

Paterson Post

Paterson — A Promising Tomorrow

Together We Can

January 13, 2020

A New Year and a New Board of Education



Mr. Kenneth L.
Simmons
President



Mr. Manuel
Martinez, Jr.
Vice President



Mr. Vincent
Arrington



Mr. Emmanuel
Capers



Mr. Corey
Teague

Paterson Public Schools began the new year by welcoming three incoming Commissioners to the Board of Education on January 2nd, all of whom have returned to serve on the district's governing body. The three returning board members are Commissioner Emmanuel Capers, Commissioner Corey Teague, and Commissioner Vincent Arrington; and they have all been duly elected by the registered voters of the City of Paterson. Commissioner Capers was sworn in by N.J. State Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter. Commissioner Teague was sworn in by Paterson Councilwoman Dr. Lilisa Mimms, a former Board of Education commissioner. Commissioner Arrington was sworn in by N.J. State Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly. Outgoing Commissioners Robinson Rondon and Eddy Olivares who were recognized for their service to the district. Later in the meeting, Commissioner Kenneth Simmons was elected President of the Board and Commissioner Manuel Martinez, Jr. was elected Vice President of the Board.

District Officials Honor Top-Scoring Students on State Assessments

During its last meeting of 2019, Paterson Public Schools officials and Board of Education commissioners honored the district's top scorers on the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) that were administered last spring. Among the honorees was Salman Chowdhury of Public School No. 28 (pictured), who earned perfect scores on both state assessments – English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics – for the second consecutive year. “These are the students who have scored exceptionally well on the state assessments, and we are proud of each and every one of them,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “All of us at Paterson Public Schools recognize the hard work of our students, and the unfailing support of their families, teachers and administrators who work to bring the best out of our students every day.” The district issued



certificates of merit to a total of 152 students, who were categorized according to the following designations: students who earned perfect scores in both ELA and math, students who earned a perfect score in ELA and Level 5 (the highest proficiency level) in math, students who scored in Level 5 in ELA and earned a perfect score in math, and students who scored in Level 5 in ELA and math. The NJSLA was administered to students in grades 3 through 11.

Board Leadership Duo Reflects on the Past Two Years

As the end of their second term serving together as the board's president and vice president was to drawing to a close, Board of Education Commissioners Oshin Castillo and Nakima Redmon gave a personal interview in which they reflected on the accomplishments made during the past two years. The interview has been divided into a series of episodes and made available to the public on the [district's You Tube channel](#) and social media platforms.



Photography 101 at PAGT with George Garbeck



The Paterson Academy for the Gifted and Talented (PAGT)'s Photography Club, facilitated by middle school social studies teacher Lizandaa Alburg, had the honor of a visit by the district's own photographer, Garbeck. Garbeck presented to approximately 25 students in grades four to seven, and shared his amazing portfolio as well as his techniques about storytelling through a camera's lens. He helped club members grow their skills by explaining concepts like candid shots and perspective; and how to use filters, shutter speed, and lighting to add drama and emotion to photographs. Students developed their vocabulary as they learned about a camera's aperture, the "golden hour" and the "blue hour." Garbeck's visit with the Photography Club was made just a few days before he retired in December.

More than 160 Students Compete in Annual STEM Expo

More than 160 district students in grades kindergarten to eight competed in the annual STEM Expo on January 8. "Everyone here today is a part of a great scientific tradition at Paterson Public Schools," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer at the awards ceremony. "And so I want to congratulate all of the students for making it here today. We look forward to the next steps in your development as inquiring people in the STEM fields." In her remarks, Superintendent Shafer thanked the many people who helped make the STEM Expo possible including William Paterson University College of Education Dean Amy Ginsberg and all of the district's hosts at the university. Shafer also thanked Deputy Superintendent Susana Peron, Assistant Superintendent Joanna Tsimpedes, and district Supervisor of Science Lakisha Kincherlow-Warren.

District Officials Open New Gymnasium at School 2



Students were joined by teachers, administrators and local officials to open Public School No. 2's brand new gym on January 6. In her remarks, Superintendent Shafer thanked district Facilities Operations Officer Neil Mapp and Project Manager Oscar Rivera for the great job they did in updating the gym for the first time since the school opened in 1921.

CAHTS Students Have a “Rocky” Time in Philadelphia

When a group of students from Eastside High School's Culinary Arts, Hospitality, and Tourism School (CAHTS) took a field trip to Philadelphia in December, they didn't expect to meet one of the city's most-memorable movie icons. But that's exactly what happened when the group made their way to the Philadelphia Museum of Art and found Sylvester Stallone, star of the Oscar award-winning film *Rocky* and the series of *Rocky* films that followed it. The students had just finished touring the Reading Terminal Market before they went to the museum. Stallone was filming some promotional videos near the statue that bears his *Rocky* likeness on the museum's property, and he took time out to pose with students and staff members near the statue. A video of the encounter that Stallone posted to his Instagram account had nearly one million views within a day. The story was covered by media throughout the country. Superintendent Eileen Shafer later released a statement thanking Stallone for his kindness to Paterson students, and said that he was welcome to come visit Paterson Public Schools anytime.



Lessons About Spring Bloom in December at School 29



Spring may be several months away, but second-graders in Nadine Reid's science class at Public School No. 29 now have a rich understanding of the interconnected web of life that comes to life during the season. Last month, the students learned about flowers and pollinators in science class. In addition to planting and growing seeds, they had the opportunity to create and label flower pictures as well as shape bumblebees from sculpey clay.

A Tasty Visit from Local Chefs at School 12

Chefs from Eva's Kitchen recently visited Public School No. 12 to teach kindergarten students how to prepare a fresh fruit salad using different ingredients and kitchen tools. The visit was arranged by Robert Luciano, who retired from teaching in 2006 and continues to volunteer at School 12 every Wednesday. Chef David Bein, the community kitchen director at Eva's Kitchen, and one of his colleagues, "Chef Deniz," led the more than 40 students in creating a fresh fruit salad from grapes and blueberries. Teachers Sharon Pierre-Davis and Kewanna Simmons, instructional aides Grace Kennedy and Patricia Uter, and all of their students relished the opportunity to see these skilled chefs in action and sample the delicious outcome.



School 8 Students Named State Winners in Samsung's National STEM Contest



A team of students from Public School No. 8 led by Karen Vargas, Ashely Martinez, and Lorena Cruz has been named one of 100 teams in the country to advance to the second round in Samsung's "Solve for Tomorrow" contest. The \$3 million national competition encourages students in grades six to 12 to creatively use science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills to solve a community challenge. Top teams in each state were selected for their outstanding activity plan proposals outlining how students will execute their Samsung Solve for Tomorrow project

using STEM. The announcement came after School 8's team was named one of 300 state finalists last November in the contest in which there were more than 2,000 applications submitted. "Our student-scientists at Public School No. 8 are continuing to make everyone in the district very proud," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "They are to be commended for their above-and-beyond efforts in participating in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest. I want to thank their teachers, their principal and their parents for supporting this wonderful team of students. We wish them all the best in the next round of the contest." The team's proposal is inspired by the solar panels that generate energy from their school's roof and it uses the photosynthesis process in plants to conserve and recycle water. It was submitted with the help of teachers Martha Cruz, Ivette Soto and Anibal Cintron. School 8 Principal Sham Bacchus noted that all three student leaders had immigrated to Paterson just a few years ago and are part of the school's bilingual magnet program. The program is designed to ease the academic transition for students who are English language learners.

Affirmative Action Training Held

The Affirmative Action Officer Houry Yeganeh conducted a professional development session for building-based Affirmative Action representatives on December 12th. The topic of the session was “Religious Discrimination” and the focus of discussion was on the importance of acceptance, tolerance, laws and policies. The session also emphasized the importance of the diverse religious backgrounds and beliefs of the district’s students, staff and community. The session included a warm-up activity and many videos on the topic. Religious holidays and celebrations were also discussed, as well as district policies. Building-based Affirmative Action representatives are volunteer staff members who go above and beyond their contractual duties to assist their school leader and the Central Office-based Affirmative Action officer by investigating student-on-student discrimination cases, ensuring bias-free education for all students, sharing Affirmative Action-related policies to school staff, and ensuring that the Affirmative Action program is implemented effectively. Representatives are also encouraged to share the information from professional development sessions to school staff during an assigned professional development day.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 15: An Evening with Dr. Steve Perry, Youth and Motivational Activist

6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at John F. Kennedy Educational Complex

Jan. 16: Strategic Plan & Action Steps Community Forum

6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at PS 15, 98 Oak Street

Jan. 20: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday

District Closed

Jan. 22: 2020 School District Budget Community Forum

5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Eastside Campus Media Room

Jan. 28: 2nd Marking Period Ends

Jan. 28: Teacher Job Fair

4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Paterson Board of Education, 90 Delaware Avenue

Jan. 28: Strategic Plan & Action Steps Community Forum

6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Public School No. 25, 287 Trenton Avenue

Paterson Post is a publication of the [Department of Communications](#).
We welcome your submissions on school and district related events. [Click here](#) to submit stories and photos.