



AGREEMENT REACHED

DISTRICT, PEA REACH TENTATIVE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON 5-YEAR DEAL

After an eight-hour bargaining session that began on Wednesday evening, negotiators for Paterson Public Schools and the Paterson Education Association (P.E.A.) reached a tentative memorandum of agreement, a major step toward a new five-year contract.

The details of the new contract will be announced after the agreement has been ratified by the Board of Education and PEA members. Dates for ratification have not yet been scheduled.

"This agreement restores good faith among everyone in the district who works in service of providing our students with the education and services they deserve," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "I want to thank P.E.A. President John McEntee, P.E.A. Vice President Charles Ferrer, and everyone on the association's negotiations team for their leadership and hard work in achieving the tentative agreement. I am also grateful for the hard work and guidance of the district's legal team of Khalifah Shabazz-Charles and Bryant Horsley, and everyone who served on the district's Negotiations Committee: Board of Education President Nakima Redmon, who served as committee chair, Board Commissioners Dr. Jonathan Hodges, Manual Martinez, Jr., and Dania Martinez, and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Luis Rojas. Everyone put in long hours and hard work to reach an agreement that is fair to both sides and allows all of us to focus on serving the students and families of Paterson Public Schools."

"This was a tough negotiation for everyone. But in the end, we achieved an agreement that is fair to the P.E.A. members and the district," said Board of Education President Nakima Redmon. "I look forward to this agreement being finalized and continuing our efforts to help our students achieve academic success and providing their families the services they need."

"After a long and arduous round of bargaining, I am ecstatic that the parties could strike a settlement," said P.E.A. President John McEntee on Thursday morning. "The resolution of this contract could only be possible with the hard work of the entire P.E.A. membership, the Board of Education, and our Superintendent. In particular, I want to express my gratitude to the members who braved the freezing rain yesterday and rallied in support of the P.E.A.'s negotiations team. Your efforts went a long way to ensure the contract was resolved at last night's mediation."



Why are P-TECH students taking water samples at the Great Falls? See the story inside. *Photo by Dan Juan*

NEW KENNEDY GYM OFFICIALLY OPENS

ATHLETIC FACILITY NAMED AFTER KHS ALUMNUS WHO COACHED THE BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM TO
NEARLY 300 WINS



HOLDING COURT: The Collins family is joined by district, school, and city officials as they cut the ribbon at the new Tyrone Collins Gymnasium. *Photo by Dan Juan*

Educators, coaches, student-athletes, family members, and friends of the late Tyrone Collins gathered at Kennedy High School (KHS) to officially open the Tyrone Collins Gymnasium, a newly renovated athletic facility.

Tyrone Collins was a Class of 1969 KHS graduate and an All-American basketball player who averaged 38.6 points per game. As a head coach, he led the Kennedy Knights basketball team to nearly 300 wins. Tragically, Collins lost his life in a drowning accident in 1996. The naming of the newly renovated gymnasium at Kennedy High School after Collins is a tribute to his legacy as a player, coach, and educator.

"We are very proud of this new facility for so many reasons. Most especially, we are proud of the legacy left behind by the person for whom this gymnasium is named," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F.

Shafer. "Tyrone Collins was our dear and valued friend, and all of his family, friends, and colleagues miss him very much. May this new gymnasium stand as an honor to his memory, as well as a challenge to all of us to do what he did – stay focused on doing everything possible to help our students and student-athletes achieve everything they can and be all that they can be.

Many members of Collins' family participated in the dedication ceremony at center court, including Collins' widow, Karon, and his sons, Chris and Shawn (who teaches social studies at the Alonzo Tambua Moody Academy). Shawn Collins's wife, Flavia, and their sons, Chris and Michael, and Flavia's mother, Licia.

"We thank you for this honor," said Shawn Collins, speaking on behalf of his family.

He and his brother, Chris, both played basketball for the Kennedy Knights when they were students. Speaking directly to the team, Shawn Collins noted the great Kennedy Knights players who preceded them including their father and Head Coach Tommie Paterson.

"I would never put the responsibility on you to win every game," Collins said to the team. "But whoever comes into this court, you've got to play them hard. This is your court. Protect it and defend it."

Assistant Superintendent David Cozart and Kennedy Athletic Supervisor Scott Durham presented the Collins family with a plaque commemorating Tyrone Collins' legacy. Other dignitaries present at the event were Paterson Board of Education Commissioners Manuel Martinez, Jr., Valerie Freeman, and Della McCall. Also present were Kennedy Boys Basketball Head Coach Tommie Paterson, Paterson City Councilman and Kennedy High School ESL Teacher Forid Uddin, and Alonzo Tambua Moody.

“BOOK BUNDLES” BROUGHT TO PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 16

RIDGEWOOD BOOKSTORE AND LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS DONATE 1,000 BOOKS



PEF Executive Director Rosie Grant looks on at Superintendent Shafer helps distribute Book Bundles to School 16 students. *Photo by Dan Juan*



School 16 students and staff pose with their Book Bundles and district and school staff. *Photo by Dan Juan*

Students at Public School No. 16 received a donation of about 1,000 books that was made possible by local community organizations and Pat and Walter Boyer, the owners of the Bookends Bookstore in Ridgewood.

The books were delivered in 254 “Book Bundles” each containing four books and given to students in kindergarten through the sixth grade as a way to encourage them to read for pleasure.

“We greatly appreciate this donation that puts books in the hands of our students and helps instill a love of reading in their minds,” said Paterson Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer. “I want to thank Paterson Reads, the Paterson Education Fund, the Paterson Alliance, the Paterson Children’s Foundation, and Bookends Bookstore for making this donation possible for the benefit of our students.”

“When we hand the books to parents and children, the joy on their faces is palpable,” said Rosie Grant, Executive Director of the Paterson Education Fund, which is the parent organization of Paterson Reads. “We’re so thankful to Bookends and to all the people who bought books for our children. This helps us in our Paterson Reads goal to foster independent reading.”

“There is no better way to encourage a love of reading than to put books into the hands and hearts of children,” said Inge Spungen, Executive Director of the Paterson Alliance.

“This year’s Paterson Book Bundles program was the best ever and we look forward to continuing this important event,” said Pat and Walter Boyer.

“Reading is so essential to every child’s life as it opens the doors to avenues and experiences that can be realized.”

DISTRICT STUDENTS DAZZLE AT DECA

24 PPS STUDENTS COMPETE IN REGIONAL CONFERENCE, THREE ADVANCE TO STATES

Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer congratulated district high school students who competed in DECA's Northwest Regional Conference and qualified to compete in the statewide competition that is scheduled to begin in late February.

DECA (formerly known as Distributive Education Clubs of America) is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to helping prepare young people for business careers and entrepreneurship.

Eight students from Eastside High School competed in the regional competition held in Secaucus on January 4th. Of those students, two qualified to participate in DECA's N.J. High School State Career Development Conference in Atlantic City. They are Jayley Holmes, a junior, who qualified in the Principles of Hospitality category; and Miranda Rodriguez, a sophomore, who qualified in the Quick Serve Restaurant Management Services category.



Sixteen students from Kennedy High School competed in the regional competition held in Secaucus on January 4th. Of those students, Zaire Hernandez, a senior, qualified in the Business Services category to participate in DECA's N.J. High School State Career Development Conference in Atlantic City.

"I want to congratulate our students for representing Paterson Public Schools so well in DECA's regional competition," said Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer. "It takes a lot to come up with imaginative business ideas, work collaboratively with your peers, and present the end results to a panel of objective evaluators. That is why we are very proud of all of the students who participated in the regional competition, and we wish the very best of luck to those students who will compete at the state level next month. I want to thank all of the teachers and administrators who helped prepare the district's students for this competition."

Business Education Teachers Yvette Williams and Sylvia Ligon are the faculty advisors to the DECA Chapter at Eastside High School. They work closely with John Lopez, the Business Pathway Associate Supervisor at Eastside.

Business Education Teacher Diana Brown is the faculty advisor to the DECA Chapter at Kennedy High School, and she works closely with Martine Grant, a former DECA Chapter advisor who is now the Business Pathway Associate Supervisor at Kennedy. Business Teacher Edwin Hernandez, Special Education Teacher Reggie Hall, Vice Principal Tanya Greene, and Principal of Instruction Jorge Osoria also helped prepare the students for the regional competition.

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NICE PAIRING: PPS, SODEXOMAGIC WHIP UP FOOD SERVICES PARTNERSHIP

Paterson Public Schools and SodexoMagic, the joint venture between Magic Johnson Enterprises and Sodexo, Inc., have entered into a food services partnership. SodexoMagic will provide nutritional services, including breakfast and lunch, to the district's students, while the district's Food Services Department will continue to be the School Food Authority providing oversight and monitoring of the overall operations of food services in schools. The Board of Education commissioners approved the partnership on December 14th, voting in favor of partnering with SodexoMagic for the remainder of the school year.

"As we showed during the pandemic shutdown, the district is committed to ensuring our students have access to nutritious meals so they can be at their best every day," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "The

food services management company combined with the experience and expertise of our Food Service Department professionals enables the district to provide to our students nourishing meals that will appeal to them."

SodexoMagic is excited to celebrate Paterson's diversity. With the community in mind, SodexoMagic will feature culturally diverse menus such as Green Chili Chicken with Spanish Rice, Jollof Rice, and other culturally diverse menu options. Outreach and communication materials will also be translated to encourage inclusion and participation from students and parents, helping achieve SodexoMagic's goal of ensuring all students have access to fresh, healthy foods while in school while also uplifting and advocating for the communities they serve.

"We are proud to partner with



Paterson Public Schools and deliver culturally diverse nutritious meal solutions. We are dedicated to supporting the Paterson community through food equity initiatives that combat food insecurity, health and nutrition education, and economic empowerment," Earvin "Magic" Johnson said. "This is at the heart of our commitment to the communities we serve every day, and we are honored to be on this winning team with teachers, staff, and school leaders."

SodexoMagic will work to enhance community engagement, partnering with the district to curate a community engagement program each year to assist Paterson Public Schools in achieving its community impact goals. The partnership will be built around elevating the student culinary experience, enhancing student engagement, and training, transition and transformation of staff.

"Our mission is to empower communities, so we are proud to be an integral part of this diverse community in Paterson," Selena Cuffe, president of SodexoMagic, said. "We know our nutritious menus, student engagement, and celebration of culturally affirming, sustainable foods make a big difference in kids' lives. We also remain committed to building local economic development through our strong relationships with small businesses and diverse suppliers."

PPS GETS \$2.5 GRANT FOR FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

SCHOOL 16, ATM ACADEMY WILL BRING DISTRICT FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS TOTAL TO 10

Paterson Public Schools has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Full Service Community Schools program. The grant is in the amount of \$499,959 and is expected to be renewed annually for 5 years for a total award of \$2,499,795 and will benefit Public School No. 16 and the Alonzo Tambua Moody Academy.



U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. *File photo*

"For the past 12 years, the district's Full Service Community Schools have been helping to provide for the needs of our students and their families so that our students can succeed," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "This federal funding will help the district continue Full Service Community Schools programs at two schools, allowing students and families to access critical services more conveniently and helping them to always be at their best."

"Our school district here in Paterson has a bold vision for the future. With this federal grant and the leadership of our Superintendent Eileen Shafer, Paterson's students and schools are leading the way in community engagement," said U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., a former teacher and Paterson mayor. "My office works every day to secure federal grants like this because our students deserve no less and I am extremely proud that we were able to bring this investment home. Paterson's entire school system will always have an ally in Bill Pascrell. You can take that to the bank."

Programs and services to be provided with the grant funding include an in-school health clinic with medical, dental, and mental health services; in-school academic assistance; after-school programs for students; adult education programs such as ESL and workforce development; and targeted supports for at-risk students.

Shafer expressed her gratitude to the following government officials for their advocacy of the district's grant application: U.S. Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr., N.J. State Sen. Nellie Pou, N.J. State Assemblyman Benjie E. Wimberly, N.J. State Assemblywoman Shavonda E. Sumter, and Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh. Shafer also thanked the Paterson Public Schools team that worked to pursue the funding including Deputy Superintendent Dr. Susana Peron, Full Service Community Schools Director Jenna Goodreau, Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement and Full Service Community Schools William Kemper McDowell, and Associate Projects Director Kristy Wellins.

Shafer also thanked Gilman Choudhury, Supervisor of Full Service Outreach and Special Projects in the Family and Community Engagement and Full Service Community Schools Department.

Paterson Public Schools has a total of 10 Full Service Community Schools. In addition to School 16 and the Alonzo Tambua Moody Academy, the others are Public School No. 5, the Senator Frank L. Lautenberg School, Public School No. 15, the New Roberto Clemente School, the Dr. Frank Napier School of Technology, John F. Kennedy High School, Public School No. 2, and the Joseph A. Taub School.

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NJFCU DONATES \$3,500 TO CONFIDENCE CLOSETS

Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer welcomed North Jersey Federal Credit Union (NJFCU) CEO Lourdes Cortez back to her alma mater John F. Kennedy High School where Cortez presented a \$3,500 donation on behalf of the banking institution to the district's Confidence Closets initiative.

"I thank Ms. Cortez and everyone on the North Jersey Federal Credit Union team for their generous donation to the Confidence Closets," said Shafer. "We have had a longstanding partnership for many years to help prepare students to enter the banking industry and financial services careers. This donation will help make sure that our students will have what they need to come to school and be at their very best every day."

"We're making this donation to give back to the community we serve and that's what North Jersey Federal Credit Union is all about," said Cortez.

The Confidence Closets initiative, a joint venture between the district and the Serve Our Schools coalition of Paterson churches, was launched last year to meet a growing need among students for personal hygiene products. Students without access to deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, or feminine hygiene products are prone to miss school to avoid embarrassment, which can have detrimental consequences on their chances for academic success.

NJFCU's donation will be used to buy products that will be made available to students in grades six through eight. When the initiative was launched last summer, it was estimated that



NJFCU CEO Lourdes Cortez with Superintendent Eileen Shafer

Photo by Dan Juan

there were 11,500 students in grades six through eight at 33 different district schools who were in need of toiletries.

NJFCU has been a long-standing educational partner with Paterson Public Schools and Kennedy High School. In 2011, Cortez worked with school and district staff to launch The Castle, an NJFCU branch at the school that is managed by Kennedy High School students. The branch closed when schools had to shut down due to the pandemic. But in November, Cortez and her colleagues joined with school and district officials to open The Castle 2.0, an improved version of the branch that is aimed at teaching students 21st-century digital banking and financial services.

Those who wish to support The Confidence Closets may do so in the following ways:

1. Items can be donated at the Paterson Public Schools Central Office Building, 90 Delaware Ave., Paterson
2. A monetary donation with a check for the purchase of items can be made to:

The Fund for Paterson Public Schools 90 Delaware Ave., Paterson, N.J. 07503 Payable to The Fund for Paterson Public Schools. Write "Confidence Closets" in the memo of the check. OR Star of Hope Ministries 34 Broadway, Paterson, N.J. 07505 Payable to Star of Hope Ministries. Write "Confidence Closets" in the memo of the check.

3. A monetary donation can be made online via PayPal to the handle @fundforppps or at www.sohm.org/schools. All monetary donations are tax-deductible.

PATERSON P-TECH IS A STATE FINALIST IN NATIONAL STEM CONTEST

STUDENTS COMPETE IN SAMSUNG'S "SOLVE FOR TOMORROW"
NATIONAL COMPETITION



P-TECH High School students and faculty working near the Great Falls
Photos by Dan Juan



A team of students from Paterson P-TECH High School has been selected as one of 300 state finalists throughout the nation in Samsung's "Solve for Tomorrow" contest, a national competition that encourages students in grades 6 to 12 to creatively use science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills to solve a community challenge.

A team of Paterson P-TECH students has been studying algae in the Passaic River's water in order to cultivate it as an alternative energy source – possibly one that could help power the lights at the Great Falls National Historic Park. The students, all juniors, are:

- Thaddeus Chestnut
- Amina Pleasant
- Ahzier Clerveaux
- Jesus Pimienta Diaz

They have been working with their faculty advisors on this project who are Chemistry Teacher Joyce Waweru, Workplace Learning Teacher Stephanie Peltzer, and Technology Teacher Dilek Demirors.

"We are tremendously proud of our young scientists who are applying their knowledge of science to solving a problem right here in Paterson, and potentially the world," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer.

"Knowing that this is the kind of work our students are involved in is its own reward. I want to thank their teachers and administrators who have made our students' participation in the Solve For Tomorrow contest possible, and we wish our students the best of luck as they move onto the next phase of the competition."

As a state finalist, Paterson P-TECH High School will receive a \$2,500 prize package including Samsung products and classroom resources to complete their activity plan submission. The school has the opportunity to advance through future phases of the contest to win additional prizes.

PPS N.J. YOUTH CORPS STUDENTS HONORED

Paterson Public Schools Superintendent Eileen Shafer, Adult High School Principal Nora Hoover, and Mayor Andre Sayegh were among those who honored the dozens of adult students who completed the N.J. Youth Corps program on Friday at the City Council Chambers in City Hall.

"The New Jersey Youth Corps, The PACE School, and the Adult High School are all founded upon the idea that there is no one pathway to success. A pathway to success should be as unique and as singular as the person who charts it," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "It is my hope that the adult students we celebrate today will continue to pursue knowledge as part of their own journeys of lifelong learning."

Nora Hoover, principal of the Paterson Adult Continuing Education school, had a simple message of support for the adult students today.

"Always remember we are here to help you," Hoover said. "If you need us, call us. You were a great class, and we will miss you."

"Education is the key to upward mobility for countless residents in our City," said Mayor Andre Sayegh. "I am proud of our graduates and our GED recipients for reaching this important milestone. As a result of this investment in education, new doors of opportunity are now open."

Among the students who were honored on Friday:

- 15 have earned their high school equivalency diplomas
- 22 have completed the N.J. Youth Corps program and will soon take the high school equivalency exam
- 8 are entering the workforce
- 2 are entering college

The students who earned certifications through the program are as follows:

- 28 are certified in CPR and First Aid
- 26 are certified Food Handlers, which will help in entering the food services industry

The New Jersey Youth Corps is one of the largest youth service and conservation corps in the United States. Youth Corps is a year-round, voluntary program that engages young adults (ages 16 to 25) without a high school diploma in full-time community service, training, and educational activities. Guided by staff who serve as mentors and role models, teams of youth called "crews" carry out a wide range of service projects.



Graduating adult student Emily Cruz is congratulated by Superintendent Shafer. Photo by Paul Brubaker



BOE Commissioner Della McCall gives encouraging remarks to the adult students.

Photo by Paul Brubaker

STEAM HIGH SCHOOL OFFICIALLY OPENS

**SUPER BOWL CHAMPION AND PATERSON NATIVE
VICTOR CRUZ GIVES INCENTIVE FOR STUDENTS' SUCCESS**



From left, Mayor Andre Sayegh, Superintendent Eileen Shafer, Principal Kelli White, and Victor Cruz. *Photo by Paul Brubaker*

But today's official opening was a chance to acknowledge the many people who worked to establish the high school program that is dedicated to the study of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics, or STEAM.

During the opening ceremony, Cruz announced his Cruz Scholars program, which began last fall and gives students incentives to do their best in school. During the holiday season, Cruz brought several Cruz Scholars to a New York Knicks game as a reward for their academic performances. A similar outing will be held in the spring through the Cruz Scholars program.

"I used to walk these very halls when this place was Paterson Catholic High School," said Cruz, feeling a bit of nostalgia.

The former Paterson Catholic football player was coached by N.J. State Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, who was present at the ceremony.

Cruz shared two pieces of advice with the young students: Never quit and always give back.

"You don't have to be a Super Bowl champion to give back to your community," said Cruz. "There are people who work in everyday society who come back and give their time and effort."

In her remarks, Shafer thanked Deputy Superintendent Dr. Susana Peron who led the district's high school restructuring initiative, Assistant Superintendent Joanna Tsimpedes who led the curriculum and instruction efforts, the district's Facilities and Custodial Services Chief Neil Mapp who led the preparation of all of the school's labs and other instructional spaces. She also thanked Assistant Superintendent Cicely Warren and District Director of STEAM Education Sarah Sterling-Laldee for their contributions to the efforts to launch the new high school.

The official opening of the district's new Paterson STEAM High School on Monday was far from a typical ribbon cutting as district and city officials welcomed former New York Giants wide receiver and Paterson native Victor Cruz, who joined in the occasion. But once the red ribbon was cut, the school's ninth-graders were off to work with robotic hands, thermodynamic towers, electric vehicles, and other activities to help them decide which pathway they would follow for the rest of their high school years.

"This is a very special high school, and you all are very special young people," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "It's going to be an exciting day. I hope you enjoy it and I hope you know that there are many people here who care very much about you. We will do everything we can to help you succeed in school."

Students have been attending Paterson STEAM High School since the school year began in September.

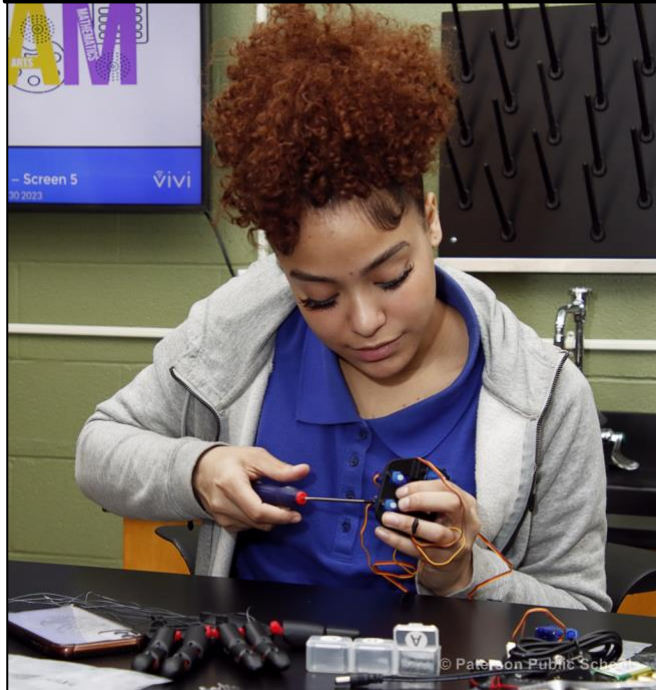
Please see "STEAM" on p. 11.

STEAM continued from p. 10.



After the ceremony, the high school's ninth-graders participated in four different sessions to help them decide on a STEAM pathway. The BrainCo company, a district partner, conducted sessions on brain cognition and robotic "neuromaker" hands. Another district partner, Engineering Tomorrow, engaged the students in races of the electric vehicles they had built from kits during their freshmen seminar in the fall. Teacher Bradley Gold and the Rutgers University 4-H Youth Development program ran a session on solar towers that used the heat of the sun to power turbines.

Board of Education Commissioner Della McCall and Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh also participated in the official opening of Paterson STEAM High School.



Photos by Daniel Juan

AROUND THE DISTRICT



My Granddad's Name Is On This School. Can We Come In?

Principal Grace Giglio and the entire Norman S. Weir School community began the new year with some unexpected guests. Nills Weir, grandson of Norman S. Weir, stopped by the school on Jan. 6th with his wife, Gina, and their daughter, Jax, and son, London. The family, who lives in California, wanted to see the school that was named after their relative, who was a notable Paterson educator before he died in 1975.. *Photos courtesy of staff.*



Racing toward the Cars of the Future At Public School No. 5, Colleen Kelly's fifth-graders recently sketched their visions of cars of the future in connection with a story they had read called *The Future of Transportation*. The budding designers added names to accompany their vehicles, such as "Fire Ranger" and "Blitz Nitro," and described some of their cars' unique features. The activity celebrated the students' imaginations and gave a peek into their possible future careers. *Photo courtesy of staff.*



Stop The Violence Superintendent Shafer joined Rep. Pascrell and city and state officials at a press event announcing a \$1 million federal grant to Reimagining Justice. The district will benefit from the funding through Reimagining Justice's providing mental health services to Paterson Public Schools students. *Photo by Dan Juan.*



SWAG Room #4 Opens At School #4 The Dr. Frank Napier School of Science and Technology, a.k.a. Public School No. 4, opened its brand new SWAG Room on Jan. 4th. BOE Commissioners Valerie Freeman, Della McCall, and Manuel Martinez, Jr. joined district and school officials in the ribbon cutting led by Zone6ix CEO Justin Wimberly. *Photos by Dan Juan.*



New EHS Spanish Honor Society Members The Eastside Spanish Honors Society welcomed 28 new members in a special ceremony in December. The new members received a welcome letter and a membership button. These new candidates will have their induction ceremony on May 19. Currently, the chapter has 36 students and is aided by faculty advisors Marbel Tamayo, Luz Agudelo, and Eugenia Ortega. *Photo courtesy of staff.*



A Committed Champion Criss Escoto, who played back and midfield for the 2022 Passaic County Championship Kennedy Knights Boys Soccer team, has committed to play for Centenary College in Hackettstown, N.J., according to Kennedy Athletic Supervisor Scott Durham. Last fall, Escoto was named to the NJSIAA All State Team and to the first teams of Passaic County and the All Liberty League's Big North Division. *Photo courtesy of staff.*

PPS STUDENTS RECEIVE MLK AWARDS

STUDENTS HONORED BY PATERSON YOUTH COUNCIL, NJCDC AT 17TH ANNUAL MLK DAY BREAKFAST



Treyvon Watson, second from left, and Elijah Carroll, second from right, with their supporters. *Photo courtesy of staff.*

Two high school students and two middle school students who attend Paterson Public Schools were honored by the Paterson Youth Council at the 17th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Recognition Awards breakfast. Each of the nominees was recognized for their actions that have kept alive the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The high school students honored with the Dr. Martin Luther King Youth Award were as follows.

Elijah Carroll is a senior at Garrett Morgan Academy. Last fall, Carroll made the All-Liberty League Team and All-Passaic County Team as an Eastside football player. He also participates in several of the Eastside Athletic Department's community service events that help feed the less fortunate, provide backpacks to students, and hold toy and coat drives. Carroll volunteers at a local residential care facility for at-risk youths and served as president of his team's Black Lives Matter movement in 2020.

Treyvon Watson is a senior at Paterson STEAM High School. He has volunteered with Paterson Recreation's Biddy Ball program where he assisted young athletes ages 5 to 7 with basketball drills on Saturday mornings. He has also volunteered his time at the Paterson Recreation Department's "Fun in the Sun Day" in the summer. In addition, he has worked with a

variety of other organizations by helping to clean local parks, collecting items for food drives, and assisting with a gun violence awareness walk. He is a member of the National Honor Society and Interact Club STEAM High School. He is also a varsity player for the Eastside High School Basketball team. In addition to all his extracurricular activities, Watson is a top student in the Rutgers Dual Enrollment Program and aspires to be a physician's assistant.

The middle school students honored with the Dr. Martin Luther King Youth Award were as follows.

Yamel Duran Acevado is a seventh-grader at the Joseph A Taub Middle School. Acevado has been tearing down the barriers between English language learners (ELL) and their education by assisting ELL students in her social studies class. Seconds after the teacher delivers an instruction, Acevado leans over and rapidly translates everything the teacher has said. Acevado is a second-year ELL student who diligently takes notes and puts all of her efforts into learning English and her course material.

Britney Ebanks is an eighth-grader at Public School No. 24. Ebanks was described by school administrators as a "go-to leader" who prepares and assists in delivering the school's morning announcements and ensures team cohesion and responsibility for the school's cheerleading team. In class, Ebanks is focused, responsible, and attentive. Although she is usually busy participating in the dancing and singing ensembles of school events such as the school's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration and the school's holiday show, Ebanks was able to earn all A's in her classes to garner her the Principal's List award.



Yamel Duran Acevado with her supporter. *Photo courtesy of staff*



PPS STUDENTS PLAY PMP'S ALL-CITY CONCERT



More than 250 Paterson Public Schools students played at the Paterson Music Project (PMP)'s first all-city concert since 2007 at Kennedy High School last Saturday. The concert, which marked PMP's 10th anniversary, delighted family members and friends who attended with a variety of symphonic and choral selections. *Photos by Paul Brubaker.*



Big Debut In The Big Apple. Julisa Crespo, playing the saxophone, and Naviel Salman, far left, made their New York City debut on Sunday morning playing at the landmark Trinity Church with the Jazz House Kids music scholars program. Both students participate in the program at Rosa L. Parks School of the Fine & Performing Arts.

Photo courtesy of Jazz House Kids

Important Dates

Feb. 8	Board of Education Workshop Meeting 6:00 p.m. – Joseph A. Taub School, 202 Union Blvd., Paterson
Feb. 9	Report Card Parent Conferences (Grades Pre-K–8) 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Feb. 10	Early Dismissal for Students PD for Staff
Feb. 13	Report Card Parent Conferences (JAT and NRC) 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	Board of Education Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. – Virtual meeting.
Feb. 16	Report Card Parent Conferences (Grades 9-12) 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Feb. 20 – 24	District Closed Winter Break

Board of Education Meetings

The Feb. 8th Board of Education meeting will be held in-person at 6:00 p.m. at the Joseph A. Taub (JAT) Middle School, 202 Union Avenue. It will also be live streamed at pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents. Those who want to give public comment must do so in person. They should register when they arrive at the JAT School for the meeting.

The Feb. 15th Board of Education meeting will be held virtually at 6:00 p.m. and live-streamed at pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents. Those who want to give public comment should register in advance by emailing public@paterson.k12.nj.us by 5:00 p.m. on Feb. 15th. Participants are asked to provide their name, address, and phone number from which they will be calling.

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.

