



48 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM – AND SHE'S BACK FOR A 49TH

SCHOOL 10'S BESSIE AMES IS DISTRICT'S LONGEST-SERVING TEACHER



Bessie Ames, left, sits with her third-grade students at School 10.

Photo by Dan Juan

On Sept. 7th, Public School No. 10 teacher Bessie Ames was ready to greet her students on the first day of school. Like she had done for so many first days of school throughout her career, Ames had prepared her classroom with desks arranged to encourage student interaction, walls decorated to create an atmosphere of learning and fun, and a laptop full of lesson plans for the year ahead.

But today was just a little different for Ames. It was her 49th first day of school since 1974 when she first became a teacher and Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer and other education officials marked the occasion by presenting her with a special commendation, thanking her for her service.

"When a person works in a profession for nearly half a century and shows no signs of stopping, that person truly loves their work, the people they get to work with, and the community they work in," said Shafer. "Since her first day of school as a teacher in 1974, Ms. Ames has

touched thousands of lives. Many of the children who entered her classroom have now entered the world...as better people than they might have been without the knowledge and love Ms. Ames gave them when she was their teacher. I want to thank Ms. Bessie Ames for her dedication to her work and her devotion to her students."

Assistant Superintendent David Cozart and School 10 Principal Lolita Vaughn also participated in awarding Ames the commendation. Vaughn, who remembers Ames from her early years as a teacher, called Ames a role model and an inspiration for her to become a teacher. Cozart said that Ames exemplifies what teaching is all about.

"It's not just a job. It's a passion," said Cozart. "You have to have a heart for kids and a love of what you're doing."

Even with 48 years of teaching behind her, Ames doesn't like to use "the R-word." And it was until School 10 Principal Lolita Vaughn had told her that district officials wanted to congratulate her on her long career that she realized just how many years she had been working. The reality seemed to hit her when she came to the podium to accept the commendation.

"I am just so happy today, to be an educational teacher for the years that I have worked," said Ames, with misty eyes. "I always tried to motivate each student I looked for the key to get them to learn and tried very hard to understand each and every student."

Please see **"Teacher"** on p. 2.

Teacher continued from p. 1.

Ames expressed her gratitude to the Board of Education for providing the technology needed to teach and learn in the 21st century, and she also thanked the school staff whom she described as “always helpful and encouraging.”

Ames is a Paterson native whose mother worked in a factory and whose father worked as a bricklayer. Her grandmother was a teacher and was part of the inspiration for Ames to become an educator. Ames is also a product of Paterson Public Schools. She attended Public School No. 18 and is a graduate of Eastside High School. She earned her bachelor’s degree and teaching credentials at William Paterson University. She taught for 36 years at Public School No. 6 and 12 years ago began teaching at Public School No. 10.



At left, Bessie Ames, center, with Superintendent Shafer and Assistant Superintendent David Cozart. At right, Assistant Superintendent Cozart, School 10 Principal Lolita Vaughn, Superintendent Shafer, Bessie Ames, School 10 Vice Principal Elizabeth Geron with School 10 students.

Photos by Dan Juan

DISTRICT AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT FOR AFTERSCHOOL, SUMMER PROGRAMS

Paterson Public Schools has been awarded a federal Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, which will be used for afterschool and summer programs at Public School No. 2 and Public School No. 16.

The programs will focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education for about 180 students in grades 3 through 8, and include field trips, counseling for students, and workshops for parents. Through the grant, the district will receive a maximum of \$425,000 per year for five years.

“This is a much-appreciated boost to our efforts to help students regain their pre-pandemic learning momentum. Our students will benefit from the added learning opportunities we’ll be able to provide after school and during the summer,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “This award is also proof-positive that our Full Service Community Schools program is effectively meeting the needs of students and their families and helping them achieve success.”

Shafer thanked Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement and Full Service Community Schools Kemper McDowell and Full Service Community Schools Director Jenna Goodreau for their efforts in securing the grant.

DISTRICT REACHES NEW HIGH IN SUMMER GRADUATES



2022 Summer Graduates celebrate with selfies. *Photo by Dan Juan*

complete before being eligible to receive a high school diploma.

The graduation ceremony at Bauerle Field was a result of teachers' and administrators' outreach efforts, and even more so, the efforts of the graduates and their parents who worked through the summer in order to be able to receive their diplomas.

In 2019, the district held its first Summer Graduation ceremony since 2005 and conferred diplomas on 33 high school graduates.

Paterson Public Schools officials conferred diplomas on 98 high school graduates who completed their requirements for graduation over the summer. The number is nearly triple the number of summer graduates in 2019 when the district revived its summer graduation program.

"Today we celebrate nearly 100 people whose lives are back on track now that they have earned their high school diplomas," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer at the ceremony "Every year we catch more high school students who may have missed their high school graduations because of only a couple of unfulfilled requirements – usually due to hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. I thank Assistant Superintendent Joanna Tsimpedes, Director of Secondary Education William Graulich, the principals, and everyone on the district's credit recovery team for creating the opportunities to help these students make the most of the past few months to become high school graduates."

In June, Paterson Public Schools officials made a concerted outreach effort to students who had only a couple of course requirements to



At left, district and school administrators applaud the 2022 summer high school graduates. At right, district administrators and Board of Education commissioners confer high school diplomas and congratulate summer graduates. *Photos by Dan Juan*

TWO PPS SENIORS APPOINTED AS STUDENT REPS ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PATERSON P-TECH STUDENT SERVING AS LEAD, EHS STUDENT SERVING AS ALTERNATE



Yaneliz Mejia



Paris Higgs

Paterson Public Schools high school students have a voice on the Board of Education now that the board has added a non-voting student member to its ranks and another student to serve as the alternate.

Yaneliz Mejia, a senior at Paterson P-TECH High School, has been chosen as the board's first student representative, and Paris Higgs, a senior at Eastside High School's School of Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Tourism, is serving as the alternative student representative. Both Mejia and Higgs were presented to the board and the public at its Aug. 10th meeting.

"The addition of a student representative to the Board of Education provides high school students a direct line to the board," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "It is also an additional way for the board commissioners and the administration to keep in touch with our high school students, know what their concerns are and be more responsive to them. We are very proud of the student representative and the alternate who are serving throughout the 2022-2023 school year and look forward to working with them."

"There are many people who will offer their thoughts on the job Paterson Public Schools is doing, but the people who matter most are the students," said Board of Education President Kenneth L. Simmons. "I want to congratulate Yaneliz and Paris for taking on the responsibility of representing the voices of their constituents."

The creation of the board's student-representative position is in keeping with a state mandate. In June, the district put a call out to the high schools' student government organizations for recommended candidates for the positions. Mejia and Higgs were among the students who submitted applications that were reviewed by district officials.

The student representative will be responsible for keeping in touch with the student governments at all of the district's high schools and reporting their issues, concerns, and any other communications to the board. They will also bring any board communications back to the high schools' student governments.

Mejia was born in Jersey City and is a rising senior at P-TECH at PANTHER Academy. She is spending her summer as an intern at IBM, where she hopes to work full time in the future, and she has been participating in the Gear Up College Bound program. In addition to serving as class president, Mejia played second base for the Eastside Softball Team. Among the colleges she intends to apply to are Rutgers University and Howard University. During the upcoming school year, Mejia will start taking courses at Passaic County Community College as part of the P-TECH program.

Higgs is a native of the Bahamas who is a member of the National Honors Society and the captain of the Eastside Girls track team. She also coaches student-athletes ages 8 to 14. Last summer, Higgs competed in the shot put and discus events at a competition at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. She aspires to go to medical school and become an anesthesiologist. Among the colleges she intends to apply to are Columbia University and Rutgers University.

The district is renewing its efforts in establishing Restorative Practices as an alternative to disciplining students with out-of-school suspensions with a new video and the goal of establishing core teams of trained staff members in every school by the end of the first marking period, November 9th.

"I have never been in support of out-of-school suspension. That gives students another opportunity to get in trouble because it's not structured. Restorative practices will help us decrease the number of out-of-school suspensions, although we know that some infractions require suspension," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "More importantly, restorative practices will help students develop skills that will be of value for a life, including conflict resolution and maintaining good relationships with family members, friends, as well as colleagues and other people they meet later in life."

Assistant Superintendent Cicely Warren pointed out that one of the principles of restorative practices is making sure that students are heard, respected, and valued. "If students know that they are valued and essential to their school communities and what happens at school day-to-day, they won't want to miss a day of school," Warren said.

"Schools that use Restorative Practices build strong communities of trust, respect, and nurture the entire child within every student," said Assistant Superintendent David Cozart. Executive Director of the Paterson Education Fund (PEF) Rosie Grant who, with Linda Reid of the PEF, introduced district officials to Restorative Practices, said that the use of the practices was particularly important during this time after the pandemic shutdown.

"Let's think about healing and restoring and getting to a place where we're all comfortable walking into the building, we all feel welcomed, and we have positive relationships," said Grant. "And then we can focus on learning because we have the environment that is conducive to teaching and learning."

At the heart of Restorative Practices is the use of the Restorative Circle. It's a conversation held with students involved in a conflict or students who have violated the district's Code of Conduct. Everyone is considered an equal in the circle, and everyone is afforded opportunities to speak. The goal is to build understanding among everyone in the circle of the root causes of the behaviors that led to the conflict or violation, make reparations when necessary, and develop ways to avoid those behaviors.

Prior to March 2021, Paterson Public Schools had made considerable progress in establishing restorative practices as the alternative to working with students who break the Code of Conduct with out-of-school suspensions and expulsions. Staff members were trained in restorative practice methods. A Peace Center where students can resolve conflicts or simply take a break opened at Eastside High School.

And then the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closing of all of the district's school buildings. Now, with schools operating much closer to their pre-pandemic norms, Paterson Public Schools resumed its efforts to establish restorative practices in every school.

To reacquaint school leaders with the concepts, the district's Communication Department created a video, *The Circle Unbroken*, which recounts how restorative practices were introduced to the district by Rosie Grant and Linda Reid of the Paterson Education Fund, a local nonprofit that advocates for Paterson students and families.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES COMING TO ALL DISTRICT SCHOOLS

CORE TEAMS TO BE IN EVERY SCHOOL BY NOV. 9TH



PEF's Rosie Grant in *The Circle Unbroken* video.

Please see "Restorative" on p. 6.

Restorative continued from p. 5.

Restorative practice principles are explained by Grant, as well as Superintendent Shafer, Assistant Superintendent Warren, Assistant Superintendent Cozart, and district Director of Climate and Culture Nicole Payne.

The video is currently being used by school principals during professional development sessions with their staff members to raise awareness of how restorative practices work and the benefits they can provide.

The next step will be for schools to form core restorative practices teams by the end of the first marking period, which is November 9th. Each team will have at least five members and will include an administrator, a guidance counselor or student assistance coordinator, and a teacher coordinator.

The purpose of the core teams is to hold restorative circles as schools' first response to students in conflict with one another or who have violated the Code of Conduct.

Visit pps.eduvision.tv to see *The Circle Unbroken* video.

MSU RECOGNIZES PPS FOR EQUITY ORIENTED LEADERSHIP

How do educational leaders build greater equity in their schools and make sure that every student and staff member is seen, heard, and respected? The answer may be to do what Paterson Public Schools has been doing.

"I truly believe that the future of equity is in Paterson," said Dr. Patricia Virella, a Montclair State University associate professor at a meeting of the university's Network for Educational Renewal (MSUNER) on Wednesday.

Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, Virella led district administrators in weekly sessions in which participants examined multiple domains in district schools and administration to identify priorities where equity needed to be instilled to a greater degree. In other words, these were difficult discussions in which people identified personal biases and realized the negative impact they have on the work of educating students. There were also realizations of the benefits of creating a more equitable environment.

Virella, who had presented the district with a special award to recognize its efforts to build greater equity, gave high praise to Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer for taking the initiative.

"It's not often that leaders take this bold stance," said Virella. "Although she wants to give her teachers and leaders space to share, she also wants them to know there are certain things that cannot happen. More importantly, she wants them to know that there are wonderful things that can happen."

Shafer and other district administrators began addressing equity issues after the 2020 death of George Floyd as he was being held down by a police officer. Many of the district's students were involved in the local activism that took place after Floyd's death.

In the midst of the pandemic shutdown, Assistant Superintendent Cicely Warren led the effort to establish a Social Justice Committee of 60 individuals. Later that year, district and school administrators spent two days engaged in Courageous Conversations, a protocol for effectively engaging, sustaining, and deepening interracial dialogue based on the work of Glenn Singleton, author of *Courageous Conversations About Race: A Field Guide for Achieving*



From left, MSU's Marilyn Davis, Joanna Tsimpedes, Dr. Patricia Virella, Eileen Shafer, and Cicely Warren. *Staff photo*

Please see "Equity" on p. 7.

Equity continued from p. 6.

Equity in Schools. In those conversations, district leaders spoke freely about their experiences working with each other and in the district's

school communities.

Also last year, the district launched the Youth Equity Stewardship program in five schools, to elicit the perspectives and ideas of our students in building greater equity in our schools.

This year, the district will focus on giving the schools the resources and training they need to identify equity goals in their school communities.

With Shafer as she accepted MSUNER's "Making A Difference" award were Warren, Assistant Superintendent Joanna Tsimpedes, and Deputy Director of Accelerated & Innovative Programs Rita Route.

"On behalf of everyone at Paterson Public Schools who has been working on these initiatives, I accept this recognition today with deep gratitude but also with a lot of humility," said Shafer. "We know that our work is far from finished. But your recognition today indicates that we are on the right track and motivates us to keep working hard to make Paterson Public Schools a place where everyone is seen, heard, and has value."

PPS PURCHASES AHA BUILDING



From left, Raymond Hovey, Rosa Hovey, Richard Matthews, Eileen Shafer, Kenneth Simmons, Elena Hovey, Dante Petretti Photo by Monther Harb

Paterson Public Schools officials, Board of Education President Kenneth L. Simmons, and members of the Hovey family gathered over the summer at 11-27 16th Avenue and Straight Street – home of Alexander Hamilton Academy – to celebrate the completion of the district's purchase of the building.

The district agreed to pay an \$8,250,000 sale price for the two-story building appraised at \$9 million. District officials project that the district will save \$12 million over the next 20 years by purchasing the property.

"This is a tremendous step forward for the district and its fiscal health," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "Through buying this property, we not only have a permanent home for Alexander Hamilton Academy, but we are also building equity for the district. The value of this property will appreciate over time, making this a solid investment for the school and, more importantly, for the students and families of Paterson. I want to thank district Business Administrator

Richard Leon Matthews for his leadership in navigating the district through this purchase."

"I commend everyone who worked to turn the Alexander Hamilton Building in a Paterson Public Schools asset," said Board President Simmons. "Now, whenever this centrally located building is modified to enhance student instruction, we will be investing in the school community's future. And the funds that we save over the long term can be used to benefit our students. This is a purchase that everyone will benefit from."

The previous owner of the building is Straight Street and 16th Avenue, LLC, which is operated by members of the Hovey family. John Hovey, the family's patriarch who died only months ago, originally bought the building in 1995. His first tenant was the Alexander Hamilton Charter School, which eventually closed. Hovey's widow, Rosa, his son, Raymond, and his daughter, Elena joined Shafer, Simmons, Matthews, and school Principal Dante Petretti at yesterday's gathering at the school to cut a ribbon and take photos outside the building. Elena Hovey brought blueprints, which were presented to Matthews, of the many structural changes that have been made to the school during the past two decades.

"It's always been our idea to have this school become a part of the Paterson school system," said Raymond Hovey.

The district began leasing the building, the former home of *The Paterson Evening Herald*, in September 2001. It has been the home of the Alexander Hamilton Academy ever since. In the last year of the lease, the district paid \$1.2 million.

THREE EASTSIDE JROTC CADETS PROMOTED



From left, David Cozart, Eileen Shafer, Yordi Ulloa, Natalie Marroquin, Stephanie Guzman, Edgard Nieves, Andre McCollum, and Luis Barraza. *Photo by Dan Juan*

The solemn 9/11 ceremony at Eastside High School ended on an uplifting note as three cadets of the school's JROTC Mighty Ghost Battalion were promoted to higher ranks.

Natalie Marroquin, who serves as Battalion Commander, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Yordi Ulloa received the rank of Command Sergeant Major, and Stephanie Guzman who serves as Executive Officer was promoted to the rank of Major. All three of the cadets are seniors and received their promotions from Senior Army Instructor and Department Chairman Major Luis Eduardo Barraza. They will be leading the battalion, which has 270 cadets, through the 2022-2023 school year.

District and school officials joined the battalion in the Eastside High School courtyard, where Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer spoke about the importance of never forgetting the lessons of 9/11.

"In our most uncertain moments, we must never forget who we are – strong, resilient, and willing to help one another – especially in times of crisis," said Shafer. "As much as I wish that you will never have to experience a day like 9/11, the reality is that you will have challenges in the future. And remembering the lessons of 9/11 will help you overcome those challenges. Be strong. Be proud. Be someone that others can depend upon. Be someone who is willing to depend upon others. Seek to serve others before serving yourself. And, most of all, never lose sight of what it means to be an American."

Major Barraza thanked the gathering of officials and cadets for their support of the JROTC program at Eastside and for attending the ceremony.

"9/11 is truly a day that will live in our minds and our hearts forever," Barraza said. "It's a day that so many innocent lives were lost. It is a day when so many brave souls sacrificed their lives for others. A day that changed us all forever. May God bless the City of Paterson and the United States of America."

SCHOOL 1 GARNERS HONOR AS ONE OF PATERSON'S "GREENEST PLACES"

The garden at Public School No. 1/Renaissance One School of the Humanities has been awarded the Best School Garden prize in City Green's "Greenest Place In Paterson" garden contest. City Green, one of the district's non-profit partners, has held the contest since 2010 to recognize the

accomplishments of those who have worked to beautify Paterson through gardening.

The garden, which is near the school's front entrance, welcomes School 1 students, their families, and visitors as they enter the building.

"I want to congratulate everyone at School 1, from our staff members to the students, for winning this recognition from City Green," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer. "It takes a lot of work and skill to grow a garden, and perhaps even more patience to nurture plants and flowers to the point that our friends at City Green see a garden as something special. I want to thank School 1 Principal JoAnn Barca and everyone who worked on this endeavor."

School 1's teacher supervisors of the club, Briget Calenda and Instructional Aide Marisol Meixedo, were awarded the honor on August 31st and received a \$150 gift card for Lowe's home improvement stores. The gift card will be used for materials for the Garden Club, which has 20 student members. Special Education Resource Teacher LeeAnn Powner nominated her colleagues for the award.



From left, Briget Calenda, Marisol Meixedo, and LeeAnn Powner *Staff photo*



"The students in the club help tend the garden and enjoy getting their hands dirty digging in the garden year-round," said Powner. "The students get to plant, hoe, pick, rake, and observe the butterflies as they flock to our garden."

IHS WINS AUTHORIZATION AS AN IB WORLD SCHOOL FOR ITS CAREER-RELATED PROGRAMME

ONLY ONE OTHER NEW JERSEY SCHOOL HAS IBCP AUTHORIZATION

The International Baccalaureate Programme (IB) has notified the International High School (IHS) administration that it has authorized the school as an IB World School for the IB's Career-Related Programme (IBCP). The distinction allows the school to add a career-related core curriculum and career-related studies to its existing IB Diploma Programme. The school's chosen career field for the IBCP is engineering, but it can add additional career programs based on student interest.

The authorization comes after a two-year application process that involved IB Programme representatives evaluating the school's Career Technical Education (CTE) program and academics. The IB representatives also met with IHS teachers, parents, students, school leadership, as well as members of the district administration and Board of Education.



"I want to congratulate everyone who worked so hard for so long to earn the IBCP authorization and the students who will be participating in the program in the fall," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer.

"This will enable IHS students focused on an engineering career to gain valuable insights in their chosen field, as well as develop perspectives and experiences in workplace dynamics, including team

building and collaboration. It will be a wonderful way for them to lay the groundwork of their careers."

Dr. Cate Forfia-Dion, IHS principal, said that only one other New Jersey school district has the IBCP Programme, and that 24 rising juniors at IHS have been designated to be in the program's first cohort. Those students have passed an engineering exam designed by Project Lead The Way, a nonprofit organization that develops STEM curricula and have started taking engineering classes developed by the organization.

"We have a great group of motivated students who will make the most of this outstanding opportunity," Forfia-Dion said. "International High School's authorized IBCP lays the groundwork for the school to be a gateway to engineering and any other career field that may be of interest to our students in the future."

SCHOOL 5 EDUCATORS TO GIVE PD WORKSHOPS



School 5 Principal Dr. Jorge Ventura and fourth-grade teachers Judit Conetta and Shereen Jaloudi will begin presenting afterschool online workshops on using technology in education. The workshops are a part of William Paterson University (WPU)'s Continuing Education Program for Educators. Beginning the week of Sept. 26th, the workshops will be presented on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The workshops are free to staff at schools that partner with WPU. Other staff members can get more information by calling WPU at 973-720-3804.



2022 BACK-TO-SCHOOL AT PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



All photos by Dan Juan

AROUND THE DISTRICT



Something To Ponder. Danielle Ponder, critically acclaimed singer-songwriter and former public defender, brought her music and her message of empowerment to Kennedy High School students on Sept. 9th. Between songs, Ponder was interviewed by eight-time Grammy-award winning bassist Christian McBride and took questions from students in the audience. The event was made possible through the Jazz House Kids afterschool music program.

Walking The Walk. Dads throughout the district took the lead in walking their children to school for the annual “Dads Take Your Child To School Day” on Sept. 15th. The event is a part of a national movement to encourage fathers to actively participate in the education of their children.



AROUND THE DISTRICT



Backpacks Donated. Representatives of the Marcus & Millichap commercial real estate firm dropped by the Superintendent's Office to donate dozens of backpacks for district students. From left, Marcus & Millichap Operations Manager Mary C. Durant, Superintendent Shafer, Executive Director to the Superintendent Cheryl Williams, PPS Director of Technology & Integration Tammy Williams, Marcus & Millichap Regional Manager James McGuckin.

Voter Registration Story. A recent drive to register voters at Rosa Parks School of the Fine & Performing Arts became the subject of a video project for students at the school. Superintendent Shafer and others local officials participated in interviews conducted by students. The project is led by TV production teacher Joan Petrocelli.



Backpacks For PS 15. More than 500 students at Public School No. 15 received backpacks filled with school supplies thanks to the United Way of Passaic County and St. Paul's Community Development Corporation. The backpacks were collected as part of the United Way's Backpacks for Kids program, which the organization has led for 15 years. St. Paul's CDC helped organize the collection efforts and filled the backpacks with notebooks, pens, pencil, crayons and other items.

FRESHMAN GET A PACK ON THE BACK

NONPROFIT CEO TEAMS UP WITH ACADEMIC SERVICES TO VISIT NEW FRESHMAN SEMINAR CLASSES



From left, Eastside VP Nicole Gibbs, Ella Mossa, and Joanna Tsimpedes

Photo by Dan Juan

Division of Academic Services administrators welcomed Ella Mossa, CEO of NJ Toy Drive Inc., to Paterson Public Schools to visit Freshman Seminar classes at Eastside and Kennedy high schools on Sept. 14th. Mossa brought bookbags for the students, courtesy of the nonprofit organization she leads that is dedicated to helping children in underserved communities. This is the first year that all district ninth-graders are participating in Freshman Seminar classes. The classes, which were spearheaded by Assistant Superintendent Joanna Tsimpedes, help students develop executive function skills and tools for academic success through a curriculum that also incorporates social-emotional learning and college and career readiness. It also involves community partners and guests to help motivate students to take advantage of opportunities and become active in school clubs. During Mossa's visit, students shared their expectations of high school and talked about their experiences during the first week of the school year.

Why “Beat?”

A post is great. A post stands tall, but it also stands still.
PPS is kinetic. We're always moving – and moving forward.
Like a great city or a great song, PPS has a beat all its own.
It's kept by the good people who learn, live, and work here.

There are 30,000 of us. That's more than the population of 86 percent of New Jersey's 565 communities. In other words, PPS has a lot of beat-keepers.

With a new school year underway, we thought it was time for a new name, a new look, and a new attitude for the PPS newsletter.

In the Communications Department, we take enormous pride in promoting the good work of Paterson Public Schools' students and professionals. Press releases, social media posts, and media outreach are all part of our efforts to promote all that is good about our district to the public.

But the district's newsletter is primarily for you, the people within the PPS community.

In so many ways, there has never been a better time to be working at Paterson Public Schools.

We have an abundance of opportunities to change people's lives for the better. We work in service of the education and development of future generations, and there is no greater calling in public service.

We look forward to the rest of the year ahead and the beat that will be laid down by the accomplishments of our students and the innovations of our colleagues.

No matter what tempo you set, we'll be doing our best to capture the good work that you do and keep the beat right alongside you.

Paul Brubaker
Editor-In-Beat

Fair question.

“Paterson Post” was great.

Paterson is great.

But we don't cover Paterson.

We cover Paterson Public Schools or “PPS.”

Important Dates

Oct. 5	Yom Kippur – District Closed
Oct. 10	Italian Heritage/Indigenous People's Day – District Closed
Oct. 12	Board of Education – Workshop Meeting 6:00 p.m.
Oct. 13	Progress Reports (pre-K to 12)
Oct. 19	Board of Education – Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	1 p.m. Dismissal For Students – PD For Staff

* All Board of Education meetings are 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 Oct. 12th and Oct. 19th. Participants are asked to provide their name, address, and the 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.

5th Annual PATERSON POETRY Festival
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Virtual Oct. 3, 2022

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SAVE THE DATES

PRESENTED BY: PTO LEADERSHIP & PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH: BRONZE HEAT / PATERSON NJ COMMUNITY POLICING ANTI-VIOLENCE / BLASTERS UNIVERSE / KIDS INK TEMPORARY TATTOOS

Parents BACK TO SCHOOL Kick-Off

SAVE THE DATES 10AM - 2PM
OCT. 1ST 2022 / OCT. 15TH 2022

EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
150 PARK AVE
PATERSON, NJ 07501

JFK HIGH SCHOOL
61-127 PREAKNESS AVE,
PATERSON, NJ 07522

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