

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 18, 2022

Contact: Paul Brubaker
973-518-2298

THREE FINALISTS VIE TO BE THE NEXT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Top applicants present their visions for the district's future

PATERSON – The top three contenders to be the next Paterson Superintendent of Schools were presented to the public tonight in a community forum held at International High School's auditorium. The event indicated that the Superintendent Search Committee was in the home stretch of making its decision of whom to recommend to the Board of Education to be the next superintendent after narrowing the field from dozens of candidates who applied for the position.

The three finalists are (in the alphabetical order of their last names):

Keith Miles, Jr., Ed. D.

Since July 2020, Miles has been serving as the superintendent of Bridgeton Public Schools in Bridgeton, New Jersey. Prior to Bridgeton, he served as assistant superintendent in Trenton, New Jersey. He has public school administrative experience in Montgomery, AL; Camden, NJ, and Temple Hills, MD. He began his education career as a high school Spanish and biology teacher. He earned his doctorate at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where he earned his bachelor's degree. He also holds a master's degree from the University of Maryland.

Laurie W. Newell, Ph. D.

Since July 2016, Newell has been serving as the superintendent of schools/CEO of the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission. She has 5 ½ years of administrative experience in Paterson Public Schools and 6 ½ years as an administrator at Newark Public Schools. She has taught graduate courses in education at Montclair State University. She earned her doctorate at the University of Rhode Island and her MBA at the University of Phoenix. She also holds a master's degree from the University of Tennessee (Knoxville), and a bachelor's degree from Binghamton University.

Andre D. Spencer, Ed. D.

Since 2020, Spencer has been serving as the superintendent of schools in the Manor Independent School District in Manor, TX. He has public school administrative experience in the New York City Department of Education, Harrison School District Two, the Houston Independent School District, and the Baltimore City Public School System. He began his education career as a seventh-grade science teacher. He earned his doctorate at Capella University and holds a master's degree from Morgan State University, and he earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland Eastern shore.

"Tonight, you will have an opportunity to hear from each of the finalists to be our next superintendent," said Paterson Board of Education Vice-President Nakima Redmon, who chairs the Superintendent Search

Committee, as she opened the forum. “It is our hope to identify a strong candidate by October 27, 2022, and move forward with onboarding a new superintendent here in Paterson Public Schools to start the new year off strong as we plan to improve outcomes for the children in our school district.”

The event was moderated by Dr. Shawn Joseph of Hazard, Young, Attea, and Associates, the firm that the Board of Education retained in June to help with the search.

In August, parents and other stakeholders gave their input on what the qualities of the next superintendent should be through an online survey and an online community forum.

Redmon said that 51 people had indicated an interest in the position by responding to the district’s online job posting, and 37 candidates submitted complete applications for the job. The Superintendent Search Committee narrowed the pool of applicants down to seven people and conducted interviews with them. On the basis of those interviews, the committee decided upon three finalists who were interviewed again on Saturday and presented to the public tonight.

###