellence. Are we offering our students in Paterson Public Schools the absolute best? If the answer isn't an immediate 'Yes,' then we need to go back to the drawing board and refine our approach to ensure it's the best for our students.”

She hit the ground running on her first day of work, back on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and has been making her way through the list of items presented in her “[100 Day Entry Plan](#)”. So far, she has met with many of the administrators and staff at Central Office, 200 Sheridan, and visited every school in the District. She has also dealt with unexpected closure of a school building due to health and safety concerns, leading the relocation efforts of the School No. 3 student body and staff so that they can be ready for the first day of school in safe educationally conducive environments.

Please see “**Dr. Newell**” on P. 2

Dr. Newell continued from p. 1

Dr. Newell believes that a quality education is the right of every student and that all students will learn when given a safe, healthy and supportive environment. She also believes that when faced with difficult decisions – doing the right things for students will be the only thing that matters. Excellence will be the standard and there will be high expectations for all students. This goal will be achieved with the collaboration, communication and cooperation of parents, community and educators as all stakeholders in the future of children.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

Tamisha McCoy is the District's Director of Guidance and Counseling. A born and bred Patersonian, she attended our public school system up until high school. She returned to Paterson right after college though, becoming a Language Arts teacher for grades 6-8 at School No. 11. Five years in, she earned her school counseling certificate. Her first counseling job was at the Alternative High School. After five years she transferred over to Eastside High School where she served as a school counselor for three-years before being promoted to Supervisor of Guidance there. After another five years, she came to Central Office as the District's Director of Guidance and Counseling.

### *The Best Part of My Day*

"So, the part of my day that I enjoy most, honestly, is interacting with the counselors and their families."



In her position at Central Office, most of her time is spent on planning out initiatives, as well as improving protocols and practices. Because she has staff in every building, she is also constantly engaging and interacting in discussions with all of the different principals, while taking all of the different nuances of each of their buildings into consideration. It's the times that she can provide professional development to counselors, or support and best practices to families and fellow administrators on intervention for students which she finds very rewarding.

"I love what I do, I literally love what I do. There's always the challenges with serving a complex district like Paterson, and even when I feel overwhelmed or stressed, just with connecting all of the dots, I literally love the work that I do."

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# **SUMMER SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS**

## **21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS**

Public School No. 2 and Public School No. 16  
Public School No. 6/Senator Frank Lautenberg School and Public School No. 15  
John F. Kennedy High School and International High School  
Eastside High School

## **BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB**

Public School No. 1 and Public School No. 18  
Public School No. 4/Dr. Frank Napier School of Technology and Public School No. 13

## **HS SUMMER SCHOOL/HONOR GEOMETRY/SUMMER SPANISH II**

International High School

## **MANDATORY SUMMER SCHOOL**

Public School No. 9/CJR and Public School No. 21  
Public School No. 24 and Public School No. 27  
Public School No. 28

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION EXTENDED SCHOOL**

Public School No. 2 and Public School No. 16  
Public School No. 28 and Dr. Hani Awadallah School  
Joseph A. Taub School and STARS & T.I.E.S. at STEAM

## **EDUCATION PLUS: PATERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Edward W. Kilpatrick School

## **FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY PROGRAM OASIS**

Public School No. 2 and Public School No. 16

## **FELICIAN UNIVERSITY**

John F. Kennedy High School

## **PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Alonzo “Tambua” Moody Academy at Public School No. 11

## **NJ YOUTH CORPS / PACE**

Alternative High School / Adult Education

## **P-TECH SUMMER BRIDGE**

P-TECH at PANTHER

## **PRESCHOOL SUMMER ENRICHMENT**

3- & 4-Year Old's

## **CITY OF PATERSON SUMMER CAMP & YMCA SUMMER CAMP**

# SUMMER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 2



Sabina, taught our kids about friendship and culture through music and stories. They loved her!

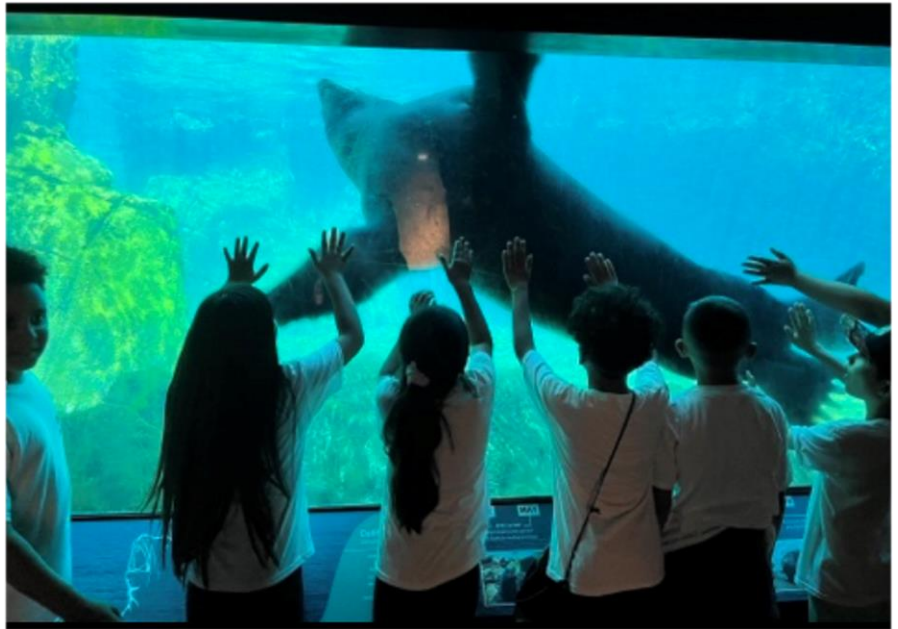
We celebrated Literacy! And a visit from the Paterson Public Library mobile.



Students learning and doing some gardening.



Students had the opportunity to eat some tomatoes and cucumbers.



On their last excursion, students had a blast at the NY Aquarium.



It was rewarding to see the students faces light up when they went on the boat trip to the NY Circle Line.



School 2 Principal Vanessa Serrano and teachers had a very educational and inspirational Summer Program that our Paterson students enjoyed!

# BREAKING SCHOOL NEWS

## FIRST DAY JITTERS OF RELOCATION PLAN RELIEVED BY SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE



Staff from School No. 3 greet their students as they get off the bus at MLK.

*Photo Credit: Daniel Juan*

and a half away. The two cohorts will be attending the new locations until plans for the School No. 3 building are finalized and repairs can be completed. A class of students with special needs was reassigned to School No. 28. Paterson Public Schools officials said that there were no reported problems with any students in the district getting to their schools today. The first day of school was also marked for being shortened by early dismissals due to excessive temperatures.

On Friday, July 28th, it was discovered that a part of the ceiling had collapsed in a staff room on the first floor of School No. 3. Although no one was hurt, the incident created an unsafe environment. The parents of School No. 3 students received a letter from the District on August 9, informing them about the situation. Plans to move the students to another location began, addressing factors such as capacity, distance, and transportation. When a

The students and staff of School No.3 may have started the first day of the new school year in different buildings than they're used to, but the process of switching locations went without a hitch. After weeks of preparing, the District put its plan to move the staff and students of School No. 3 into three different schools into effect. Students in grades kindergarten through second grade walked to the Dale Avenue School, which is less than half a mile from School No. 3. Meanwhile, four buses took grades three through eight from School No. 3's location across the city to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex (MLK), a little over a mile



School No. 3 students and parents prepare to leave Dale Ave School at the end of the school day.

*Photo Credit: Daniel Juan*

Please see "School News" on P. 7

plan was formulated, two community forums to address questions from parents and concerned community members about the relocation of School No. 3 students and staff were given at School No. 2 on the evenings of August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

On hand to greet to see the students off at the staging ground for the bus pick-up on opening day were Commissioner Johnathan Hodges of the Paterson Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Laurie W. Newell. At MLK, Commissioner Manny Martinez of the Paterson Board of Education, along with school staff, greeted students of both schools and guided the School No. 3 students to their designated entry.

"I'm so happy with how well everything went today," Superintendent Newell said, "There is some refinement needed in the process, but the effectiveness of the transportation and the integration of the students into their new buildings has been very gratifying. So much effort was put into the planning so that we could be confident that the children would be comfortable through the changes. I have to give credit and gratitude to my leadership team for putting together a comprehensive plan and to the school officials and support staff for seeing it through superbly. Of course, my thanks are also extended to the Commissioners for showing their support."



Board of Education Commissioner Manny Martinez greets School No. 3 students as they attend their first day of classes at MLK.

*Photo Credit: Daniel Juan*

## DISTRICT SHOUT OUT!

Shavar Gerald is a security guard at Central Office, but you may have seen him around the District as he also drives the Superintendent to official functions throughout the day. A native Patersonian originating from the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward, he attended Public Schools No. 19, No. 27, and John F. Kennedy High School.

He started out with the District as a contracted security guard but was hired directly by the District three years ago.

### *The Best Part of My Day*

"Always Morning, because I feel positive and energetic, both physically and mentally, to plan and prepare the remaining part of the day."

Shavar's professionalism and amiable demeanor have become a hallmark of the Central Office lobby. Not to mention, his favorite quote from a Harry Potter book is, "It is not our abilities that show what we truly are. It is our choices." – Albus Dumbledore (J. K. Rowling)



## Important Dates

- September 4** District Closed – Labor Day
- September 5-6** Professional Development
- September 7** Opening Day for Students
- September 21** Back to School Night (JAT & NRC)  
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- September 25** District Closed – Yom Kippur
- September 26** Back to School Night (Grades 9-12)  
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- September 28** Back to School Night (PreK-8)  
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.



### Board of Education Meeting

The September 11th Board of Education Workshop meeting will be held at Joseph A. Taub School. Those who want to give public comment must do so in person. They should register for the meeting.

The September 20th Board of Education Regular meeting will be conducted remotely.

It will also be live streamed at [pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents](https://pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents).

### Simultaneous Language Interpretation

Online simultaneous language interpretation is available at all Board meetings in Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, and Turkish. Simply choose the preferred language at [pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents](https://pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents).

*PPS Beat* is a publication of the PPS Department of Communications. We welcome your submissions on school and district-related news. Submit stories and photos to [ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us](mailto:ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us).

**Mr. Daniel Juan, Interim Director of Communications Department**  
**Mrs. Maria D. Rosado-Leon, Confidential Secretary to the Communications Department**

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