



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 26, 2023

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## **PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PATERSON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REACH TENTATIVE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

PATERSON – Negotiators for Paterson Public Schools and Paterson Education Association (P.E.A.) reached a tentative memorandum of agreement, a major step toward a new five-year contract, at 2:30 a.m., eight hours after the mediation session began last night.

The tentative memorandum of agreement between the district and the P.E.A. will, pending approval of the Board of Education and P.E.A. members, provide for a new five-year contract. The details of the new contract will be announced after the agreement has been ratified by both sides. 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 end, we achieved an agreement that is fair to the P.E.A. members and the district,” said Board of Education President Nakima Redmon, who chairs the Negotiations Committee. “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. “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.”

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