

**MINUTES OF THE PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING**

April 9, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.  
Remote Meeting (via Zoom)

Presiding: Comm. Eddie Gonzalez, President

Present:

Dr. Laurie W. Newell, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Rodney Henderson, Deputy Superintendent  
Khalifah Shabazz-Charles, Esq., General Counsel  
Boris Zaydel, Esq., Board Counsel

Comm. Valerie Freeman  
Comm. Della McCall  
Comm. Hector Nieves  
Comm. Joel Ramirez, Vice President

Comm. Mohammed Rashid  
Comm. Kenneth Rosado  
Comm. Kenneth Simmons  
Comm. Corey Teague

The Salute to the Flag was led by Comm. Gonzalez.

Comm. Gonzalez read the Open Public Meetings Act:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of, and to attend the meetings of the Paterson Public School District, as well as other public bodies at which any business affecting the interest of the public is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this law, the Paterson Public School District has caused adequate and electronic notice of this meeting:

**Regular Meeting  
April 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.  
Remote  
90 Delaware Avenue  
Paterson, New Jersey**

to be published by having the date, time and place posted in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Paterson, at the entrance of the Paterson Public School offices, on the district's website, and by sending notice of the meeting to the Arab Voice, El Diario, the Italian Voice, the North Jersey Herald & News, and The Record.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Newell: Good evening, everyone. The report tonight is going to be very short. I wanted to talk briefly about the strategic planning meeting, the community forums that we were having last week. I mentioned that we had a community forum on the Strategic Plan on March 26. That was the first of our two strategic community forums, and I wanted to thank everyone again for attending the first session. We enjoyed very lively and productive conversations. As was advertised, the forums provided students, parents, staff members and members of the larger community with the opportunity to

bring their insights and perspectives to the development process. I wanted to remind everyone again that our next session will be tomorrow, Thursday, April 10 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. here in 90 Delaware and everyone is welcome to attend. I also wanted to talk about the accolades that our Comm. Simmons is receiving. The Passaic County School Boards Association is hosting its annual spring celebrations meeting on Wednesday, May 28 at Mario's Restaurant in Clifton. All Board members, superintendents, business administrators and other key staff members are invited to attend. As is the tradition this year, the Passaic County SBA meeting will include a segment honoring Board members across Passaic County who are celebrating significant milestones. I'm pleased to announce again that Comm. Simmons will be honored. He has been a very long serving and faithful Board member for the Paterson Public Schools for 15 years. Congratulations to Comm. Simmons on this remarkable achievement and for your many years of dedication to the Paterson Public Schools community. Tomorrow we will be reaching out to the Board members to see who will be interested in attending and we will coordinate for the Board members to attend. Congratulations again, Comm. Simmons. That concludes my report.

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

Comm. Gonzalez: Comm. Simmons, congratulations. I would like to just keep it brief. Based on our last conversation in the last meeting about the process that we took in order to vote and obtain a new general counsel, some Board members, including myself, asked for clarity as to what the process was, what the previous standard was and practice, and what the legal requirements were. The administration reached out to an independent legal firm that gave their opinion. I'll have Boris elaborate on that and you can ask him questions at the time once he's done elaborating on it. The summary is that we followed all protocols. There was nothing wrong in the process, especially with some misunderstandings or maybe confusions as to how the process should have been handled. I think one of the key points that was brought up in the previous meeting was that we had to vote in order to go out for RFQ or RFP. That's not the case and it's pointed out in some of these opinions that we don't have to do that. In addition to that, it was brought up, if I recall correctly, that it had to be Superintendent's recommendation. Again, that's not correct. It's the Board to decide who the legal counsel will be. We followed all other protocols. If you have any questions after Boris presents or discusses what was presented from a third-party legal counsel, in order for us just to clear the air and to make sure that we're all on the same page as it relates to our job functions and our duties as Board members.

Mr. Zaydel: Thank you, Commissioner. As Comm. Gonzalez explained, we were asked to obtain an opinion from an outside law firm. We used the law firm of Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy. We asked them a series of questions related to the procurement process that was used to secure a new general counsel and whether the vote to award a contract was lawful. They opined that an RFQ process is expressly permitted under New Jersey law and that there's nothing wrong with using that process, that there is no requirement for formal scoring evaluation and score sheets, and that there's nothing improper for that RFQ process to be initiated through a committee of the Board. Also, it is not necessary that all proposals obtained through that process be provided to the full Board prior to their vote on it. They further opined that the Board's vote to approve the contract was appropriate. They recommended, though, some clarifying language for the written resolution that makes the actual appointment, just to explain the reasons by way of referring to the law firm's track record of advising other clients and its experience in applicable law, things that are sort of non-fatal defects. We also explored the question of who has the legal authority to appoint outside counsel and there's a statute. Let me just refer to my notes here. It is 18A:27-4.1 that explicitly

carves out an exception for certain positions that include the Board attorney, treasurer of school monies, auditor and Board secretary, where a Superintendent's recommendation is not required, and the Board may appoint or remove this position without any intervention from the Superintendent. We also note that the RFQ process that was used this year is consistent with our past process used in 2019 and 2022 for procuring general counsel services and special counsel services. RFQs were used in those years as well. With that said, I'll open the floor to questions.

Comm. Freeman: Which lawyer from this law firm gave this opinion?

Mr. Zaydel: It was Kyle Trent.

Comm. Freeman: For this opinion, what information was sent to the firm?

Mr. Zaydel: Copies of governance committee meeting minutes, a link to the video footage of the last Board meeting and copies of certain policies. They then did a search on their own on our website for additional policies and a list of questions to be answered.

Comm. Simmons: I have a question.

Comm. Freeman: One second, I'm not finished yet. I'll come back. Go ahead, Comm. Simmons.

Comm. Simmons: I don't know who wrote this opinion, because it's not signed. I don't know who the attorney is that wrote it. Secondly, if we were going to ask for an opinion, then we should have alerted all Board members so that there is not a one-sided story. Policy 161.1 clearly states that for me to vote on something, I have to have all the information. That wasn't done. That's the real question. I know Comm. Gonzalez talked about the executive session as being the opportunity for us to discuss it, but that wasn't the time. You brought a resolution that I should have had prior to the meeting. Obviously, the search for the policies wasn't thorough because there is a policy that does say that. The question was asked about who can appoint outside counsel. The question is about general counsel, because there is a difference. That is a recommendation and there are ethics rules that state we only vote on recommendations from the Superintendent. We can't allocate funds. I don't agree with this opinion, so I don't know how we move forward with this. If we could allocate funds, then that makes sense, but we don't. I can't tell you if the money's there to even give you a range of what should be paid or what the limit should be because that's not our role. So how do we get the other side to this answer?

Comm. Gonzalez: Thank you, Comm. Simmons. Boris, I think there are several parts to this, if I'm not mistaken. Is there a difference between general counsel, legal services and special services as it relates to what state statute says we can and can't do an appointment? Is there a difference? I think that was part one of his question. Answer that first if you can.

Mr. Zaydel: There is not a distinction in the statute. The statute just talks about a School Board attorney. Both special counsel and general counsel who are outside counsel are considered School Board attorneys.

Comm. Simmons: Who directs general counsel?

Mr. Zaydel: Our policies really contemplate an in-house general counsel and they don't really talk about an outside general counsel position existing. They only talk about who directs outside law firms generally speaking. To the extent that that may include an outside contracted general counsel, the appointment of cases is to be made by the Superintendent. The appointment of the law firm is to be made by the Board.

Comm. Simmons: We're talking about semantics. Of course, the Board makes the appointment via the vote, but that is typically the recommendation of the Superintendent. As long as I've been here, we've only had one in-house general counsel, right? The Board, for the most part, has always been represented by general counsel by an outside firm. You hire the firm as general counsel, and they typically deal with day-to-day. So again, who directs general counsel? If the Board is hiring them, then I don't understand how we then wouldn't be able to direct. It would be a conflict. I can't direct someone to handle day-to-day.

Comm. Gonzalez: Boris, do you have a response to that? Comm. Simmons, do you have a question Boris can reply to? You said a few things there. Is there a specific question you're asking?

Comm. Simmons: Since the Board is not responsible for day-to-day, if the district hires an outside firm to handle the general counsel responsibilities, which basically deal with the day-to-day operations, who then actually directs general counsel?

Mr. Zaydel: That was not within the scope of this independent opinion or any of the research we were asked to conduct. I would defer that to our general counsel.

Comm. Simmons: Hence, you were asking a one-sided question. We're going down the same road where we're not getting all the information. We go out and get this opinion based on things that we give them on the story that we tell. I don't agree with the opinion, and I think there is some conflict here. There is a policy that says I should have all of the information to make the decision prior to the meeting. The opinion says that you don't have to give it to me, but that's obviously not what the policy says.

Mr. Zaydel: I just want to clarify that the opinion states that Board members are free to ask for copies of proposals, not that the governance committee is required to provide copies of the proposals.

Comm. McCall: The policy says that we're entitled to it before prior...

Comm. Simmons: Right. The proposals would be part of the information needed to make the decision.

Comm. Gonzalez: If I may, I just want to clarify something. Boris, jump in if you feel it's inaccurate. From what I read and from what I understand of it, because of the process that was taken in governance, we discussed it. I forget the exact date, but it was the second-to-last meeting that we had. The minutes there do state that we were going to have a full discussion on this with the full Board at an executive meeting on the date of the last meeting. That was in the minutes of the second-to-last governance meeting. Then we intended to have that meeting. We did go into executive session for a very short period because the discussion didn't happen. We did have the packets available. To your point, Boris, we're not responsible for handing them out. They're public once they submit them and once the documents are open. All members who attended the governance committee had copies as well. To that point, we went through committee, came out of committee and were supposed to have discussion at the executive session

before taking on any of these votes, which just didn't happen. Then we attempted to have some of this dialog during the session, but that really just went haywire, as we all know. As it relates to the required requirement by statute...

Comm. Simmons: Stop. You're going somewhere else.

Comm. McCall: Excuse me. With all due respect to everybody that's talking, I've had my hand raised for a long time. People have constantly ignored my hand and started talking. Through the President, when this comment is done, I would like to have my turn to speak.

Comm. Gonzalez: I don't see your hand up.

Comm. McCall: It was up. It's up again now. It was so long, it got tired virtually and it just came down.

Comm. Gonzalez: Sorry. In saying all this, I just want to know for myself, did we follow the law? In addition to this, it's important that everybody understands that we also followed past practices since 2019. We haven't done anything different from what was done previously, from what we've seen and before any of this even took place. Before we even had any submissions of anything, we made sure that we looked at what was done in prior years. It seems like we were very consistent in what was done prior, including when Comm. Simmons was president and vice president several years during this process. We didn't do anything different. Boris, based on what you see, do I stand corrected on that?

Comm. Simmons: I can correct you on that? I can clarify because Boris wasn't here.

Comm. Gonzalez: I'm asking Boris, based on the statute, what's legal?

Comm. Simmons: That's why I want to clarify. You asked me to clarify. I'm not talking about the statute. You just said it. The members of the committee had information that no one else had right prior to you wanting to have this conversation in executive session. The packets were not in executive session.

Comm. Gonzalez: They were available the minute they were submitted because they became public documents.

Comm. Simmons: What you're suggesting is that because this was a public document, I should have sent an OPRA request. I should have had it when you came out of committee, like every Board member in the committee. I should have had that information. It should have been sent to us as required by our policy. I'm not talking about statute. I'm talking about our policy. Let me clear the record because you keep referring to me when I was President. You did not follow the same practice. When general counsel was chosen in the past, the Superintendent interviewed candidates and gave a recommendation. You did not follow the past practice.

Comm. Gonzalez: The previous Superintendent is not here to say whether that happened or didn't happen.

Comm. Simmons: Cheryl was here. She can tell you whether or not it happened. I'm telling you what happened, and now you're saying the previous Superintendent's not here. I can clarify my leadership. I can clarify what happened when I was President. You weren't here.

Comm. Freeman: Cheryl can also.

Comm. Simmons: Yes she can, because that is what happened. That was the practice. That recommendation did not come from the Board, which is why you have a resolution signed by the Superintendent. The current Superintendent said this wasn't her recommendation. If there's a resolution that is now signed by the Superintendent, then this becomes her recommendation. If it has changed between last week or between January and today, then I now need to know why. That is also what the opinion said. We should know why and there was no rationale given. When asked, you would not answer the question.

Comm. Gonzalez: It wasn't asked.

Comm. Freeman: I did ask. I asked the question, and I asked for it to be tabled. I asked what the reason is and you ignored me. You told Cheryl to continue with the roll call. It was asked and was never answered. The fact of the matter is, on this whole situation, if you had done it correctly, you still would have got the votes. The fact that it was not done correctly is the problem that I'm having. The fact that I was denied information as a Commissioner of the Paterson Public School Board cannot happen. Whether I agree with you guys or not, I still should not be denied information that you expect me to vote on. I don't understand how you want me to vote on anything when you're denying me the information. If it becomes public, then let me know that you have it. I never even knew you had the information. In an executive session you're going to give me all this information and I'm going to come to a determination within however long it takes on who should be general counsel. Once we were in executive session, you already had a resolution that was already made up that the Board was going with this law firm. It was already made that this is who... Regardless of how I feel, it was already determined who was going to be general counsel, even when we went in executive session. There wasn't really a need for executive session because we should have had this information before we went in executive session. You can't slam something like that on me with 16 law firms to see who I want to be general counsel. In your governance committee meeting, there were three or four of you and you guys came up with this deal that this is who it's going to be. Then from January 2, when all the resolutions were pulled, I didn't understand how the brand new sworn in Board members voted to pull all recommendations off an agenda and they don't even know. Are you guys having secret meetings? If that's happening, that's against the ethics rules. However, you feel about me, you can't deny me information and expect me to come with a conscious vote on the same day.

Comm. McCall: I attended the last governance meeting prior to this situation. In the governance meeting I personally said, and I hope that it was recorded, that we needed to bring all of this to the Board because it is a very important decision to make. I also knew what the repercussions would be based upon how this Board is set up right now. I was concerned because I said you've got to share this with the other Board members. Sharing information is not giving a brief report, slipping in that there may be a change or there is a RFQ going out for counsel. I don't know if everybody remembers, but even in that meeting none of us could agree on that process because it was just told to us. The second thing that I'm concerned about is the way we give reports and the timely fashion that we get the written reports doesn't give adequate time for a Board member to make sound decisions. If you're not the Board member that reads your stuff, it really becomes difficult because you come to a meeting and these kinds of things happen. I'm going to say this. I would hope that from this point on we still review this practice because it wasn't given. It is not fair to a Board member to come to a meeting, receive information

at the meeting and have to make a decision. That's not fair to anybody. The second thing that's not fair is the way that meeting was conducted and the way it was done, it gave the illusion that this particular law firm was being let go. Because they were being let go effective immediately, maybe there have been some wrongdoings or something. That's the impression that it gave. That's the impression I took.

Comm. Freeman: Absolutely.

Comm. McCall: The other thing that really upset me is that we all are entitled to the information. We understand how boards work. It's nine of us. Five people vote. That's how it goes. I understand that and I can live with that. But let me live with it with the fact that you've given me everything that I need. Give me everything that is entitled to me. Let's talk about what happened at our meeting. The information was given, but it was taken back as well because it was said that this was highly confidential. Nobody wanted anything to leak out. We didn't walk away with that packet. We didn't walk away with it because where we are now. We have to be transparent in everything we do. I don't think that it is fair to anyone, and that includes my way of working. It's not fair if I hold information back and I don't tell you until you absolutely need to know. No, that is not the way we should govern, and we should all try our very best to get along because we are elected officials that were elected by the people to do a job for the most vulnerable people in our community, our youth. We are making decisions that will decide the fate of families to come years and years from now. I do want to say I did send an email. Some rejected it and that's fine. This was a very bitter taste to me in my mouth. My prayer is that God will have grace and mercy on us because we're responsible. We have a very, very important job. If people are not here for the job that we're here to do, shame on you. If I do not stand up for children and families to be the best that they can absolutely be through the decisions that I make, then it's not fair. Comm. Gonzalez, I want to say this publicly. I think the problem here is that the Board members didn't get to see that package that we all got to see that gave all of the information about each of the law firms, each of the recommendations from the Board and from the committee to the Board. I think that what's happening here is, because there is already a majority that's going to vote together, and then there are other folks...

Comm. Freeman: Politically inclined.

Comm. McCall: No, let me finish. I listened to everybody. I want to say that it's not fair when you sit on a Board, and you already know that the odds are stacked against you if you don't agree. Sometimes we all do agree. We can get to some mediums sometimes. But the times that we can't, it's already noted what's going to happen. But it doesn't have to be displayed as if it's being dictated, as opposed to being a vote of whoever's going to vote on what. I'm glad that we're all able to talk in a calmer tone, including myself. I do want to apologize to the public. I want to say that all information has to be given to Board members with adequate time to discuss the outcomes of our votes. Without that, this is not a fair Board. This becomes a very unstable process, and I don't think that the public elected any of us to be in that state. Thank you for listening.

Comm. Gonzalez: Thank you. I just want to be clear. I think I'm hearing the tone that there's intent to hold information. I just want to clarify that there's never any intent to hold information. A lot of things are discussed among various committees. The committees are designed to talk about these things in great length and then the recommendation comes out of committees. We usually get the minutes for each committee so that Board members can review. Those things are always available to everyone. We don't hold back any information. I never told anybody not to share any information. The information is there. I can't call every member and say go check the

drive or look at the minutes, nor does anyone have to. We're all elected equally to do the same job. Everyone was invited to attend committee meetings. Some of you decided not to, for whatever reason, which is fine. Even despite all that, we still attempt to be very transparent and give the information. Same thing when we talked about the health care stuff. We took that out of committee and discussed that in full session with everyone there. It was eight out of the nine members there. We try to make things as transparent as possible. I kind of feel a certain way when there's a tone that we're intentionally trying to hold information. That's never the case. Am I going to go above and beyond to make sure that everyone is doing their role to adequately make calls and check and see what's going on, especially if they're specifically interested in any one topic or the other? There are 12 committees. There are many things spoken at every single committee. I'm not going to call everybody on every single subject matter that's discussed in 12 different committees. We're serving a lot of committees and there are a lot of things said and obviously not every single word-for-word verbatim is going to be recorded on a minute. That's not the intent of the minutes, but those minutes are recorded and put online. It's available for everyone to see. It's not my job as President to tell everybody go check your emails or go to the drive. I understand we're all busy people. Sometimes we can't and we don't have that time. But the minute we have committee meetings those minutes are available, and those minutes are loaded by the administration to the drives. That's available. Even if you're not in committee, you can go in to look at the minutes of those particular committee meetings. If you have questions in reference to anything that you may see on any of those committees, you can always put a question via email to Cheryl, the committee chair, or to myself. I have not yet received any real specific questions across the board. I don't know. I can't speak for any other Commissioners or for the administration on that. My point is that there's never a time, and I'll say this over and over, where we're meeting separately or secretly or that we're holding back information. That's the complete opposite. To my point about having this discussion in full Board, Comm. McCall, we did discuss that when we were in governance. We said we're going to do this in executive session in that meeting that you attended. If you look at those minutes, that's exactly what it says. We intended to do that with the packets available. The packets were available.

Comm. McCall: You're right, Comm. Gonzalez. I did say let's talk about an executive session. But there was no way in the world, I would have imagined that you were going to present the resolution at the same time you're having a discussion. I would have said in the meeting that we need to have the discussion and then bring the resolution. That would have given ample time for people to get the information. No disrespect, but if we going to be transparent, let's be transparent. When committees are stacked, sometimes whatever goes on in those committees, if they're not fully disclosed in the minutes, it's not an equal playing field. When you look at certain committees, they have the vote. When you look at other committees, they still have the vote, but you may have one or two people or one person thrown in so that it can feel like it's balanced, but it's not balanced. If we're going to be honest about it, let's be honest about it. The one thing I never want to walk away with is saying one thing and in my heart really feeling something else. When you look at our committees, the ones that make major decisions are not inclusive. It has the vote. People don't want to talk about it, but I'm going to talk about it. The reason I'm going to talk about it is because I do feel like I'm one of the medium of this Board. I don't really take sides. I stand for what's right.

Comm. Freeman: Exactly. So, do I. I don't take sides.

Comm. McCall: I'm saying very clearly that when you look at the assignments of the Board of the committee, I'm sick of people telling me that's what they do on the council, or it's always been done that way. I didn't vote for you, Comm. Gonzalez, because

that's how it's always been done. I voted for you with the confidence of saying that it was going to be different. It was going to not play this strategy role. It was going to be fair and equitable to all Board members. I came back to the committee. I'm the one that returned back to my committees because I got tired of coming to meetings and feeling blindsided, not really knowing what's going on. I couldn't blame anybody but myself because I wasn't there in the committees that I am part of. When you talk about committees, personnel and fiscal, which are considered the meat committees that people want to be part of, it doesn't balance with people that may have a different perspective to be able to give their perspective and it be considered at least. So, I hear what you're saying. All I'm saying is that when a committee meeting is over, everything needs to be available. If in the Google Docs all the information I was privy to was provided to the Board members and they didn't go read it, then shame on them. Because they feel it wasn't privy to them, this is why I feel this is a conflict. It should have been done differently. It was going to come out with the same outcome. That's what I want you to understand. I said last week that I was okay with the change, because the majority rules. If we really want to follow ethics, when the majority rules we're all supposed to roll with, but that doesn't happen here. That's where the problem is.

Comm. Freeman: You don't have to. If you don't agree with it, you don't.

Comm. McCall: This is what we learned in one of our workshops or retreats. Even if it doesn't go our way, we should not blast the Board because it didn't go our way. We should say, "I didn't agree with it. It was the majority that went with it. So be it. Move to the next agenda." I'm saying I was okay because I knew that the votes were there to make this decision.

Comm. Freeman: But you can't be okay with something that is not done right. How can you be okay with something that's not done right?

Comm. Gonzalez: I want to interrupt really quick because I'm getting texts that folks are on the line for the comment portion.

Comm. Freeman: One second. Just let me get this out and I'm promise you I'm not going to be saying much of anything anymore. If anybody that's sitting on this Board, in the community out there, and who's viewing it online, if you think for one second that Comm. Valerie Freeman is going to vote because the majority of this Board is voting on something that I do not agree with, you simply have me messed up. It's never going to happen.

Comm. McCall: Let me just say it, because you interrupted me.

Comm. Freeman: You're saying that if the Board has the majority we have to vote with the Board.

Comm. McCall: That's not what I said. I said that if I don't vote on something that passes it is my ethical duty to say they want it. It doesn't mean that I agree with it, but I am not going to go crazy over it because there are so many more agendas to go over.

Comm. Freeman: Are you going to vote with it or against it?

Comm. McCall: I said I would vote against it, but if it passes that's on the vote. If you vote no and five people vote yes, they got it. My vote is going to be my vote at the end of the day. That's what I'm saying.

Comm. Gonzalez: Thank you, Commissioners, for voicing your opinions and concerns. Duly noted.

Comm. Freeman: Is the information uploaded on Google Docs?

Comm. Gonzalez: Madam Secretary, is all that information on the Google Docs? I see her saying yes.

Ms. Williams: Yes, all the information is in a Google Drive.

Comm. Freeman: Does that include the packets? When was it uploaded, Cheryl? I don't think it was uploaded during executive session. That's my concern. You won't hear much from me. Trust me.

Comm. Nieves: Can we get an answer for Comm. Freeman? I believe Comm. Freeman requested information on when it was uploaded. I think she needs to hear that.

Ms. Williams: It's in a Google document. I'm putting it in the drive right now.

Comm. Freeman: Cheryl, you can give me the date. You can let me know.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**It was moved by Comm. Teague, seconded by Comm. Nieves that the Public Comments portion of the meeting be opened. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.**

Mr. Alexander Cardillo: I want to tell this Board there was a narrative going around that I was pursuing student E. This was an outright lie. I was asked to come into his child study team meeting in December 2018. I did not force my way into it. Once I was asked to help him, if I am asked to do a job I give that job all I've got to give. Again, this is a reminder I did not pull student E from class unless I was asked to have him by a teacher. When I did, I always made sure one of his friends would accompany him – I'll call this student U - so I would not have to be alone with student E. Student E would come to the library, and he would do his schoolwork with student U. There were times that he would escape from the classroom and come find me. Again, I would be sitting cataloging books for students to read and my work was interrupted by student E. In Monica Florez' mind that meant I was pursuing him. I would always ask him to go back to class, even going so far as to get up and walk him back to class to make sure he got there. I take safety very seriously. If there was a fire or an emergency and someone needed to know where student E was, we would know. I would call a teacher in charge and report it to him or her. I have to add it was a practice in that building that when students were giving a teacher a hard time, sometimes the teacher would send the students down to me to cool down. I never minded. This was part of my job. A major problem was that there was many substitute teachers. Student E's resource teacher was being pulled to be a substitute teacher, and a first-year teacher was dealing with this difficult class. Student E's leaving to look for me was his cries for help, a cry that was going unanswered by Monica Florez. The sad thing for me is that these judges took the information that Monica Florez gave and created a false assumption and developed a narrative. I need your help as a Board to right this wrong narrative. I've gone to DCPD, and they have nothing, so they can't help me. I did nothing wrong, yet I

cannot help myself without you helping me. Monica Florez was your employee who lied under oath 40 times and got away with it. Please meet with us. Thank you.

Dr. JoAnn Cardillo: Thank you. This continues the documentation in the Board minutes of the Cardillo vs. the Board of Education case. In 2019 International High School had a librarian with a CE who was kept on the staff illegally. She was not a certified librarian at the time of the RIF. She got tenure and has since retired. Mr. Cardillo was Board-approved on May 13, 2019, as a reduction in force. He is entitled to a call back when positions open up, of which there were five since then. He should be number one in his category as a librarian, but you did not comply with the law and policy to create required callback lists. That is the official action that you need to account for. Your attorney keeps mentioning that you won this case in summary judgment in his last brief, but here's the problem with that. You keep winning based off the lie. That attorney, by the way, is Kyle Trent, who presented your opinion for this evening in the issue that you are currently discussing. There is no such thing as a non-renew due to a reduction in force. A reduction in force is a consequence of a budget shortfall that requires a district to create callback lists and actions being taken based on seniority status that has nothing to do with performance and being non-renewed as a non-tenured teacher. It's two different things. As an update to the status of the litigation, your well-paid outside attorney, Mr. Trent, again stated Mr. Cardillo was non-renewed. This is not true. He was Board-approved as a reduction in force. He should have replaced the staff member with the CE. He should be listed as the senior most librarian that was non-tenured with two months to tenure. Again, the judges are being offered lies and deceitful information or maybe the attorneys do not yet understand what happened and the premise of this case, which is possible since they continue to argue and offer responses that are blatantly wrong. Have a good evening.

Mr. Jamal Sharif: Good evening. I have nothing to add. I'm sorry. Thank you very much.

Ms. Sanan Ramadan: Good evening. I'm here today to speak as a voice for many families in this district who are deeply concerned and frankly outraged about the middle school model being pushed forward. Let's be honest, this model has already failed. It failed at Joseph A. Taub. It failed at NRC. Now you want to bring it to School No. 9, School No. 8, and Dr. Hani. How many more schools do you plan to disrupt with a system that has shown time and time again that it does not work? This is not innovation. It's reckless. The parents were not given a vote on this. There is no proof that the Board even voted on this. We do not recall being part of any real decision-making process. We do not believe that this was in the long-term plan for our children's education. This feels rushed, hidden and entirely unethical. We were originally told by a Board member that a member of the staff has been working on this for five years. We have just found out that they were only working on this since August 2024. That's not even a year. This is not a small change. It's a massive life-altering shift for our children and families. Even after attending the forum, we were left with no real answers. There are still no concrete solutions for traffic control, safety, bullying or how our children will be supported in this new environment. You are asking us to trust vague plans and vague predictions. As Mr. Cozart kept repeating, he predicts. Is he psychic now? That's not good enough. You do not build a school system on predictions. You build it on facts, safety and proven success. Let's also be real about why this is being done. This isn't about what's best for our children. This is about saving money. This is about covering up the unethical business the Board of Education has been engaged in behind the scenes. We see it and we're not staying silent anymore. As parents, we teach our children to act with honesty, integrity and respect. We don't see that from the Board members. If you truly believe in those values, you will be transparent. You will be

listening to the community. You will be acting in our children's best interest, not just managing dollars and damage control. We demand that this plan be stopped immediately. Do not move forward with this rushed plan. We want real answers that can prove, not predict, that this will be safe, successful and ethical. Our children are not experiments. Their safety and future are not numbers on a spreadsheet. I would also like to address what Assistant Superintendent Dr. Coy has publicly stated that she brought her child from the suburbs to Paterson to give him an experience. Our children are not experiments. We are not a testing ground for theories. If she felt that coming to Paterson offered her kids something valuable, can we take our children to Essex Falls and give them the same experience? Of course, not! Why should we accept a model that's being pushed on our children without being fully ready? Our kids deserve stability, proper resources and a well thought out plan, not a rush to roll out. Until this district can truly show it's prepared to support this transition in a way that benefits all students, we should not be moving forward. Do better. Be better. Most importantly, listen to us. Comm. Freeman, please do not stay quiet. Keep saying what you want to say because we're here to support you too. Thank you.

Ms. Asma Sheik: Good evening. Tonight, I must speak up for the well-being of our children and the overall safety for the busy traffic in these neighborhoods. It is my belief that this district is not prepared to implement the middle school model being proposed. Rushing into substantial restructuring without securing the proper resources, detailed planning or garnering true community support is not only irresponsible, it's also unfair to our kids. We are asking them to adjust to drastic changes without ensuring that every aspect of their education and safety is fully considered. In addition to the academic implications, there are serious safety concerns. Many of our children are required to walk long distances, often in less secure environments, to reach their schools. This proposal, as it currently stands, does not address their vulnerabilities. The risk to their safety is a burden we cannot ignore. We all want nothing more than a thriving and innovative educational experience for our children. However, innovation should never come at the cost of their well-being. We need a model that guarantees proper resources, responsible planning and enhanced safety measures before asking our kids to adapt to any major change. I urge the Board to reconsider this proposal. Prioritize the safety and security of our students and make decisions that will provide them with a supportive, stable and secure learning environment. Thank you for your attention to these critical matters.

Ms. Amira Abdelhadi: Good evening. My name is Amira Abdelhadi, a graduate of School No. 9 and the older sister of two younger brothers who will be directly impacted by the proposed middle school model. I'm here tonight, not just as an alumna, but as a concerned sibling watching a plan unfold that could seriously disrupt my brother's education, their routine and their sense of security. This isn't just a scheduling change. It's a decision that affects real kids and real families. This new model threatens to split up siblings, forcing older students to attend one school while their younger brothers or sisters go to another, which are far apart. That means students like my brothers will no longer have the stability of being in the same school building. It means more stress for them and for families trying to manage pickup, safety and daily logistics. Even worse, many of these changes were proposed with no real input from the people most affected – students, parents and siblings like me - who will live with the consequences. You claim this is what's best for the district? Best for who, because it's clearly not best for our families, our teachers or our kids. Let's be honest here. Dr. Hanjani was not chosen because it's the best option, but because of its location. The location alone doesn't make it right. The school lacks space, resources and infrastructure needed to properly support our middle schoolers. Meanwhile, schools like School No. 9 that are better suited for this purpose are being ignored. Beyond logistics, let's talk about what makes

our school strong. Our community thrives when students from different backgrounds, languages and cultures learn and grow together. When I heard the ESL teachers from School No. 5 speak about their multicultural environment, I felt proud. That's what our district should be – persevering and uplifting. This plan threatens that. It risks separating students based on programs, creating barriers for English learners and breaking apart the cultural unity that we've worked so hard to build. As a sister, I just want what every family wants – safety, support and consistency for our kids. This plan does the opposite. It creates confusion, disconnect and unnecessary challenges, all under the guise of improvement. I urge you to rethink this model. Don't push ahead with the plan that divides us. Work with the community, not against it. Our voices matter. Our experiences matter. Our students, all of them, deserve better. Thank you.

Ms. Rosie Grant: Good evening, Commissioners, Dr. Newell, staff and community. This evening, I'd like to read a portion of the New Jersey School Board's authority Guide to the Board of Education Meetings. I'll read first and if there's time after I'll comment. The school board is charged with representing the concern of its community, monitoring the educational needs of its students, and creating policies to ensure that its district is well run. It does not operate the district's day-to-day business. That is the job of the Superintendent, the district's salaried chief executive. The school board must vote on and pass items regarding policies, goals, objectives and personnel. It holds the superintendent responsible for implementing and achieving those objectives. The school board should be the court of last resort for the public. Work up the chain of command. For instance, if you have an issue concerning a district employee, first address it with a person directly. If the matter is not resolved, then take it to their immediate supervisor and follow up the chain of command if you are not satisfied. State law requires the board meeting to contain a public comment period. Boards are allowed to establish reasonable restrictions on the time permitted per speaker and when it will allow public comment during its meeting. Comments are generally directed to the meeting chair, usually the school board president. Boards use the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to community concern, not to debate issues or enter into a question-and-answer session with the public. Not all issues brought before the board will be resolved the same day. Public education can be an emotional issue. The school board should strive to maintain a certain level of decorum at its meeting. Many meetings are recorded, streamed online or televised, and students often attend or participate in the meetings. As such, all should maintain a tone of respect and civility. Courteous behavior is extremely important during challenging times. The document is available if you google "Guide to BOE Meetings," and it's on the New Jersey School Boards Association.org. Over the past couple of months, I have seen us drift away from the quorum. There has been some misinformation, and I think this is a call to come back to the way we're supposed to be operating. I also request that Board members appear on camera for a virtual meeting, just as a matter of courtesy. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Ms. Luz Torres: Thank you so much. Good evening, Board members. We now have updated and verified information showing that Dr. Hani was never included in the long-range facilities plan that has been used to justify this middle school structure. Let's be clear, the original five-year plan was established in 2015. Dr. Hani wasn't even open yet. It was still under construction and didn't open until 2016. It's impossible for the school to have been part of the original plan. In 2021, the plan was required to be revised and revisited to include the new middle school model. However, both Dr. Hani and School No. 9 were not mentioned in the revision either. In fact, on page seven on the long range facility plan it clearly states the department has determined that the proposed work is adequate for approval of the district's LRFPA amendment. However, department approval proposed work in the RFP does not imply the district may proceed

with school facilities project. The district must submit individual project applications with cost estimates for department project approval. This means that in order to move forward, the district has to follow project specific applications for approval. No such applications were ever filed for Dr. Hani or School No. 9. The proper steps to implement this middle school model were never taken. Despite this, we as parents were told that the plan cannot be changed. Board Member Eddie Gonzalez and Joel Ramirez stated publicly that this has been decided back in 2021 and that their hands were tied. Now we know this is simply not true. Parents were first informed about this plan in February and that's exactly when things began to be put into motion, not in 2021 as claimed. It happened in February when registration began, when students were reassigned, and where families were left scrambling to understand what was happening, while the district acted as though everything had been settled years ago. Many parents have addressed this Board over the past several months, asking for data, a detailed plan and statistics, only to be told we had to trust the process. Now we understand why those documents were never provided. They never existed. There was no plan for Dr. Hani. There were no approved applications and yet decisions were still made as if they were. If there was never a plan in place, why were parents forced to reregister their children and reassigned to different schools? Why were we told this decision was final when no proper process had been followed? This is not just miscommunication. It's a failure in transparency and leadership. Our children deserve better, and we deserve better. This entire process needs to be paused immediately until the proper procedures are followed and the community is fully informed. I personally, the community and parents hold Board members Eddie Gonzalez and Joel Ramirez accountable for their roles in this situation. They took an oath to serve the public with honesty and integrity. According to the New Jersey School Boards Association Code of Ethics, board members are expected to uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, make decisions based on the educational welfare for our children, refuse to surrender independent judgment to special interests or participate in political groups, and ensure that the public is accurately informed about the district's operations.

Comm. Freeman: There were people texting saying that they signed up to speak at the public portion. They're not on the list, but we just need to tighten that up a little. They're texting and saying that they signed up and their name wasn't called.

**It was moved by Comm. Ramirez, seconded by Comm. Rosado that the Public Comments portion of the meeting be closed. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.**

Comm. Ramirez: I just wanted to real quickly take 10 seconds of our time. Something was brought up to my attention and I wanted to just offer clarity for those that may be confused or don't know procedures or laws or whatever. I just want to clarify to my colleagues and individuals who have questioned my role at last night's City Council meeting. I am not the duly appointed business administrator for the City of Paterson. As many of you know, I am a member of the Mayor's cabinet as Director of Health and Human Services. Last night, I was asked to step up by my supervisor, the Mayor and the Business Administrator, to function as a conduit for the administration as I am a member of the Executive Team of the Mayor. In no way, shape or form did I have any role in any policy or in the executive authority that may affect Paterson Public Schools. Some people were confused. They maybe don't know the rules. Nothing any different from my current role as Director of Health and Human Services, or my predecessor, who was also a member of the cabinet and a member of Paterson Public Schools Board of Education. For those out there wondering and confused, I am not the city's business administrator. I'm a part of the executive team and I was asked to step up to answer

questions, take notes and bring it back to my supervisor, who is the business administrator. I have standing abstentions that pertain to the City of Paterson and other organizations that I serve on their boards, or other employers. I hope that this just clarifies the confusion. I thought that the public and whoever had questions should know this. Thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Items Requiring a Vote**

#### **PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

Comm. Gonzalez presented the minutes of the February 12, 2025, Executive Session, the March 5, 2025, Workshop Meeting, the March 12, 2025, Regular Meeting, the March 17, 2025, Special Meeting, and the March 20, 2025, Emergency Meeting, and asked if there were any questions or comments on the minutes.

**It was moved by Comm. Rosado, seconded by Comm. Rashid that the minutes be accepted with any necessary corrections. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.**

#### **RESOLUTION ITEMS (1-48 and Organization 1-25)**

##### **Resolution No. I&P-1**

Introduction: Approval is being requested to submit the District One Year Preschool Enrollment and Budget Projections Workbook for the 2025-2026 school year;

WHEREAS, The Department of Early Childhood Education's (DECE) goal number 1: the DECE will work to maintain and promote high standards of achievement for all students and DECE goal number 2: will promote accessibility to research and resources to assure quality professional development that is on-going and systematic for all and is aligned to the District's Strategic Plan Goal Area number 1: Teaching and Learning, Goal Area number 3: Communications & Connections, & Goal Area number 4: Social/Emotional Learning;

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School District is required by P.L.2007, c.260 and N.J.A.C. 6A: 13A to offer a preschool program to eligible three- and four-year-old children;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court ordered the implementation of a full-day, full-year preschool services beginning in September 1999 for resident three- and four-year-old children in districts formerly known as Abbott. The Paterson Early Childhood Preschool Program serves approximately 3,400 children throughout 20 Community Providers and 13 in-district sites:

WHEREAS, the District must submit the 2025-2026 Preschool Enrollment and Budget Projections Workbook;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the submission of the 2025-2026 Preschool Enrollment and the Early Childhood budget during the 2024-2025 school year. The total Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 Early Childhood budget is \$65,289,796 consisting of FY 2025-2026 Preschool Education Aid award of

\$49,282,111, prior year Preschool Education Aid carryover of \$12,043,381, and the FY 2024-2025 District preschool disabled contribution of \$3,964,304.

### **Resolution No. I&P-2**

WHEREAS, Goal Area #1: Teaching & Learning Goal Statement: To create a student-centered learning environment to prepare students for career, college readiness and lifelong learning of The Paterson- A Promising Tomorrow Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, On July 31, 2018, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) was signed into law. It went into effect on July 1, 2019. This law reauthorized the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Educational Act of 2006 (Perkins IV); and

WHEREAS, Perkins V is the principal source of federal funding to states for the improvement of secondary and post-secondary career and technical education programs; and

WHEREAS, The mission and vision of the Office of Career Readiness supports districts to ensure all New Jersey students have equitable access to high-quality career and technical education in order to achieve academic and career success aligned to economic opportunities and all students are college and career ready and become productive members in a global society; and

WHEREAS, there is no matching requirements for the Paterson Public Schools for this grant; and

WHEREAS, the 24-25 allocation is \$188,400.00 as per the NJDOE; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Paterson Public Schools District Board of Education approves the intent to amend the FY 24/25 Perkins Secondary Grant Allocation in the amount of \$188,400.00 for the grant period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 for the purposes stated above.

### **Resolution No. I&P-3**

WHEREAS increasing student achievement through effective academic program is Goal 1 of Priority 1 of the Strategic Plan for Paterson Public Schools and creating and sustain partnerships with community organizations, agencies and institutions is Goal 3 of Priority 3; and,

WHEREAS the Board of Education approves to accept grant funding for a grant entitled Consolidated Adult Basic Skills and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education for the purpose described in the application for an anticipated amount of \$1,319,748 for the consortium, and

WHEREAS the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development approved the Paterson Public School District's Application for continuation of funding for July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026, school year, and

WHEREAS there is a matching funds requirement in the minimum amount of \$391,161 that has already been identified within the local adult account funds in FT salaries and benefits, and

WHEREAS the Assistant Superintendent for School Administration will be responsible for the district complying with the terms and conditions of the grant and will make every effort to target grant funds for the academic advancement and achievement of the students and expend the funds in the most effective and efficient manner, now

BE IT RESOLVED that the Paterson Public Schools accept funding from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development to operate the program entitled Consolidated Adult Basic Skills and Integrated English Literacy and Civics, Education at the Paterson Adult & Continuing Education for the project period from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, in the anticipated amount of \$1,319,748.

#### **Resolution No. I&P-4**

Introduction: Approval is being requested to accept and administer NJDOE grant funds for summer enrichment materials to support families of preschoolers.

WHEREAS, goal number one of the Department of Early Childhood Education is to maintain and promote high standards of achievement for all students and is aligned to the District's Strategic Plan Goal Area Number 1- Teaching and Learning, Goal Area Number 3-Communications & Connections, and Goal Area Number 4- Social/Emotional Learning;

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJ DOE) provides grant funds to school districts through its Wrap Around Services Enhancement Grant to help families offset cost-sharing for before-school, after school during the 2024- 2025 school year, or summer enrichment materials to support families of preschoolers;

WHEREAS, the District is responsible for administering these grant funds and purchasing summer enrichment materials to eligible students attending preschool either In-District, at private preschool providers or Head Start Programs in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$346,236;

WHEREAS, each eligible Paterson preschool student will receive summer enrichment materials to be kept and worked on at home.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District accepts the NJDOE Wrap Around Services Enhancement Grant during the 2024-2025 school year in a total amount not to exceed \$346,236.

#### **Resolution No. I&P-5**

WHEREAS, Paterson-Promising Tomorrow Strategic Plan, Goal 1: Teaching and Learning to create a student-centered learning environment to prepare students for career, college readiness, and lifelong learning.

WHEREAS, Meadowlands Environmental Center has underwritten a grant to provide bus transportation to schools across the state for field trips and learning experiences.

WHEREAS, this grant will provide Paterson students with transportation to the Meadowlands Environmental Center. Teachers and students will attend a culminating event from the climate change education programs implemented this year. Students and teachers will showcase their projects and activities. They will also participate in hands-on activities and walks highlighting climate change.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Paterson Board of Education approves the acceptance of grant funds from Meadowlands Environmental Center, totaling up to \$32,000 (\$700 per school), to support all district schools by offsetting transportation costs for related field trips during the 2024-2025 school year.

#### **Resolution No. I&P-6**

WHEREAS, SodexoMagic Food Service Management Company on behalf of PPS Food Services Department and the Department of Family and Community Engagement, partnered with Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) to support the backpack program and other initiatives to fight hunger in Paterson.

WHEREAS, BMS donated to the Paterson Board of Education (Department of Family and Community Engagement) funding in the amount of \$6,000.00.

WHEREAS, the awarded grant funds are to be used to purchase food for needy parents/families within the Paterson community.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that The Paterson Board of Education, on behalf of the Department Family and Community Engagement, ACCEPTS the funds offered by The SodexoMagic Stop Hunger Foundation, in the amount of \$6,000.00.

#### **Resolution No. I&P-7**

WHEREAS, SodexoMagic Food Service Management Company partnered with PPS Food Services Department and the Department of Family and Community Engagement to apply for a "backpack" grant in the amount of \$1,000.00.

WHEREAS, The SodexoMagic awarded Paterson Board of Education (Department of Family and Community Engagement) funding in the amount of \$1,000.00.

WHEREAS, the awarded grant funds are to be used to purchase food for needy parents/families within the Paterson community.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that The Paterson Board of Education, on behalf of the Department Family and Community Engagement, ACCEPTS the funds offered by The SodexoMagic Stop Hunger Foundation, in the amount of \$1,000.00.

#### **Resolution No. I&P-8**

WHEREAS, Paterson-Promising Tomorrow Strategic Plan, Goal 1: Teaching and Learning to create a student-centered learning environment to prepare students for career, college readiness, and lifelong learning.

WHEREAS the attached document indicates the project description and objective and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is aligned to the student learning objectives determined by the New Jersey Department of Education's New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science.

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public Schools Board of Education approves Paterson Public Schools of the State of New Jersey and authorizes the acceptance and use of the 2,000 grant for a School Garden.

**Resolution No. I&P-9**

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public Schools Strategic Plan, Goal Area #1: Teaching and Learning is to create a student-centered learning environment to prepare students for career, college readiness and lifelong learning;

WHEREAS, the Benchmark Education Advance and Adelante materials for grades Kindergarten - fifth, provide a comprehensive program for all students focused on literacy development, And;

WHEREAS, the Benchmark materials will allow for print and digital access to engage in deeper learning of the content with access to interactive assignments, learning support and assessments featuring adaptable, interactive, and equitable learning opportunities to support reading, writing and critical thinking skills in English and Spanish available 24/7 via the digital platform beginning full implementation September 2025 through June 30, 2031, And;

WHEREAS, the materials used have been curated to ensure inclusivity in content and in alignment with NJSLs, And

WHEREAS, according to 18A:18A-5(5). Exceptions to the requirement for advertising. Any contract, the amount of which exceeds the bid threshold, shall be negotiated, and awarded by the Board of Education by resolution at a public meeting without public advertising for bids and bidding for Library and educational goods and services

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the purchase of Benchmark Advance/Adelante for implementation beginning in the 25-26 school year, at a total cost of \$4,021,171.50, with payments to be made over three years as per the below.

Year	Cost
25-26	\$1,500,000.00
26-27	\$1,260,585.75
27-28	\$1,260,585.75

**Resolution No. I&P-10**

WHEREAS, Alexander Hamilton Academy, request authorization to occasionally bring one or more therapy dogs into the school for the benefit of their students dealing with grief, Loss and separation.

WHEREAS, documented benefits from working or visiting with a therapy dog include reduced stress, improved physical and emotional well-being, Low blood pressure, decreased anxiety, improved self-esteem and normalization of the environment, lowering stress levels thus improving academic achievement, creating space for students to gain comfort thereby taking their mind off of emotion stressors ; and learning to cope with various forms of grief, Loss, and separation as reflected in District Goal 4 Social- Emotional Learning Objectives 1, 3 and, 4.

WHEREAS, Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs Inc. will be required to sign a written statement agreeing to comply with various standards and procedures;

WHEREAS, Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs Inc. will also supply an insurance certificate naming the District as an additional insured, and documenting liability coverage for the therapy dog and its handler(s), with policy Limits not Less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and an annual aggregate limit not less than \$3,000,000;

WHEREAS, the School Principal Cosmo Braico will provide written notification to parents of students who may be in contact with the therapy dog(s), outlining appropriate accommodations for students who are allergic to or fearful of dogs and appropriate etiquette for interacting with therapy dogs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the use of therapy dogs at Alexander Hamilton Academy, during the 2025-2027 school year, subject to the conditions described here, at NO COST the District.

### **Resolution No. I&P-11**

WHEREAS, Girls on the Run inspires girls in grades 3-5 and Heart and Sole is for girls grade 6-8 to develop confidence and other important life skills through dynamic lessons, goal setting and teamwork. Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based positive youth development program designed to enhance girls' social, emotional, and physical skills. The program emphasizes developing confidence, character, caring and contribution in young girls through lessons that incorporate running and other physical activities. Girls on the Run combines both life skills learning and physical activity.

WHEREAS, School 20 would like an opportunity to have a chapter of Girls on the Run to continue the mission of Girls on the Run which is to build emotional skills, fitness and create relationships between girls in the program and their coaches.

WHEREAS, the total cost for School 20 to participate in collaboration with Girls on the Run is \$2,700. The cost for each child participating will be \$30. There will be a total of 12 participants. The school will donate to the organization \$940 from the student account through fund raisers. The remainder of the \$1,400 will be covered by the Girls on the Run organization through scholarship funding.

WHEREAS, the Board in collaboration with school 20 has determined this program will benefit the girl's social, emotional, and physical well being.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that School 20 will host a Girls on the Run chapter.

### **Resolution No. I&P-12**

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for complying with the New Jersey purchasing laws for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Federal Programs determined that the District has a need for Summer Bridge Essentials Backpacks (OW) compliance services and provided the technical specifications for the bid process for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026 school years; and

WHEREAS, twelve (12) vendors were mailed/e-mailed bid specifications (the list is available for review in the Purchasing Department), which three (3) vendors responded to the district's solicitation; and

WHEREAS, this solicitation was made by advertised public notice appearing in the Bergen Record and the North Jersey Herald News on January 31, 2025. Sealed bids were opened and read aloud on February 20, 2025, at 11:00 am at 90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07503 by the Purchasing Department, via Zoom (Virtual); and

WHEREAS, as per the attached bid summary, the Departments of Federal Programs and Purchasing recommend that the bid for Summer Bridge Essentials Backpacks (OW), PPS-194-25, be awarded to the lowest, responsive, and responsible bidder for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026 school years to the following vendor:

Primary	Secondary
<b>Carson Dellosa Publishing.</b> d.b.a Carson Dellosa Education 657-A Brigham Road Greensboro, North Carolina, 27409	<b>Staples Contract &amp; Commercial</b> 500 Staples Drive Framingham, MA 07102

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Paterson -A Promising Tomorrow Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Area #1: Teaching & Learning: To create a student-centered learning environment to prepare students for career, college readiness and lifelong learning

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools supports the above mentioned recommendation that Summer Bridge Essential Backpacks (DW) PPS-194-25 be awarded a contract for the 2024-2025-,2025-2026 school years not to exceed \$400,000.00 annually.

**Resolution No. I&P-13**

WHEREAS, this supports Paterson-Promising Tomorrow Strategic Plan includes the following:

**Goal Area # 1: Teaching and Learning** - to create a student-centered learning environment to prepare students for career, college readiness, and lifelong learning. Objective # 3: Empower educators to integrate the arts in all areas of learning, utilizing innovative activities, and partnerships and incorporating students' learning styles and differentiated instruction.

**Goal Area # 3: Communications and Connections-** to establish viable partnerships with parents, educational institutions, and community organizations to support Paterson Public Schools educational programs, advance student achievement, and enhance communication. Objective # 1: Support schools' current community-based mentorship programs that assist in character-building and academic growth and assist in establishing new community partnerships with adult mentoring for students in grades 6-12 that will promote character-building, improve student achievement, and reduce chronic absenteeism.

**Goal Area # 4: Social-Emotional Learning-** to build the capacity of all stakeholders to address the social and emotional needs of the students and staff through professional development, instruction, and support services. Objective # 1: Create a culture that recognizes the need to educate the whole child by meeting their social, emotional, academic, and physical needs

WHEREAS, Director, Carla Brothers agrees to provide the normal services associated

with the direction of a musical play, which may include but is not limited to, supervising and conducting auditions, casting actors, participating in production meetings, consulting with the musical director, choreographer, set designer, costume designer, stage crew and other personnel; And

WHEREAS, School 24 Fine & Performing Arts (Producer) will compensate Carla Brothers (Director) School 24 Fine & Performing Arts (Producer) for the services as follows: a nonrefundable fee of \$10,275 which will be payable as follows: \$5137.50 due and payable on the first day of student auditions, March 3, 2025, and \$5137.50 due and payable on the last day of performances, June 6, 2025, And

WHEREAS, The 150 total hours will be divided over the months of March to June in a manner that best aligns with student schedules and rehearsal availability, Mondays and Fridays. This schedule takes into account school closures for holidays; Spring Break April 14-18, 2025; and early dismissals. March 3-31: 36 hours April 1-30: 31 hours May 1-30: 52 hours June 2-6: 31 hours Total hours: 150 (Original quote: 137 hours -- donating 13 hours)

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education approves the agreement with Carla Brothers (Director) for School 24 Fine & Performing Arts (Producer) Program's Production of "Disney's High School Musical".

#### **Resolution No. I&P-14**

WHEREAS, this supports the Five-Year Strategic Plan for Paterson Public Schools Goal Area #3: Communications & Connections Goal Statement: To establish viable partnerships with parents, educational institutions, and community organizations to support Paterson Public Schools educational programs, advance student achievement and enhance communication,

WHEREAS, the intent of this action is to provide all the students of Renaissance One School of Humanities with an end of the school year carnival on School 1 grounds with games and attractions provided by Party Perfect Rentals, LLC, which will enhance the entire school community and celebrate student successes throughout the year to be held on School 1 grounds on June 12, 2025 (with rain dates TBD)

THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, that the Paterson Board of Education approves the agreement for at a cost not to exceed \$ \$4,657.50.

#### **Resolution No. I&P-15**

WHEREAS, the District's priority under the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan is to promote student-centered teaching and learning, and the Department of Special Education has aligned its programs to meet this priority;

WHEREAS, the District is required to identify, evaluate, and address the unique educational needs of each student with a disability;

WHEREAS, consistent with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-5.1(c)(l), the District may contract for the provision of related services by private providers who are appropriately licensed and credentialed according to State statutes and rules;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the following contracts with private providers of 1:1 nursing services, effective March 18, 2025

through June 30, 2025 at an annual cost not to exceed the amounts listed:

<b>Nursing Services Provider Name</b>	<b>Cost Per Day</b>	<b>ESY Days</b>	<b>RSY Days</b>	<b>Total Days</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
PREFERRED HOME HEALTH - ZE 5272220 / 527205 KS	\$552	-	123	123	\$67,896.00
<b>Total Cost Not to Exceed:</b>					<b>\$67,896.00</b>

**Resolution No. I&P-16**

WHEREAS, the District's priority under the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan is to promote student-centered teaching and learning, and the Department of Special Education has aligned its programs to meet this priority;

WHEREAS, the District is required to identify, evaluate, and address the unique educational needs of each student with a disability;

WHEREAS, consistent with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-5.1(c)(l), the District may contract for the provision of related services by private providers who are appropriately licensed and credentialed according to State statutes and rules;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the following contracts with private providers of 1:1 nursing services, effective April 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025 at an annual cost not to exceed the amounts listed:

<b>Nursing Services Provider Name</b>	<b>Cost Per Day</b>	<b>ESY Days</b>	<b>RSY Days</b>	<b>Total Days</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
PREFERRED HOME HEALTH – JL 5251509	\$552	-	52	52	\$28,704.00
<b>Total Cost Not to Exceed:</b>					<b>\$28,704.00</b>

**Resolution No. I&P-17**

WHEREAS, the District's priority under the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan is to promote student-centered teaching and learning, and the Department of Special Education has aligned its programs to meet this priority;

WHEREAS, the District is required to provide a free, appropriate public education for all students, including special education services and placements that are tailored to the unique needs of students with disabilities;

WHEREAS, students whose Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) warrant out-of-district placement are entitled to attend receiving schools free of charge, at the District's expense, pursuant to a written contract concerning the tuition charges, costs, terms, conditions, services and programs to be provided for each student;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the following tuition contracts with out-of-district schools for students with disabilities, effective July 1, 2024

through June 30, 2025 (including ESY), at an annual cost not to exceed the amounts listed:

School Name	RSY, ESY, or 1:1	# Students	# Days	Per Diem Rate	Requisition #	Account Number	Total Tuition <u>Not to Exceed</u>
BCSS – Brownstone School	RSY	1	105	\$370.80	5937	11.000.100.565	\$38,937.00
BCSS – Visions H.S.	RSY	1	91	\$365.65	6029	11.000.100.565	\$33,274.15
Deron School (The)	RSY	1	94	\$382.77	6021	11.000.100.566	\$35,980.38
East Mountain School	RSY	1	91	\$500.00	6027	11.000.100.566	\$45,500.00
FedCap School	RSY	1	118	\$495.00	6034	11.000.100.566	\$58,410.00
FedCap School	1.1 Aide	1	118	\$220.00	6034	11.000.100.566	\$25,960.00
Felician School	1.1 Aide	1	98	\$225.00	5928	11.000.100.566	\$22,050.00
Felician School	RSY	1	96	\$365.34	5928	11.000.100.566	\$35,072.64
Felician School	RSY	1	78	\$365.34	6136	11.000.100.566	\$28,496.52
Felician School	1.1 Aide	1	78	\$225.00	6136	11.000.100.566	\$17,550.00
Green Brook Academy	RSY	1	82	\$492.85	6089	11.000.100.566	\$40,413.70
High Point School	RSY	1	83	\$345.08	6025	11.000.100.566	\$28,641.64
New Jersey Elks (NJEDDA)	RSY	1	111	\$425.83	5927	11.000.100.566	\$47,267.13
Phoenix Center (The)	RSY	1	95	\$449.78	5926	11.000.100.566	\$42,729.10
Phoenix Center (The)	1.1 Aide	1	95	\$190.00	5926	11.000.100.566	\$18,050.00
Phoenix Center (The)	RSY	1	71	\$449.78	6206	11.000.100.566	\$31,934.38
Phoenix Center (The)	1.1 Aide	1	71	\$190.00	6206	11.000.100.566	\$13,490.00
Ridgefield Board of Education	RSY/PT	1	129	\$90.00	6078	11.000.216.320	\$11,610.00
Ridgefield Board of Education	RSY	2	100	\$306.53	6078	11.000.100.562	\$61,307.62
Ridgefield Board of Education	RSY/PT	2	40	\$90.00	6078	11.000.216.320	\$7,200.00
Ridgefield Board of Education	RSY/OT	2	40	\$90.00	6078	11.000.216.320	\$7,200.00
YCS-George Washington School	RSY	1	95	\$469.00	6201	11.000.100.566	\$44,555.00
						Total:	\$ 695,629.26

**Resolution No. I&P-18**

WHEREAS, the District’s priority under the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan is to promote student-centered teaching and learning, and the Department of Special Education has aligned its programs to meet this priority;

WHEREAS, the District is required to provide a free, appropriate public education for all students, including special education services and placements that are tailored to the unique needs of students with disabilities;

WHEREAS, students whose Individualized Education Plans (IEP’s) warrant out-of-district placement are entitled to attend receiving schools free of charge, at the District’s expense, pursuant to a written contract concerning the tuition charges, costs, terms, conditions, services and programs to be provided for each student;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the following tuition contracts with out-of-district schools for students with disabilities, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 (including ESY), at an annual cost not to exceed the amounts listed:

School Name	RSY, ESY, or 1:1	# Students	# Days	Per Diem Rate	Requisition #	Account Number	Total Tuition <u>Not to Exceed</u>
BCSS – Venture Program	RSY	1	76	\$527.30	5364	11.000.100.565	\$40,074.80
Essex Valley School	RSY	1	72	\$475.00	6386	11.000.100.566	\$34,200.00
Fed Cap School	RSY/1.1 Aide	1	180	\$220.00	6311	11.000.100.566	\$39,600.00
Felician School	RSY	1	69	\$365.34	6489	11.000.100.566	\$25,208.46
Forum School (The)	RSY	2	76	\$463.00	6052	11.000.100.566	\$70,376.00
Forum School (The)	RSY/1.1 Aide	2	76	\$265.00	6052	11.000.100.566	\$40,280.00
South Bergen Jointure	RSY	1	4.83	\$7,424.00	6055	11.000.100.562	\$35,857.92
Woods Services	RSY/1.1 Aide	1	102	\$253.50	6282	11.000.100.569	\$25,857.00
						Total:	\$ 311,454.18

**Resolution No. I&P-19**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (Board) previously adopted Resolution # I&P-54 on 8/16/2023, approving various tuition contracts with out-of-district schools for students with disabilities for the 2023-2024 school year;

WHEREAS, several of the previously approved tuition contracts were later revised based on changes in the student's Individualized Education Plans (IEP's), including dates of attendance, related services, and/or Extended School Year services; and

WHEREAS, the District now must enter into amended tuition contracts to reflect the changes described herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the following amended tuition contracts with out-of-district schools for students with disabilities, effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024 (including ESY), at an annual cost not to exceed the amounts listed:

School Name	Student ID	Previously Approved Tuition/Aide Total	Amended Tuition Total <u>Not to Exceed</u>	Account Number
New Road School (Decrease Days)	2057055	\$67,310.10	\$58,335.42	11.000.100.566
North Jersey Elks (NJEDDA) (Tuition)	5214531	\$91,457.10	\$84,488.94	11.000.100.566
North Jersey Elks (NJEDDA) (1.1 Aide)	5214531	\$36,860.00	\$33,820.00	11.000.100.566
The High Point School	5266673	\$71,776.64	\$62,114.40	11.000.100.566
			Total:	\$238,758.76

**Resolution No. I&P-20**

WHEREAS, the District's priority under the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan is to promote student-centered teaching and learning, and the Department of Special Education has aligned its programs to meet this priority;

WHEREAS, homeless children temporarily residing in the City of Paterson are eligible to enroll in District schools pursuant to the Stewart B. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which is codified at 42 U.S.C. §§ 11431, et seq.;

WHEREAS, Boards of education of sending districts whose students are enrolled in District schools are required to reimburse the District for tuition and transportation costs pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-19 and N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.3; and

WHEREAS, the District intends to enter into various tuition contracts with sending districts that are responsible for the education of students who resided there before becoming homeless and enrolling in the District's schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the following McKinney-Vento tuition contracts to receive reimbursement from sending districts, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025:

School District Name	Student ID	# RSY Days	# ESY Days	Per Diem Rate	Total Reimbursement to PPS
Clifton Public School District	SS 5217825 (MID)	99	20	\$236.21	\$28,108.99
Dover Public School District	JM 5254312 (NC)	71	-	\$102.02	\$7,243.42
Elizabeth Public Schools	MHR 5262009 (S-LLD)	62	20	\$113.78	\$9,329.96
Irvington Public School District	AM 5215442 (NC)	53	-	\$101.46	\$5,377.38
Irvington Public School District	KC 5251849 (NC)	41	-	\$102.02	\$4,182.82
Irvington Public School District	ZL 5220666 (NC)	41	-	\$100.38	\$4,115.58
Irvington Public School District	ALB 5215278 (NC)	41	-	\$101.46	\$4,159.86
Irvington Public School District	HC 5254322 (NC)	40	-	\$102.02	\$4,080.80
Irvington Public School District	TT 5256551 (NC)	40	-	\$102.02	\$4,080.80
Irvington Public School District	QT 5224710 (NC)	40	-	\$100.38	\$4,015.20
Irvington Public School District	MT 5215906 (NC)	40	-	\$101.46	\$4,058.40
Irvington Public School District	ZC 5210538 (NC)	40	-	\$101.46	\$4,058.40
Lyndhurst Public School District	AG 5205913 (SLD)	146	-	\$101.46	\$14,813.16
Wayne Township Public School District	MP 5233975 (NC)	72	-	\$100.38	\$7,227.36
West Essex Regional School District	JS 5219524 (NC)	59	-	\$100.38	\$5,922.42
West Essex Regional School District	KS 5211333 (SLD)	59	-	\$101.46	\$5,986.14
West Essex Regional School District	DS 2061193 (MID)	59	-	\$157.09	\$9,268.31
<b>Total:</b>					<b>\$126,029.00</b>

### Resolution No. I&P-21

WHEREAS, the District's priority under the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan is to promote student-centered teaching and learning, and the Department of Special Education has aligned its programs to meet this priority;

WHEREAS, homeless children temporarily residing in the City of Paterson are eligible to enroll in District schools pursuant to the Stewart B. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which is codified at 42 U.S.C. §§ 11431, et seq.;

WHEREAS, Boards of education of sending districts whose students are enrolled in District schools are required to reimburse the District for tuition and transportation costs pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-19 and N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.3; and

WHEREAS, the District intends to enter into various tuition contracts with sending districts that are responsible for the education of students who resided there before becoming homeless and enrolling in the District's schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the following McKinney-Vento tuition contracts to receive reimbursement from sending districts, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025:

School District Name	Student ID	# RSY Days	# ESY Days	Per Diem Rate	Total Reimbursement to PPS
Jefferson Township Public School District	NR 5228347 (NC)	92	-	\$100.38	\$9,234.96
Irvington Public School District	TB 5266885 (NC)	86	-	\$102.02	\$8,773.72
Irvington Public School District	TB 5266886 (NC)	86	-	\$102.02	\$8,773.72
Irvington Public School District	TB 5233789 (NC)	86	-	\$102.02	\$8,773.72
Irvington Public School District	BB 5226316 (NC)	86	-	\$100.38	\$8,632.68
Irvington Public School District	BB 5220229 (NC)	86	-	\$100.38	\$8,632.68
Irvington Public School District	ZB 5202355 (MD)	86	20	\$168.81	\$17,893.86
<b>Total:</b>					<b>\$70,715.34</b>

**Resolution No. I&P-22**

WHEREAS, the District's priority under the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan is to promote student-centered teaching and learning, and the Department of Special Education has aligned its programs to meet this priority;

WHEREAS, homeless children from Paterson who temporarily reside outside the city are eligible to enroll in the public schools of another school district pursuant to the Stewart B. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which is codified at 42 U.S.C. §§ 11431, et seq.;

WHEREAS, the District is required to pay tuition and transportation costs to boards of education of receiving districts where homeless children from Paterson are enrolled, according to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-19 and N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.3; and

WHEREAS, the District intends to enter into tuition contracts with various boards of education that enroll students who lived in Paterson before becoming homeless and enrolling in the receiving district's schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the following McKinney-Vento tuition contracts with receiving districts, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025:

School District Name	Student ID	# Days	Per Diem Rate	Total Payment <u>Not to Exceed</u>
Hanover Township Public School District	RMR 5216844 (AUT)	185	\$171.22	\$31,675.25
Hanover Township Public School District	YS 5243588 (NC)	185	\$171.22	\$31,675.25
<b>Total:</b>				<b>\$63,350.50</b>

### **Resolution No. I&P-23**

WHEREAS, the mission vision, goals, and objectives of the Five-Year Strategic Plan "Paterson-A Promising Tomorrow." Recognizing traditions and diverse community partnerships. The Paterson Public School District is to provide an academically rigorous, safe, and nurturing educational environment; by meeting the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students as we prepare them for post-secondary education and career. *Goal Area# 1: Teaching & Learning- To create a student-centered learning environment to prepare students for career, college readiness and lifelong learning.*

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public Schools is committed to providing student enrichment through various programs, initiatives and wishes to provide students with the opportunity to learn beyond the traditional school atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the District is committed to exposing student-athletes to opportunities that can further their personal, athletic and social development in various areas, therefore, the team requests that the Board support the efforts of student participation in this trip which will assist in team building and the efforts of promoting good health, physical fitness positive leadership and sportsmanship,

WHEREAS, the proposed trip in which students voluntarily take part will include daily participation in track relay events held at the University of Pennsylvania, Franklin Field, 233 South 33rd St., Philadelphia, P.A.

WHEREAS, transportation to and from The Penn Relays Carnival held at the University of Pennsylvania, Franklin Field. Philadelphia, P.A and the Staybridge Suites, Mount Laurel, New Jersey will be provided by Aldin Transportation,

WHEREAS, that the Board of Education shall remit payment as part of the District's regular bill list, upon the submission and approval of invoice and proper execution by Aid in Transportation and Staybridge Suites through district vouchers and other documents which may be required by the proper fiscal management of the public school district; and

1. Hotel cost, \$2,876.60/Account # 15-402-100-500-051-000-0000-000
2. Transportation cost, \$5,390 (1bus/round trip)/ Account # 15-000-270-512-051-000-0402-000
3. Total cost: \$8,266.60

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, which the Board of Education approves the overnight field trip to the Penn Relays Carnival to be held April 23, 2025, through April 26, 2025. It is affirmed that the coaching staff is paid as per P.E.A. contract, as this is a part of their regular coaching assignment. They are as follows: Head Coaches Edward Hamilton and Chamekea Davis Assistant Coaches, Morris Mckenzie, Chaheen Payne.

### **Resolution No. I&P-24**

WHEREAS, PS 12 grade 8 students will visit historic landmarks in Washington D.C, to engage in experimental learning and make connections to real life scenarios.

WHEREAS, Goal Area #3: Communication & Connections: During the two-day, one night trip from May 27, 2025 to May 28, 2025, PS 12 students will travel to Washington D.C. Students will visit historical landmarks to make a connection and bring relevance to the contribution of immigrants and how they make a difference in the world.

WHEREAS, The PS 12 grade 8 students will attend museums, the national monument and landmarks over the two days to learn of the founding father and other historic American figures. Figures that have helped shape the country so that they may analyze how ordinary citizens and children of immigrants have prepared themselves to make a difference in the world.

WHEREAS, The trip will include 8th grade students and 5 teachers. It is being organized by our middle school staff; they will coordinate lodging and transportation. Staff and students will be lodging at Embassy Suites by Hilton Alexandria Old Town located at 1900 Diagnol Rd, Alexandria, VA 22314.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Paterson Public Schools District approve this educational opportunity for the 8th grade students of PS 12 at no cost to the district on May 27-28, 2025. Total cost of the field trip is \$8,032.33; funding source Student Activity Account.

### **Resolution No. I&P-25**

WHEREAS, the districts' 5 Year Strategic Plan: Paterson- A Promising Tomorrow's Goal 1 is to create a student- centered learning environment to prepare students for career, college readiness and lifelong learning, and;

WHEREAS, field trips afford students a firsthand educational experience that is not available in the classroom, and;

WHEREAS, the Assistant Superintendents have approved/recommended the addition of the attached field trip locations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Paterson Board of Education accepts the addition of the attached list of approved destinations as appropriate field trip sites for the students of the Paterson Public Schools for the 2024-2025 school year.

### **Resolution No. O-26**

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the District, as per the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, A Promising Tomorrow, to provide an academically rigorous, safe, and nurturing educational environment by meeting the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students as we prepare them for post-secondary education and career; and

WHEREAS, building capacity of all stakeholders to address the social and emotional needs of the students and staff through professional development, instruction and support services is Goal # 4: Social - Emotional Learning of the Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the District will contract with QBS - Quality Behavioral Solutions, whom are fully licensed and qualified to provide professional development services of Safety-Care, to train and recertify district personnel to become trainers who will train district personnel. The training will recertify district personnel to train stakeholders on Incident prevention, Incident minimization, and Incident management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District approves an agreement to provide payment to QBS for providing professional development to recertify 4 District staff members to become trainers/instructors whom will train district stakeholders on Safety-Care processes and procedures. Staff will participate in a 1-day training onsite at Paterson Public School District.

**2024-2025 School Year**

QBS - \$3,196 (\$799 each) to train and recertify 4 stakeholders.

**Resolution No. O-27**

WHEREAS, this program supports the *Five Year Strategic Plan Goal Area #1: To create a student-centered learning environment to prepare students for career, college readiness and lifelong learning, and*

WHEREAS, to provide Paterson School District teacher, with Professional Development to incorporate WBL and Real life experience in lessons, and

WHEREAS, a hybrid instructional method will occur in real-time online and/or in person using one of the following platforms: Zoom. Google Classroom. GoToMeeting, or Blackboard. Teacher will attend a series of Professional Development to build upon the skills needed to instruct students in CTE class setting, and

WHEREAS, the goal is to give teachers access to robust resources and strategies to provide instruction to students. The resources will assist teachers in providing students with real-world, (Work Based Experiences), robust career experiences through exposure to professional trades, academic learning, and concrete skills to become competitive in the job market. Two Professional Development sessions will take place.

24-25 Year	Cost
Session 1	3,000.00
Session 2	3,000.00

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Paterson Board of Education approves the partnership with C4Synergy to provide Professional Development to teachers for the 24-25 school year at a cost not to exceed \$6,000.00.

**Resolution No. O-28**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and the State District Superintendent support N.J.S.A 18A:37- et. Seq. by prohibiting acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of our students grades Pre-K thru 12 and

WHEREAS, Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (HIB) means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents, and

WHEREAS, the law requires a thorough and complete investigation to be conducted for each report of an alleged incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and

WHEREAS, the chief school administrator is required to report the results of each HIB investigation to the Board of Education for review and approval of any consequences imposed under the student code of conduct, intervention services provided, counseling ordered, training established or other action taken or recommended by the chief school administrator, and

WHEREAS, at the regularly scheduled board of education meeting following its receipt of the report or following a hearing in executive session, the board shall issue a decision, in writing to affirm, reject, or modify the chief school administrator's decision,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education has reviewed the HIB Investigations for the month of February 2025 in which there was a total of 29 incidents reported, 8 founded, 21 unfounded.

#### **Resolution No. O-29**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and the State District Superintendent support N.J.S.A 18A:37- et. Seq. by prohibiting acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of our students grades Pre-K thru 12 and

WHEREAS, Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (HIB) means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents, and

WHEREAS, the law requires a thorough and complete investigation to be conducted for each report of an alleged incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and

WHEREAS, the chief school administrator is required to report the results of each HIB investigation to the Board of Education for review and approval of any consequences imposed under the student code of conduct, intervention services provided, counseling ordered, training established or other action taken or recommended by the chief school administrator, and

WHEREAS, at the regularly scheduled board of education meeting following its receipt of the report or following a hearing in executive session, the board shall issue a decision, in writing to affirm, reject, or modify the chief school administrator's decision,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education has reviewed the HIB Investigations for the month of March 2025 in which there was a total of 13 incidents reported, 6 founded, 7 unfounded.

#### **Resolution No. F-30**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the list of bills and claims dated through April 9, 2025, beginning with check number 247445 and ending with check number 247891, along with direct deposit numbers 2424 through 2434, in the amount of \$26,451,169.39, and wires in the amount of \$479,212.08, for a total of \$26,930,381.47; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that each claim or demand has been fully itemized, verified and has been duly audited as required by law in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-2.

#### **Resolution No. F-31**

WHEREAS, the School Business Administrator, pursuant to 18A:22-8.1, has prepared and presented for approval the monthly transfer report 1701, for the month of February 2025, and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:23A-13.3 requires the Board Secretary and the Board of Education to certify that no budgetary line item account has

been over-expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations, all transfers were fully executed consistent with code and policy prior to obligating funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves transfer of funds within the 2024-2025 school year budget, for the month of February 2025, so that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations, as requested by various budget managers, and as identified in the list of transfers attached hereto and shall be made part of the minutes. Furthermore, the transfers were approved by the Department of Education.

### **Resolution No. F-32**

WHEREAS, the School Business Administrator, pursuant to 18A:17-9, has prepared and presented the Board Secretary Report, A-148, for the month of February 2025, and

WHEREAS, the School Board Administrator certifies, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A-23A-16.10(c)(3), that no line item or program category account has been over expended, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary's Report is in agreement with the Treasurer's Report, A-149, and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary's Report is subject to adjustments following annual audit and Department of Education directions regarding Fund 15's School Based Budgets, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Paterson Public Schools acknowledges receipt and certifies the Board Secretary Report for February 2025 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A-23A-16.10(c)(4), acknowledging no line items or program category account has been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Paterson Public Schools hereby incorporates the Board Secretary's Report for the fiscal period ending February 2025, as part of the minutes of this meeting and note the public discussion of same for the minutes; and, that the School Business Administrator be directed to forward to the County Superintendent the minutes together with Treasurer's Report, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

### **Resolution No. F-33**

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary, pursuant to 18A:17-9, has prepared and presented the monthly reconciliation of bank account statements, for the month of February 2025, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Paterson Public Schools acknowledges receipt of the Reconciliation Report for February 2025 and acknowledges agreement with the February 2025 Board Secretary's Report, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Paterson Public Schools hereby incorporates the Reconciliation Report for the fiscal period ending February 2025, as part of the minutes of this meeting and note the public discussion of same for the minutes; and, that the School Business Administrator be directed to forward to the County Superintendent the minutes together with Reconciliation Report, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

**Resolution No. F-34**

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School approves payment for the gross payroll checks and direct deposits dated 3/14/25 in the grand sum of **\$121,669.75 (Wellness Payments)** beginning with check number 1021595 and ending with check number 1021602 and direct deposit number D003697053 and ending with D003697445.

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School approves payment for the gross payroll checks and direct deposits dated 3/14/25 in the grand sum of **\$13,893,837.55** beginning with check number 1021594 and 1021603 and ending with check number 1021784 and direct deposit number 0003697446 and ending with 0003702184.

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School approves payment for the gross payroll checks and direct deposits dated 3/28/25 in the grand sum of **\$13,302,641.16** beginning with check number 1021785 and ending with check number 1021971 and direct deposit number D003702185 and ending with D003706666.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that each claim or demand has been fully itemized, verified and has been duly audited as required by law in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-2.

**Resolution No. F-35**

Whereas, the State of New Jersey School Development Authority (NJSDA) has granted the Paterson Public Schools with a FY 25 Emergent Capital Maintenance Needs Grant in the amount of \$3,413,177; and

Whereas, the funds will be used for the locations and maintenance needs listed below; and

PS 10	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Girls and Boys bathrooms Site Improvement (blacktop replacement, sidewalk replacement, new retaining wall, and new fencing) Fire Escape	\$480,000 \$700,000 \$100,000
Dale Avenue	Elevator Replacement	\$550,000
PS 19	Roof Replace Entrance Door Replacement	\$593,999 \$37,726
Rosa Park	Replace Cafeteria RTU	\$106,000
ORC	Replace 4 Univents	\$250,000
EHS	Phase 2 Blacktop/Concrete Paving	\$420,000
PS 28	Phase 2 Blacktop/Concrete Paving	\$100,000
PS 6	Entrance Doors Replacement	\$37,726
PS 21	Entrance Doors Replacement	\$37,726

Whereas, the District will utilize its allocated portion of the Designated Funding to pay for expenses for emergent projects (as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.14) and capital maintenance projects or maintenance costs (as defined in N.J.S.A 18A:7G-3); and

Whereas; the funds will be expended within 365 calendar days from receipt. In the event there are unexpended funds after 365 days the District shall notify the NJSDA in writing to determine an appropriate remedy; and

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Paterson Public Schools accepts the NJSDA FY 25 Emergent Capital Maintenance Needs Grant in the amount of \$3,413,177 for the following school; School 10, Dale Avenue, PS 19, Rosa Park, ORC, EHS, PS 28, PS 6, PS 21.

### **Resolution No. F-36**

Recommendation/Resolution: WHEREAS the mission, vision, goals and objectives of the Five-Year Strategic Plan "Paterson-A Promising Tomorrow." Recognizing traditions and diverse community partnerships. The Paterson Public School District is to provide an academically rigorous, safe, and nurturing educational environment; by meeting the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students as we prepare them for post-secondary education and career.

WHEAREAS, The Paterson Public Schools is committed to providing student enrichment through various programs, initiatives and wishes to provide students with the opportunity to learn beyond the traditional school atmosphere; and

WHEAREAS, John F. Kennedy Athletics student athlete Solaris Paul advanced onto the NJSIAA state tournament. Student Athlete Solaris Paul will wrestle in the state tournament at 165lbs.

WHEAREAS, The NJSIAA state wrestling tournament will take place at the Board Walk Hull Atlantic City NJ 08401. This tournament will be on March 6, 2025 (8:00am weigh ins) March 7, 2025, and March 8, 2025.

WHEAREAS, she will be accompanied by her parent/guardian and her JFK high school wrestling coaches to the event. Her guardian will stay with her for the duration of this event.

WHEAREAS, our school desires to compete in interscholastic sports which foster the positive values of sportsmanship and teamwork through fair play.

BE IT RESOLVED, John F. Kennedy Athletic Department athletic treasurer account will cover the cost of the rooms for student athlete and coaches to stay at the NJSIAA tournament. They will stay at the Courtyard by Marriott 1212 Pacific Ave. Atlantic City NJ.

### **Resolution No. F-37**

Recommendation/Resolution: WHEREAS the mission, vision, goals and objectives of the Five-Year Strategic Plan "Paterson-A Promising Tomorrow." Recognizing traditions and diverse community partnerships. The Paterson Public School District is to provide an academically rigorous, safe, and nurturing educational environment; by meeting the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students as we prepare them for post-secondary education and career.

WHEAREAS, The Paterson Public Schools is committed to providing student enrichment through various programs, initiatives and wishes to provide students with the opportunity to learn beyond the traditional school atmosphere; and

WHEAREAS, John F. Kennedy Athletics Outdoor Track and Field to accept a donation on behalf of H2M architects and engineers.

WHEAREAS, Mr. Chris Coke and H2M architects and engineers made a \$1,000.00 donation to JFK outdoor track and field team. To be deposited in the JFK school treasurer/club account on behalf of the outdoor track team.

WHEAREAS, our school desires to compete in interscholastic sports, which foster the positive values of sportsmanship and teamwork through fair play.

BE IT RESOLVED, John F. Kennedy Outdoor Track and Field would like to accept the donation in the amount of \$1,000 to be utilized to offset any cost incurred at Penn Relays such as student athlete meals.

### **Resolution No. F-38**

WHEREAS, Wish For Wheels mission is to lift the lives of second graders in the Title 1 schools all over the country through the gift of a brand new bicycle and helmet.

WHEREAS, Wish for Wheels fund the mission via corporate philanthropy and corporate team building events, where companies sponsor a class of bikes, and then their employees join them to Build and Give the bicycles to the kids at their school

WHEREAS, The bikes are brand new and free to the kids and are theirs to keep.

WHEREAS, volunteers would spend time fitting each student for their bike and helmet and teaching them to ride. It takes about one hour.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, P.S.#20 second graders would receive a bicycle and helmet through the Wish for Wheels mission.

### **Resolution No. F-39**

WHEREAS, approving the purchase of services for a network upgrade, with appropriate licensing and additional networking equipment is in line with 2019-2024 Strategic Plan Paterson-A Promising Tomorrow Together We Can Goal Area #: Teaching & Learning Objective 5: Increase educator's capacity to utilize technological resources and strategies to prepare students to become future-ready leaders; and

WHEREAS, approving the CORE/BTS agreement/purchase will allow CORE/HTS to implement a upgrade of wireless access points and network infrastructure,

WHEREAS, the installation and services will be provided for a term of 12 months with installation occurring during the year 2024-2025.

WHEREAS, the vendor has been notified that no goods or services will be provided to the District without first receiving a fully executed purchase order; that the terms on the purchase order will be honored completely; that if the vendor does not agree with the terms on the purchase order, the vendor will not provide any goods or services to the

District until such time a new purchase order is completed and delivered with terms the vendor will honor.

WHEREAS, the services herein were in the original budget and funding for the same are available in the account listed below.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Paterson Public Schools approves the purchase, installation, configuration, and upgrade of the network infrastructure, at a cost not to exceed \$280,000.00 for 2024-25 school year.

#### **Resolution No. F-40**

Whereas, approving the purchase of the Classlink supports the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan Paterson-A Promising Tomorrow Together We Can Goal Area#1: Teaching & Learning Objective 5: Increase educator's capacity to utilize technological resources and strategies to prepare students to become future-ready leaders; and

Whereas, the Department of Technology is dedicated to ensuring the security and protection of staff and student information; and

Whereas, the Department of Technology remains steadfast in providing easy access to digital resources and applications to teachers, students, and staff; and

Whereas, Classlink is a cloud-based platform designed to help schools manage digital learning resources and access; and

Whereas, ClassLink features single sign on, roster management, analytics, parent portal, Identity Management (IDM), and multifactor authentication for users; and

Whereas, the vendor has been notified that no goods or services will be provided to the District without first receiving a fully executed purchase order; that the terms on the purchase order will be honored completely; that if the vendor does not agree with the terms on the purchase order, the vendor will not provide any goods or services to the District until such time a new purchase order is completed and delivered with terms the vendor will honor.

Be it Therefore Resolved, that Paterson Public Schools enter into a contract with Classlink in an amount not to exceed \$101,615.00.

#### **Resolution No. F-41**

Whereas, approving the purchase of SolarWinds software supports the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan Paterson-A Promising Tomorrow Together We Can Goal Area #: Teaching & Learning Objective 5: Increase educator's capacity to utilize technological resources and strategies to prepare students to become future-ready leaders; and

Whereas, the Department of Technology is dedicated to providing a stable and safe network for district staff and students to communicate, collaborate, and exchange information; and

Whereas, SHI International is a provider/distributor for SolarWinds, a network management/monitoring system; and

Whereas, the vendor has been notified that no goods or services will be provided to the District without first receiving a fully executed purchase order; that the terms on the purchase order will be honored completely; that if the vendor does not agree with the terms on the purchase order, the vendor will not provide any goods or services to the District until such time a new purchase order is completed and delivered with terms the vendor will honor.

Be it Therefore Resolved, that Paterson Public Schools' approves the purchase of SolarWinds in an amount not to exceed \$43,232.00 for 2024-25 school year.

**Resolution No. F-42**

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for complying with the New Jersey purchasing laws for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, the Business Administrator determined that the district has a need for Office Supplies & Related, PPS-115-26 during the 2025-2026, 2026-2027 school years and provided the specifications for this formal public bid process; and

WHEREAS, the bid specifications were posted on the District website, which four (4) vendors responded to the district's solicitation; and

WHEREAS, this solicitation was made by advertised public notice appearing in The Bergen Record and The North Jersey Herald News on February 19, 2025. Sealed bids were opened and read aloud on March 13, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at 90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07503 by the Purchasing Department; and

WHEREAS, as per the attached bid summary, the Department of Purchasing recommends that the bid for Office Supplies & Related, PPS-115- 26, be awarded to the most responsive and responsible bidders for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027 school years to

W.B. Mason Co., Inc. 535 Secaucus Road Secaucus, New Jersey 07094 (Primary Vendor) 37.9% Catalog/'website Discount	Cascade School Supplies 1 Brown Street N. Adams, MA 01247  38% Catalog/Website Discount	School Specialty W6316 Design Drive Greenville, WI 54942  32%Catalog/Website Discount	Staples 500 Staples Drive Framingham, MA 01702  25% Catalog/Website Discount
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the following vendors:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools supports the above-mentioned recommendation that W.B. Mason Co., Inc., (Primary Vendor), Cascade School Supplies, School Specialty and Staples be awarded contracts for Office Supplies & Related, PPS-115- 26, for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027 school years not to exceed \$1,000,000.00, In total, annually.

**Resolution No. F-43**

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School District recognizes the need to comply with the New Jersey purchasing laws for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, the Business Administrator determined that the district has a need for School Supplies & Related, PPS-148-26 during the 2025-2026, 2026-2027 school years and provided the specifications for this formal public bid process; and

WHEREAS, the specifications were posted on the District website and four (4) vendors responded to the district's solicitation; and

WHEREAS, this solicitation was made by advertised public notice appearing in The Bergen Record and The North Jersey Herald News on February 19, 2025. Sealed bids were opened and read aloud on March 13, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. at 90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07503 by the Purchasing Department; and

WHEREAS, as per the attached bid summary, the Department of Purchasing recommends that the bid for School Supplies & Related, PPS-148- 26, be awarded to the most responsive and responsible bidders for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027 school years to the following vendors:

Staples 500 Staples Drive Framingham, MA 01702 25% Catalog/website Discount	Cascade School Supplies, Inc. 1 Brown Street N. Adams, MA 01247 38% Catalog/Website Discount	School Specialty LLC W6316 Design Drive Greenville, WI 54942 32% Catalog/Website Discount	S&S Worldwide, Inc. P.O. Box 513 Colchester, CT 06415 23% Catalog/Website Discount	Lakeshore Learning Materials LLC 2695 E. Dominguez Street Carson, CA 90895 10% Catalog/Website Discount
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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools supports the above-mentioned recommendation that Staples (Primary Vendor), Cascade School Supplies, Inc. School Specialty LLC, S&S Worldwide, Inc. and Lakeshore Learning Materials LLC be awarded contracts for School Supplies & Related, PPS-148-26, for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027 school years not to exceed \$1,950,000.00, in total, annually.

**Resolution No. F-44**

WHEREAS the Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for complying with the New Jersey purchasing laws for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS the Business Administrator determined that the district has a need for Arts & Crafts, Toys & Novelties Materials, PPS-182-26 during the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years and provided the specifications for this formal public bid process; and

WHEREAS the specifications were made available on the District website and which four (4) vendors responded and one (1) was disqualified; and

WHEREAS this solicitation was made by advertised public notice appearing in The Bergen Record and The North Jersey Herald News on February 19, 2025. Sealed bids were opened and read aloud on March 13, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at 90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07503 by the Purchasing Department; and

WHEREAS, as per the attached bid summary, the Department of Purchasing recommends that the bid for Arts & Crafts, Toys & Novelties Materials, PPS-182-26, be awarded to the most responsive and responsible bidders for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027 school years to the following vendors:

School Specialty, LLC 140 Marble Drive Lancaster, PA 17601 (Primary) 32% catalog/website discount	S&S Worldwide P.O. Box 513 Colchester, CT 06415 23% catalog/website discount	Lakeshore Learning Materials 2695 E. Dominguez St. Carson, CA 90895 10% catalog/website discount
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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools supports the above-mentioned recommendation that the above vendors be awarded contracts for Arts & Crafts, Toys & Novelties Materials, PPS-182-26, for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years; not to exceed \$75,000.00, in total, annually.

**Resolution No. P-45**

WHEREAS, The Superintendent recommends the appointment, salary adjustments, transfers, supports the Paterson: A Promising Tomorrow Strategic Plan 2019-2024 which amongst its strategies goals is Priority I- Effective Academic Programs-Goal 1 - Increase Student Achievement; and

WHEREAS, The Board of the Paterson Public School District has reviewed the recommendation of the Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, The Board of the Paterson Board of Education communicated expectations that such recommendations are made on a timely basis and include the proposed appointment, transfer, personnel in compliance with the contractual and/or statutory requirements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of the Paterson Board of Education accepts the personnel recommendations of the Superintendent adopted in the April 9, 2025 Board Meeting.

**PERSONNEL**

**F.1** Motion to take action on personnel matters, as listed below; and appoint and submit to the County Superintendent applications for emergent hiring and the applicant’s attestation that he/she has not been convicted of any disqualifying crime pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et. Seq., N.J.S.A. 18A:39-17 et. seq., or N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4.13 et. seq. for those employees listed below:  
(All appointments are contingent upon receipt of proper teaching certification and all salary placements are pending receipt of college transcripts verifying degree status and letter stating years of service in other districts).

**A. POSITION CONTROL ABOLISH/CREATE**

**A1.** Action to transfer **PC# 1315** Teacher Grade 2 to Department of Human Resources.

**A2.** Action is requested to transfer **Aracelis Cruz** from **PC# 1988** to **PC# 778** at School 25 due to resignation of **Grace Ahn-Murphy**. Transfer from resource position to self-contained vacancy. **Account#** 15.204.100.101.025.000.0000.000

**A3.** Action is requested to create a PA Sub PC# for the following student:

**SH 5260271** at ELC – **PC# 10135**

**A4.** Action is requested to reassign the following Sub PC# effective immediately. Sub **PC# 10938** at Edward Kilpatrick for student **JT 5263757** student identified as Special Education to Student **MD 5251085** at School 5.

**A5.** Action is requested to reassign the following Sub PC# effective immediately. Sub **PC# 10876** at School 20 for Student **MCM 5258469**. Student identified as Special Education. To Student **MC 5258933** at School 16.

**A6.** Action is requested to reassign the following Sub PC# effective immediately. Sub **PC# 10875** at School 19 for student **SS 525853** student identified as Special Education to Student **AB 5249970** at Norman S. Weir.

**A7.** Action is requested to create a PA Sub PC# for the following students:  
**TQ 5251340** at EHS - **PC# 10161**. **JG 5228633** at Taub - **PC# 10169**.  
**JA 5272021** at ELC - **PC# 10170**. **LMA 5267165** at PS#28 - **PC# 10172**.  
**SG 5262566** at MLK - **PC# 10174**. Transfer Sub **PC# 10864** from PS#19 to Dale Ave following Student **JCD 5252936**. Transfer Sub **PC# 3390** from JAT to MLK following Student **OM 5234908**. Transfer Sub **PC# 10708** from JAT to PS#2 following Student **JP 5227910**. Re-Assign Sub **PC# 10113** to Student **SGG 5253004** at PS 16. Previous student assigned to this number transferred out.

**A. POSITION CONTROL ABOLISH/CREATE (CONT.)**

**A8.** Action is requested to reassign the following Sub PC# effective immediately. Sub **PC# 10939** at Roberto Clemente for student **ZH 5254673** student no longer eligible for Section 504 services. To student **RR 5270729** at School 7.

**A9.** Action is requested to assign a PA Sub **PC# 10124** for Student **KH 5222237** at PS #26.

**A10.** Action requested to assign **PC# 2103 Melissa Gosselin** as Teacher Special Ed MD. Action requested to assign **PC# 2113** vacancy teacher of Special Ed as Special Cog-Mod. Action requested to assign **PC# 892 Lovenia Brevard** as shared aide for Students **ND 2058920** & **RM 2050197**.

**A11.** Action is requested to:  
Transfer **PC# 10086** from PS# 20 to PS #5 for Student **ECM 5257967**.  
Transfer **PC# 10708** from Taub to PS# 2 for Student **JP 5227910**.  
Create PA Sub PC for student **JCM 5253322** at PS #13 - **PC# 10127**.  
Create PA Sub PC for student **AJ 5272915** at PS #2 - **PC# 10135**.  
Create PA Sub PC for student **MPR 5272581** at PS #15 - **PC# 10139**.  
Create PA Sub PC for student **JR 5271501** at PS #27 **PC# 10142**.  
Female aide requested. Preferred ESS sub Jhanna Cabrera.  
Create PA Sub PC for student **ACG 5268519** at PS #27 **PC# 10144**.  
Create PA Sub PC for student **ACR 5259975** at PS #13. Male bilingual aide requested.

**A12.** Action to create and assign a Substitute PC# for a personal aide to the following 504 students: **ZJ 5240569** Student attends CJR School 9 - **PC# 10162**.

**AUB 5262005** student attends School 5 - **PC# 10165**.

**AC 5229657** student attends School 13 - **PC# 10168**. Effective immediately.

**B. SUSPENSIONS- N/A**

**C. RESIGNATION/ RETIREMENT**

**D. TERMINATIONS**

**E. NON-RENEWAL**

**F. LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

**F1.** Approval of Sabbatical Leave for **Ayman Mustafa** from 9/01/2025 through 6/30/2026. Said staff member shall be compensated at half pay, including benefits from 9/01/2025 through 6/30/2026. **Account#** 11.120.100.101.980.130

**G. APPOINTMENT**

	Last Name	First Name	School/Location	Title	Salary	Reason
<b>G1</b>	Aguirre	Sandra	School #21	Teacher Grade 2 Bilingual	70685 + 4100 = \$74,785.00	filling vacancy
<b>G2</b>	Chaplin	Veronica	School #21	Cafeteria Monitor	\$12,392.00	filling vacancy
<b>G3</b>	Hernandez	Marleny	School #2	Personal Aide to Student AB 5239316	\$37,011.00	filling vacancy
<b>G4</b>	Jackson	Vashonna	Department of Food Services	Food Service Manager	\$31,270.00	filling vacancy
<b>G5</b>	Johnson	Ateatha	Teacher Special Ed SLLD	School #28	\$62,670.00	appointment
<b>G6</b>	McCray	Mybrun	Department of Food Services	Cafe Attendant	\$33,280.00	filling vacancy
<b>G7</b>	Perez Morel	Karla	JAT	Teacher Bilingual	\$64,685.00	filling vacancy
<b>G8</b>	Restrepo	Margy	PS 20	Instructional Assistant/ERI	\$31,736.00	filling vacancy
<b>G9</b>	Rodriguez de Ramirez	Francisca	Department of Food Services	Substitute Cafeteria Worker	\$15.49 per hour	filling vacancy
<b>G10</b>	Thompson	Jarius	JFK	Vice Principal	no change	appointment
<b>G11</b>	Tifa-Melendez	Maria Angelica	Department of Food Services	Substitute Cafeteria Worker	\$15.49 per hour	filling vacancy

**H. TRANSFERS**

	Last Name	First Name	School/Location	Title	Salary	Reason
H1	Allocca	John	JAT	Teacher Phys Ed/Health	no change	transfer
H2	Beauchamp	Veronica	School # 15	Teacher Grade 2	no change	restructuring
H3	Friedman	Melissa	Napier	Teacher Grade 6-7 Math	no change	transfer
H4	Gonzales-Fergesen	Cristeta	PS 24	Teacher Grade 5 Science	no change	transfer
H5	Heath	Talithia	School 15	Teacher Nurse	no change	transfer
H6	Johnson	Genia	School 8	Personal Aide 504 w/ NM5251294	no change	transfer
H7	Kosak	Sharon	School # 15	Teacher Grade 1	no change	restructuring
H8	Pallesen	Helen	School #21(.34) & School #15(.33) & NRC(.33)	Teacher Psychologist	no change	transfer
H9	Payano	Noeila	School 13	Teacher Nurse	no change	transfer
H10	Saez	Adolfo	PS 24	Teacher Grade 6 Math	no change	transfer
H11	Watson	Lisa	PS 24	Teacher Grade 2	no change	transfer

**I. RECALL FROM RIF**

**J. LEAVE REPLACEMENT**

**K. DISTRICT/SCHOOL PROGRAM HIRING - N/A**

**K1.** Request to hire **Tina Sarker** and **Abdelleh Nasr** as Instructional Aides for the Saturday Reading Program at PS 27. Ms. Sarker and Mr. Nasr will assist with the students in grades K-2. The Instructional Aides will work from 8:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. for 7 Saturdays from March 22, 2025 – May 10, 2025. Each IA will work 28 hours each at a rate of \$25.00 per hour = \$700.00. Not to exceed a total of \$1,400.00.

**Account#** 15.421.100.101.027.053.0000.000                      Not to exceed: \$1,400.00

**L. STIPENDS**

**L1.** To pay **Vanessa McClure**, **Lori Marchese** and **Jason Doerr** for work done in interviewing student applicants for the P-Tech freshman class. Interviews will be held Monday – Friday from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. beginning February 7, 2025 and ending March 7, 2025.

**Account#** 15.421.100.101.054.053.0000.000                      Not to exceed: \$1,300.00

**L2.** Action to compensate **Matthew Vargas** an annual stipend of \$3,000 as Snow Brigade Leader and **Michael Molina** an annual stipend of \$1,000 as Snow Brigade Assistant per PCMA contract, Article XV. The District will provide payment by April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. **Account#** 11.000.263.100.053.680.0000      Not to exceed: \$4,000.00

**L3.** Action to compensate **Halverie Davis**, Teacher Coordinator of Scheduling at Paterson STEAM High School, Paterson P-Tech & STARS/T.I.E.S. for the summer hours of July 2025 as follows: For July 2025 at 10% of her 2024-2025 school year salary. To be paid on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of July as per Side-Bar Agreement. Pending budget approval.

**Account#** 15.140.100.101.307.000.0000.000

**L4.** Action to compensate **Halverie Davis**, Teacher Coordinator of Scheduling an additional 150 hours for scheduling at Paterson STEAM High School, Paterson P-Tech & STARS/T.I.E.S. for the months of August and September at the rate of \$35.00 an hour. Hours to be paid as compensation forms are submitted. Pending budget approval.

**Account#** 11.000.218.104.656.053.0000.000      Not to exceed: \$5,250.00

**L5.** Action to compensate **Arthur Carpenter**, Teacher Coordinator of Scheduling at Eastside High School, Alonzo T. Moody Academy and New Roberto Clemente for the summer hours of July 2025 as follows: For July 2025 at 10% of his 2024-2025 year salary. To be paid on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of July as per Side-Bar Agreement. Pending budget approval. **Account#** 15.000.218.104.051.000.0000.000

**L6.** Action to compensate **Arthur Carpenter**, Teacher Coordinator of Scheduling an additional 150 hours for scheduling at Eastside High School, Alonzo T. Moody Academy and New Roberto Clemente for the months of August and September at the rate of \$35.00 an hour. Hours to be paid as compensation forms are submitted. Pending budget approval.

**Account#** 11.000.218.104.656.053.0000.000      Not to exceed: \$5,250.00

**L. STIPENDS / CONT.**

**L7.** Action to compensate **Gizele Locke**, Teacher Coordinator of Scheduling at International High School & Rosa L. Parks School of Performing Arts for the summer hours of July 2025 as follows: For July 2025 at 10% of her 2024-2025 school year salary. To be paid on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of July as per Side-Bar Agreement. Pending budget approval. **Account#** 15.000.211.104.055.000.0000.000

**L8.** Action to compensate **Gizele Locke**, Teacher Coordinator of Scheduling an additional 150 hours for scheduling at International High School & Rosa L. Parks School of Performing Arts for the months of August and September at the rate of \$35.00 an hour. Hours to be paid as compensation forms are submitted. Pending budget approval.

**Account#** 11.000.218.104.656.053.0000.000      Not to exceed: \$5,250.00

**L9.** Action to compensate **Kimberly Liskay-Fedo**, Teacher Coordinator of Scheduling at Newcomers High School, John F. Kennedy High School & Joseph A. Taub for the summer hours of July 2025 as follows: For July 2025 at 10% of her 2024-2025 year salary. To be paid on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of July as per Side-Bar Agreement. Pending budget approval. **Account#** 15.140.100.101.307.000.0000.000

**L10.** Action to compensate **Kimberly Liskay-Fedo**, Teacher Coordinator of Scheduling an additional 150 hours for scheduling at Newcomers High School, John F. Kennedy High School & Joseph A. Taub for the months of August and September at the rate of \$35.00 an hour. Hours to be paid as compensation forms are submitted. Pending budget approval.

**Account#** 11.000.218.104.656.053.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$5,250.00

**L11.** Action to compensate **Tiffony Kidd-Schindler, PC# 630**, RN, Nurse Coordinator 10% of her salary (as per PEA contract agreement) through the months of July and August 2025 for working summer for 4 weeks total between July and August. Stipend = \$10,573.70 **Account#** 15.000.213.100.060.0000.0000.000

**L12.** Action requested to stipend the following IA's and PA's for QBS Safety Care Training on:

Saturday, March 29, 2025 (Virtual) and Saturday, April 5, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Alba Taveras, Silvana Bustios, Helene Anderson,  
Sharona Hall, Cathy Redfern & Antoine King**

6 Instructional Assistants and Personal Assistants x \$25 x 6hrs x 2 days = \$1,800.00  
(excluding one hour for lunch)

Saturday April 5, 2025 (In-person) from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. ONLY (virtual completed)

**Steven Thompson, Surelys Aloi, Vanessa Castillo & Jamilla Gray**

4 Instructional Assistants and Personal Assistants x \$25 x 6hrs x 1 day = \$600.00  
(excluding one hour for lunch)

**Account#** 11.000.221.100.749.053

**L. STIPENDS /CONT.**

**L13.** Action is requested to hire 3 teachers to write and/or revise curriculum for new/existing courses to meet QSAC requirements from March 2025 – June 2025. Teachers writing curriculum will be compensated as per the following chart. Work will be done remotely.

Teacher	Course	# Hours	Total
Marla Gaines	AVID	15	\$525.00
Crystal Cox-Tober	Freshman Seminar STARS	15	\$525.00
Amy Reyes	ELA Grade 6, 7, 8	45	\$1,572.00
			<b>\$2,622.00</b>

**Account#** 11.000.221.110.650.053.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$2,622.00

**L14.** Action requested to stipend the following teachers for QBS Safety Care Training on: March 29, 2025 (Virtual) and Saturday, April 5, 2025 (In-Person) from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Jamie Zarrett**

1 Teacher x \$35 x 6 hrs x 2 days = \$420.00 (excluding one hour per day for lunch)

Saturday, April 5, 2025 (In-Person) from 8:30am–3:30pm ONLY (virtual completed 2/8/25)

**Janet Akinwale**

1 Teacher x \$35 x 6hrs x 1 day = \$210.00 (excluding one hour per lunch)

**Account#** 11.000.221.100.749.053

**L15.** Action requested to stipend the following employees to train staff members on QBS Safety Training on: Saturday, March 29, 2025 (Virtual) and Saturday, April 5, 2025 (In-Person) from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Shaun Douglas**

1 Trainer x \$40 x 8 hours x 2 days = \$640.00 (excluding one hour for lunch)

Saturday, April 5, 2025 (In-Person) from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ONLY

**Emily Walsh**

1 Trainer x \$40 x 8 hours x 1 day = \$320.00 (excluding one hour for lunch)

**Account#** 11.000.221.100.749.053

**L16.** Action is requested to hire 6 teachers to write and/or revise curriculum for new/existing courses to meet QSAC requirements from March 2025 – June 2025. Teachers writing curriculum will be compensated as per the following chart. Work will be done remotely.

Teacher	Course	# Hours	
Juliana Schlichting	1B Design Technology I	30	\$1,050.00
Juliana Schlichting	1B Design Technology II	30	\$1,050.00
Christopher Wirkmaa	AP Human Geography	30	\$1,050.00
Christopher Wirkmaa	Anthropology	15	\$525.00
Matthew Sudberg	Robotics	15	\$525.00
Jaymie Stein	Advanced Art	30	\$1,050.00
Bradley Gold	Dynamics of Environmental Sustainability	30	\$1,050.00
Dean Ellis	Sports Marketing	30	\$1,050.00
			<b>\$7,350.00</b>

**Account#** 11.000.221.110.650.053.0000.000

Not to exceed: \$7,350.00

**L. STIPENDS /CONT.**

**L17.** The Department of Early Childhood will be sponsoring a Preschool Awareness Day on Friday, April 11, 2025 at City Hall from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Action is requested to pay a stipend to Early Childhood staff (hours are until 3:10 p.m.) to stay until 4:40 p.m. For a total of 1.5 hours for stipend. 1.5 x \$35 = \$52.50

<b>INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES</b>
Abayhan, Seyhan
Asma, Farida
Elmonayery, Dalia
Gonzalez, Grisell
Greco, Cynthia
Livingston, Jameelah
Loukas, Sofia
Munge, Emily
Penman, Tara
Peralta-Ramos, Elizabeth
Samuels, Selena
Shortway, Nicole

<b>PIRS</b>
Albert, Deanna
Aviles, Eladia
Jaikissoon, Melissa
LaConte, Gina
Llerena-Farfan, Martha
Mandelbaum, Elizabeth
Toye, Eleanor
Triolo, Michele
Van Dalinda, Sharon
Watson, D'Andrea
Williams, Coreen
<b>NURSE</b>
Wechtler, Michele

20.218.200.104.053.000.0000.002 – Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist, Social Worker and Nurse

20.218.200.104.053.000.0000.002 - Preschool Instructional Coaches

**L. STIPENDS /CONT.**

**L18.** Action is requested to hire 13 Supervisors to write and/or revise curriculum for new/existing courses to meet QSAC requirements from March 2025 – June 2025.

Supervisors writing curriculum will be compensated as per the following chart. Work will be done remotely.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b># Hours</b>	<b>Total</b>
Kelly Charles	Public Speaking, Handwriting Kinder, Handwriting Grade 1, Handwriting Grade 2	60	\$2,400.00
Linda LeProtto	Publication and Production, Yearbook Design, Mass Media, Creative Writing	60	\$2,400.00
Thom Easterbrook	English I Honors, English II Honors, English III Honors, English IV Honors	60	\$2,400.00
Jason Rieder	Strategic Reading I, Strategic Reading II, AP Language and Composition, AP Literature	60	\$2,400.00

Heather Van Bergen	Grade 8 Math; Business Math	30	\$1,200.00
Diana Slopey	Kindergarten Math; Grade 1 Math	30	\$1,200.00
Veronica Moran	Grade 2 Math; Grade 3 Math	30	\$1,200.00
Rosemarie Chromey	Grade 4 Math; Grade 5 Math (Units 1 & 2)	22.5	\$900.00
Eric Larro	Grade 7 Math; PreAlgebra (Units 1 & 2)	30	\$1,200.00
Stephenie Tidwell	Grade 6 Math; Grade 5 (Units 3 & 4)	22.5	\$900.00
Michelle VanHoven	Digital Imaging and Interactive Design, Advanced Visual Art, Art Portfolio I-IV, Concert Choir I-IV, Symphonic Band I-IV, Applied Woodwind Brass and Percussion I, II, III Vocal Techniques III, IV	165	\$6,600.00
Kayla Khaled	AP Spanish Language and Culture, Arabic I, II, III, IV, French I, II, Spanish I, II, I	165	\$6,600.00
Latoya Tshikuya	AP Precalculus, AP Calculus, AP Statistics	45	\$1,800.00
			<b>\$31,200.00</b>

**Account#** 11.000.221.110.650.053.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$31,200.00

**L19.** Action to compensate the teacher to teach a sixth period class during their preparation or supervisory period. Compensation is per the negotiated contract. Effective November 18, 2024. The teacher is as follows: **Farah Abdulhaq** – Math Teacher

**L20.** Action to compensate teachers to attend DECA Competition on April 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> at the rate of \$100.00 per night as per association agreement – Article 7:2-11.1  
(5 nights x \$100 per night = \$500 x 2 Advisors/Chaperone = \$1,000.00)

**Dr. Reggie Hall & Ms. Laura Fitzgerald**

**Account#** 11.000.221.104.708.053.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$1,000.00

**M. AMENDMENTS**

**M1.** Action requested to amend **PTF# 25-1156** by adding AHA staff member to be compensated for providing coaching for the Esports Afterschool Program. Starting January 2025 and ending June 2025, at a maximum of 3 hours per week, not to exceed the hours listed. **Jackson Hayes** (66 hours x \$35.00 = \$2,310)

**Account#** 11.421.100.101.703.053.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$9,570.00

**M. AMENDMENTS (CONT.)**

**M2.** Action to amend **PTF# 25-760** by adding the staff member listed below as a sub for the Before/After School Supervision and tutoring, M-F. 7:30-8:15 from December to June, not to exceed the hours listed below.

**Catherine Anderson** (Sub) 14 x 25 = \$350.00

**Account#** 15.421.100.106.309.053.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$1,600.00

**M3.** Action is requested to amend action **#25-853** to change the account number to 11.000.251.100.815.051.30000.000 effective October 2024 – June 2025.

**Account#** 11.000.251.100.815.051.0000.000 No additional funds needed.

**N. ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES**

**O. SICK/VACATION DAY PAY OUT**

**01.** Request to process payment for one (1) employee for sick/vacation days due to resignation/retirement/termination/deceased/RIF. As per contractual agreement. Effective 4/01/2025.

NEW HIRES ON OR AFTER JUNE 8, 2007 WOULD BE HELD TO THE \$15,000.00 CAP FOR SICK DAYS PAYMENTS FOR ALL GROUPS

APRIL 2025

Name	Hire Date		Title	Loc	Term. Date	Term. Reason	Vacation	Sick/ Personal	Salary	Daily Rate	Total
Juan, Daniel	1/22/20	Non Barg	Coordinator of Communication	702	4/13/25	Resignation	59		\$65,480	\$272.83	\$15,000.00
										<b>Total</b>	\$15,000.00

**Account#** 11.000.291.299.690.058.0000.000

Not to exceed: \$15,000.00

**P. WITHHOLDING OF INCREMENTS**

**Q. HEALTH BENEFITS**

**R. MISCELLANEOUS**

**S. MISCELLANEOUS (FUNDING.)**

**T. ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

**U. Administrative Longevity**

**V. RESTORE INCREMENTS**

**W. NEGOTIATIONS**

**X. JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

**Y. Grievance Settlements**

**Resolution No. P-46**

WHEREAS, in compliance with N.J.A. C6A:7, all school districts are required to develop and submit to the New Jersey Department of Education a Comprehensive Equity Plan by and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Equity Plan must cover school years 2025-2028, to enable the district to address identified equity needs affecting its facilities, programs, pupils, or staff in accordance with state and federal laws; and now therefore

THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, that the Paterson Board of Education approves the submission of the Comprehensive Equity Plan to the New Jersey Department of Education for its authorization for the implementation of the plan.

**Resolution No. P-47**

Samantha Emery•Allen: *The Role of Technological Applications in Second Language Acquisition for Hispanic and Latino Middle School English Learners*

In accordance with Paterson Public School District policy 9550, all educational research by persons other than district employees must be approved in advance by the Superintendent and Board. Paterson Public School District policy 3245, any research project involving pupils must be approved by the Board; all other research projects involving district personnel, facilities, and/or resources may be approved by the Superintendent.

WHEREAS, A written application for approval must state the purpose of the research, the specific ways in which pupils will be involved, the estimated duration of the project,

the persons who will conduct the research project and their relevant affiliations, and any possible benefits to pupils or to the school district.

WHEREAS, Approval will be granted only to those projects that will serve the interests of pupils and the educational program; approval will not be granted to projects that will impede or significantly disrupt the instructional program approved by the Board;

WHEREAS, the sponsoring graduate school and/or organization along with graduate candidate complies with requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) and will ensure these requirements are followed in the conduct of this research in accordance with the Institutional Review Board (IRB); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Paterson Board of Education approves the research studies request through William Paterson University Samantha Emery-Allen: *The Role of Technological Applications in Second Language Acquisition for Hispanic and Latino Middle School English Learners* during the 2024-2025 school year.

**Resolution No. G-48**

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School District (the "District") has current and emergent legal needs that require the engagement of outside counsel; and

WHEREAS, the procurement of legal services is exempt from public advertising and bidding requirements pursuant to the "professional services" exception under the Public School Contracts Law in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A- 5a(l); and

WHEREAS, based on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, it is recommended that the District retain the law firms listed below based on their demonstrated expertise in relevant areas of law and their experience representing school districts and other clients with similar legal needs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of the following law firms as Special Counsel to the District, pursuant to the terms of a Professional Services Agreement, for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026:

Law Firm Name	Partner Rate	Associate Rate	Paralegal Rate	Law Clerk Rate	Other Staff
Adams, Lattiboudere, Croot & Herman, LLC	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$95.00	\$95.00	
Antonelli, Kantor Rivera, P.C.	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$85.00	\$85.00	
Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy, P.C	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$110.00		
Biancamano & Di Stefano, P.C. (WC)	\$150.00	\$135.00	\$100.00		
Biancamano & Di Stefano, P.C. (GL)	\$160.00	\$150.00	\$100.00		
Buglione Hutton & DeYoe, LLC	\$160.00	\$120.00	\$90.00	\$85.00	\$75.00
Busch Law Group, LLC	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$85.00		
Charles A. Yuen, LLC	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$70.00		
Chiesa, Shahinian & Giantomasi PC	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$95.00
Florio Kenney Raval	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$160.00	

Hunt, Hamlin & Ridley	\$160.00	\$150.00			
Robert E. Murray, LLC	\$160.00				
Scarinci Holleneck	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	
Shabazz & Woolridge Law Group	\$160.00	\$150.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00
Taylor Law Group, LLC	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	
The Murray Law Firm, LLC	\$160.00				

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of the following law firm as General Counsel to the District, pursuant to the terms of a Professional Services Agreement, for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026:

Law Firm Name	Partner Rate	Associate Rate	Paralegal Rate	Law Clerk Rate	Other Staff
Buglione Hutton & DeYoe, LLC	\$160.00	\$120.00	\$90.00	\$85.00	\$75.00

**NOT TO EXCEED \$850,000 ANNUALLY, PENDING BUDGET APPROVAL AND THE AVAILABILITY AND ALLOCATION OF ADEQUATE FUNDING UNDER THE 2025-2026 BUDGET**

**Resolution No. 1**

WHEREAS, according to Title 18A:17-31 and -32 the Paterson Board of Education may retain the services of custodian of school moneys who is an officer of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the district would like to retain the services of Charles M. Poindexter for the 2025-2026 fiscal year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Charles M. Poindexter be appointed as an employee of the Paterson Board of Education for the limited purpose of providing the services of Treasurer of School Moneys for the Paterson Board of Education for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 at an annual salary of \$20,000.00, pending budget approval; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Charles M. Poindexter shall not exceed nineteen hours per week in the performance of his/her duties as the Treasurer of School Moneys and report directly to the Paterson Public School District Business Administrator.

**Resolution No. 2**

Whereas, in accordance with ordinary business practices, many contracts to which the school district is a party require payment within 30-60 days of submission of invoice and voucher; and

Whereas, at certain times during the year, an extended period of time occurs between the regularly scheduled Board of Education meetings; and

Whereas, such discrepancy between contracted payment schedules and the calendar of board meetings creates an untenable position for the district which exposes it to liability and may cause hardship for affected vendors; now therefore

Be It Resolved, that in the event there exists an extended period of time between regularly scheduled Board action meetings during the 2025-2026 school year, the Superintendent is authorized to approve any and all invoices (not in excess of \$100,000.00 individually), with the exception of health benefits, leases, charters schools, early childhood and utilities for payment. In accordance with Board policy 6470 (Payment of Claims). Only in the event a special board meeting cannot be scheduled, when there exists a period of time exceeding thirty (30) calendar days between regularly scheduled board action meetings, during the 2025-2026 school year, and after consultation with the Board President; and

Be It Further Resolved, that a separate bills list with all claims that have been approved by the Superintendent will be presented to the Board at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting for ratification.

### **Resolution No. 3**

WHEREAS, prompt submission of grant applications, as well as carryover applications, budget modifications, quarterly reports, and final reports relating to the grants is often time sensitive; and

WHEREAS, the district might lose an opportunity to apply for grants or file mandated reports in between board meetings; and

WHEREAS, it is in the district's best interest to submit grant applications, as well as carryover applications, budget modifications, quarterly reports, and final reports, to avoid losing an opportunity for receipt of the funding;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools and School Business Administrator are authorized to sign grant applications, as well as carryover applications, budget modifications, quarterly reports, and final reports between board meetings unless grant regulations specify to the contrary for the 2025-2026 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all grant applications, as well as carryover applications, budget modifications, quarterly reports, and final reports relating to the grants will continue to be reviewed by the respective committees of the board and subsequently ratified by the board.

### **Resolution No. 4**

WHEREAS, there is a requirement to establish bank accounts, on a yearly basis, for the fiscal operation of the Paterson Public School District; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Paterson Board of Education approves the list of bank accounts, to be established for the fiscal operation of the Paterson Public School District for the City of Paterson, in the depositories as listed herein and subject to the withdrawals in accordance with the name or names as set forth for the 2024-2025 school year, as attached hereto and made a part of the minutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

### **Resolution No. 5**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the City of Paterson authorize the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator to implement the 2025- 2026 budget pursuant to local and state policies and regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Uniform Minimum Chart of Accounts (2024-2025 Edition) for New Jersey Public Schools for 2025-2026 school year.

### **Resolution No. 6**

THE PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT seeks to procure goods and services through the use of state contract vendors (18A:18A-10-a) during the 2025-2026 school year, and

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School District, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10a and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29(c), may by resolution and Without advertising for bids, purchase any goods or services under the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program for any State contracts entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the Paterson School District has the need on a timely basis to purchase goods or services utilizing State contracts; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Are# 3, Communication & Connections; and

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School District intends to enter into contracts with current State Contract vendors and additional State Contract vendors as needed through this resolution and properly executed contracts, which shall be subject to all the conditions applicable to the current State contracts; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Paterson Public School District authorizes the Purchasing Department to purchase certain goods or services from those approved New Jersey State Contract Vendors as needed for the 2025-2026 school year, pursuant to the vendor's state contract award date, terms, and conditions.

### **Resolution No. 7**

*Resolution of the School District of the city of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the Department of Purchasing to join the Educational & Institutional Cooperative Service, Inc. (E & I) herein after referred to as the "lead agency" for the conduct of certain functions relating to the purchase of goods and services for their respective jurisdictions:*

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known and may be cited as the cooperative pricing resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11(5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency for the purchase of work materials and supplies, as needed; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public Schools shall pay no fee to join said Cooperative Pricing Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Are # 3, Communication & Connections; and

WHEREAS, the lead Agency entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S, 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Purchasing of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with E&I for the purchase of supplies & materials, for the 2025-2026 school year.

### **Resolution No. 8**

*Resolution of the School District of the city of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the department of purchasing to join Educational Data Services hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency" for the conduct of certain functions relating to the procurement of goods & services contracts:*

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known and may be cited as the cooperative pricing resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11(5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency for the purchase of time & materials contracts, as needed; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Are # 3, Communication & Connections; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Purchasing of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with Educational Data Services for the utilization of goods & services contracts during the 2025-2026 school year, not to exceed \$3,500 annually.

## **Resolution No. 9**

*Resolution of the School District of the city of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the Department of Purchasing to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency" for the conduct of certain functions relating to the purchase of goods and services for their respective jurisdictions:*

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School District encourages the use of shared services through State approved cooperative entities; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, The Educational Services Commission (ESCNJ) hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency", is a Service Cooperative to allow participating governmental and municipal agencies to reduce the cost of purchased goods by leveraging their combined purchasing power at no cost.; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known and may be cited as The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) Cooperative Pricing resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency (ESCNJ) entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11 (5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency (ESCNJ) for the purchase of goods and services, as needed; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Are # 3, Communication & Connections; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Purchasing of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) for the 2025-2026 school year, as needed.

## **Resolution No. 10**

*Resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the Department of Purchasing to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with The Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (HCESC) hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency" for the conduct of certain functions relating to the purchase of work materials, services and supplies for their respective jurisdictions:*

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School District encourages the use of shared services through State approved cooperative entities; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, The Lead Agency, is a Service Cooperative to allow participating governmental and municipal agencies to reduce the cost of purchased goods by leveraging their combined purchasing power at no cost for membership; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known and may be cited as The Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency (The Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission) entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11(5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency (Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission) for the purchase of work materials, services and supplies, as needed; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Are # 3, Communication & Connections; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Purchasing of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (HCESC) for the purchase of work materials, services and supplies, for the 2025-2026 school year, as needed.

### **Resolution No. 11**

*Resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the Department of Purchasing to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with The Interlocal Purchasing Systems (TIPS) hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency" for the conduct of certain functions relating to the purchase of work materials, services and supplies for their respective jurisdictions:*

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School District encourages the use of shared services through approved cooperative entities; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Lead Agency, is a Service Cooperative to allow participating governmental and municipal agencies to reduce the cost of purchased goods by leveraging their combined purchasing power at no cost for membership; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known and may be cited as The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Cooperative Pricing resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency (The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS)) entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11(5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency (The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS)) for the purchase of work materials, services and supplies, as needed; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Are # 3, Communication & Connections; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Purchasing of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) for the purchase of work materials services and supplies, for the 2025-2026 school year, as needed.

### **Resolution No. 12**

*Resolution of the School District of the city of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the department of purchasing to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with Keystone Purchasing Network hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency" for the conduct of certain functions relating to the purchase of work materials and supplies for their respective jurisdictions:*

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, The Keystone Purchasing Network hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency", is a Service Cooperative to allow participating governmental and municipal agencies to reduce the cost of purchased goods by leveraging their combined purchasing power at no cost.; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known and may be cited as Keystone Purchasing Network Cooperative resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency (Keystone Purchasing Network) entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11(5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency (Keystone Purchasing Network) for the purchase of work materials and supplies, as needed; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Are # 3, Communication & Connections; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Purchasing of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with Keystone Purchasing Network for the purchase of work materials and supplies, for the 2025-2026 school year, as needed.

### **Resolution No. 13**

*Resolution of the School District of the city of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the Department of Purchasing to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with the Morris County Cooperative Council hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency" for the conduct of certain functions relating to the purchase of work materials and supplies for their respective jurisdictions:*

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known and may be cited as the cooperative pricing resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11(5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency (Township of Randolph) for the purchase of work materials and supplies, as needed; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public Schools shall pay an annual fee of not to exceed \$2,000.00 to join said Cooperative Pricing Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Are # 3, Communication & Connections: and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency (Township of Randolph) entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Purchasing of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with the Morris County Cooperative Council for the purchase of work materials and supplies, for the 2025-2026 school year, as needed.

### **Resolution No. 14**

*Resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the Department of Purchasing to join New Jersey Edge*

*hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency" for the conduct of certain functions relating to the procurement of goods & services contracts:*

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known and may be cited as the cooperative pricing resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11(5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency for the purchase of time & materials contracts, as needed; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Area # 3, Communication & Connections; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Purchasing of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with NJ Edge for the utilization of technology contracts during the 2025-2026 school year.

### **Resolution No. 15**

A Resolution Authorizing the Paterson Public Schools to Enter into A Cooperative Pricing Agreement for the Purchase of Electricity, Technology, Work, Materials, and Supplies for the 2025-2026 school year:

WHEREAS, "The Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act," P.L. 1999, c. 23 authorizes the New Jersey School Boards' Association (hereinafter NJSBA) to obtain electricity and other energy-related services for individual local boards of education on an aggregated basis; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11 and 40A:11-10 authorizes local district boards of education to enter into cooperative pricing agreements with local government units, i.e. municipalities and counties, (hereinafter local units"); and

WHEREAS, NJSBA has offered voluntary participation in a cooperative pricing system for the group purchase of electrical generation and/or natural gas for consumption by the local units; any ancillary or administrative services related to the purchase of electrical generation and/or natural gas; and related energy services; and digital and electronic products and services and other technology products and programs to be purchased by local units; and services and such other items or services as two or more participating local units in the system agree can be purchased on a cooperative basis; and

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public Schools in the county of Passaic, State of New Jersey, desires to participate in NJSBA's Cooperative Pricing System;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the "ACES Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Paterson Public Schools Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11 and 40A:11-10, the District is hereby authorized to enter into NJSBA's ACES Cooperative Pricing System Agreement. The New Jersey School Boards Association shall be responsible for complying with the "Public School Contracts Law," N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq. all other applicable laws in connection with the preparation, bidding, negotiation and execution of contracts in connection with NJSBA's ACES Cooperative Pricing System. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

### **Resolution No. 16**

*Resolution of the School District of the city of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the department of purchasing to join the OMNIA Partners (OMNIA) hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency" for the conduct of certain functions relating to the purchase of good and services for their respective jurisdictions:*

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known and may be cited as the cooperative pricing resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11(5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency for the purchase of work materials and supplies, as needed; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public Schools shall pay no fee to join said Cooperative Pricing Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Area # 3, Communication & Connections; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Purchasing of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with the OMNIA Partners for the 2025-2026 school year, as needed.

### **Resolution No. 17**

*Resolution of the School District of the city of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the department of purchasing to join the Premier Educational Purchasing Program (PEPPM) hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency" for the*

*conduct of certain functions relating to the purchase of goods and services for their respective Jurisdictions:*

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known and may be cited as the cooperative pricing resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11(5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency for the purchase of work materials and supplies, as needed; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public Schools shall pay no fee to join said Cooperative Pricing Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Area # 3, Communication & Connections; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Purchasing of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and the State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with PEPPM for the purchase of goods & services for the 2025-2026 school year, as needed.

### **Resolution No. 18**

*Resolution of the School District of the city of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the department of purchasing to join the Sourcewell Cooperative hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency" for the conduct of certain functions relating to the purchase of goods and services for their respective jurisdictions:*

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known and may be cited as the cooperative pricing resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11(5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency for the purchase of work materials and supplies, as needed; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public Schools shall pay no fee to join said Cooperative Pricing Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Are # 3, Communication & Connections; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Purchasing of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with the Sourcewell for the 2025-2026 school year, as needed.

### **Resolution No. 19**

Resolution of the School District of the city of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the Department of Purchasing to join The Cooperative Purchasing Network (TCPN) hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency" for the conduct of certain functions relating to the purchase of goods and services for their respective jurisdictions:

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known and may be cited as the cooperative pricing resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11(5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency for the purchase of work materials and supplies, as needed; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public Schools shall pay no fee to join said Cooperative Pricing Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Are # 3, Communication & Connections; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Purchasing of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with The Cooperative Purchasing Network for the purchase of supplies & materials, for the 2025-2026 school year, as needed.

## **Resolution No. 20**

*Resolution of the School District of the city of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the Department of Purchasing to join the NASPO Value Point hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency" for the conduct of certain functions relating to the purchase of work materials, services and supplies for their respective jurisdictions:*

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known and may be cited as the cooperative pricing resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11 (5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency for the purchase of work materials and supplies, as needed; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public Schools shall pay no fee to join said Cooperative Pricing Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Area # 3, Communication & Connections; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Purchasing of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with *NASPO Value Point* for the purchase of work materials, services and supplies, for the 2025-2026 school year, as needed.

## **Resolution No. 21**

*Resolution of the School district of the city of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the department of purchasing to join the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA) hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency" for the conduct of certain functions relating to the purchase of goods and services for their respective jurisdictions:*

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known and may be cited as the cooperative pricing resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11(5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency for the purchase of work materials and supplies, as needed; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public Schools shall pay no fee to join said Cooperative Pricing Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Are # 3, Communication & Connections; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Purchasing of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey is hereby authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with the NCPA for the 2025-2026 school year, as needed.

### **Resolution No. 22**

*Resolution of the School District of the city of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, authorizing the department of purchasing to join The New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance hereinafter referred to as the "lead agency" for the conduct of certain functions relating to the purchase of work materials, supplies and services for their respective jurisdictions:*

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District encourages open public bidding for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known and may be cited as the cooperative pricing resolution of the School District of the City of Paterson; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S. 40A:11-11(5) the School District of the City of Paterson is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency for the purchase of work materials and supplies, as needed; and

WHEREAS, The Paterson Public Schools shall pay no fee to join said Cooperative Pricing Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal Are # 3, Communication & Connections; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency entering into contracts on behalf of the School District of the City of Paterson shall be responsible for complying with the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Purchasing of the School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey is hereby

authorized to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with The New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance for the 2025-2026 school year, as needed.

**Resolution No. 23**

WHEREAS, Paterson Public Schools receives local taxes on an annual basis consistent with the district's approved budget; and

WHEREAS, Paterson Public Schools 2025-2026 budget includes \$76,223,039 in Fund 10 as the General Fund local tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the district requires that these funds are received on a periodic basis over the course of the 2025-2026 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the following requisition of taxes for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 will be presented to the City of Paterson:

General Fund Tax Payments:  
Due the fifth of every month for 12 months, July '25 through June '26: \$  
6,351,920

Total General Fund Local Taxes: \$76,223,039

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the City of Paterson approves the Requisition of Taxes Schedule listed above for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (final tax levy TBD pending budget approval).

**Resolution No. 24**

RESOLUTION FOR AND APPOINTING A QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT IN A BOARD OF EDUCATION OR OTHER ENTITY SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A.18A:18A-1;

WHEREAS, the Public School Contract Law 18A:18A-3 permits a board of education the ability to increase and maintain their bid threshold up to \$44,000 and its quotation threshold to \$6,600; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3a permits an increase in the bid threshold if a Qualified Purchasing Agent is appointed as well as granted the authorization to negotiate and award such contracts below the bid threshold; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq. establishes the criteria for qualifying as a Qualified Purchasing Agent and issues certification after the successful completion of a State administered exam; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lance Gaines, Director of Purchasing & Central Stores, possesses the designation of Qualified Purchasing Agent as issued by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Paterson Board of Education desires to continue the bid threshold as provided in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Paterson Board of Education, in the County of Passaic, in the State of New Jersey hereby continues its bid

threshold of \$44,000.00 and its quotation threshold to \$6,600 for the 2025-2026 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent has appointed Mr. Lance Gaines, as the Qualified Purchasing Agent to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2b, with specific relevance to the authority, responsibility and accountability of the purchasing activity of the Board of Education and to award contracts up to the bid threshold without public advertising pursuant to 18A:18A-3(a); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.2, the Board of Education Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution and a copy of Mr. Gaines certification to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, and that this resolution takes effect with the approval of the Board of Education.

### **Resolution No. 25**

**PURPOSE:** Comply with the following:

- Integrated Pest Management NJAC 7:30-13.1
- Chemical Hygiene Program Title 29 Federal Regulation Part 1910.1450
- Indoor Air Quality NJAC 12:00-10.1
- Hazardous Communication Program NJAC 12:00-7, Title 29 Federal Regulations Part 1910.1200
- Exposure Control Plan Title 29 CFR 1910.1030

WHEREAS: The Health and Safety Plans were revised for the school year 2024-2025 for: Integrated Pest Management, Chemical Hygiene Program, Indoor Air Quality, Hazardous Communication Program, Exposure Control Plan, and;

WHEREAS: Approving the Integrated Pest Management, Chemical Hygiene Program, Indoor Air Quality, Hazardous Communication Program, Exposure Control Plan is in line with the "A Promising Tomorrow" Strategic Plan 2019-2024, Goal 2: Facilities, Objective 4 and 5.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Paterson Public Schools accepts these revised version of the following documents, Integrated Pest Management, Chemical Hygiene Program, Indoor Air Quality, Hazardous Communication Program, Exposure Control Plan, with the revision noted on the attached.

**It was moved by Comm. Ramirez, seconded by Comm. Nieves that Resolution Nos. 1 through 48 and Organization 1 through 25 be adopted.**

Comm. Simmons: This is regarding the item for general counsel and legal services. I'm trying to figure out what the emergent circumstance is. The current contract doesn't end until June 30. Is there a reason that this item cannot be tabled and this vote taken at a later date?

Comm. Gonzalez: The legal items that we're approving would have been done on January 2. I don't know that there is anyone different from the firms that are provided legal counsel in this pool of firms in the beginning of the year. The appointment of all these are to begin in July. Most of these now are in the existing pool and are being utilized according to the need of the district.

Comm. Simmons: There are two differences. One, general counsel is changing. In January this was the recommendation of the Superintendent. Since this is no longer the recommendation of the Superintendent and there was information gathered that I still don't see in the drive and I did request and have not received, since all Board members do not have that information we still have time to review it. There is an assumption that if we had the information, we would not have agreed and maybe we would go in a different direction. That information is being denied to us. We should have it so we can make informed decisions.

Comm. Gonzalez: I believe you requested the information on March 25 and you were provided that by Madam Secretary on March 25.

Comm. Simmons: I sent an email last week and I asked for hard copies. I don't have this information. We're not going to switch the subject. I'm asking a specific question. If this is not an emergent situation and the contracts are good until June 30, why can't these items be tabled and voted on at a later date? We just went through a whole thing. You heard Comm. McCall and Comm. Freeman. Comm. Teague doesn't have it. I have to look at this differently because it's ironic that it's us that don't have it.

Comm. Gonzalez: What I'm being told is that you were given this information that you requested on March 25. I wasn't copied on any of those emails. If you didn't get it based on your request, I believe it was sent to you. Last week we approved general counsel. This here is adding...

Comm. Simmons: If there is a cure to last week's resolution, then that means last week's resolution is invalid. Based on the opinion that you saw, there was no explanation given. This means it had to be cured. If it had to be cured, then it becomes invalid.

Comm. Gonzalez: From my understanding, the recommendation was a clerical addition recommended to be put on to the resolution...

Comm. Simmons: You can't put something on the resolution. How do you do that?

Comm. Nieves: By amendment.

Comm. Simmons: Let me rephrase it. Last week's resolution was not the typical resolution. It was a walk-on resolution that you read from a sheet of paper that was typed. It wasn't signed by anyone.

Comm. Gonzalez: The resolution that I read was prepared like the resolutions brought in prior years. The language was exactly what was presented previously in previous years. The changes were the name of the firm, dates and things of that nature. The process, which we already went over, came out of governance, like it came out in previous years. What was recommended was to add language to highlight the experience.

Mr. Zaydel: That's accurate.

Comm. Gonzalez: It was just to add the experience in the language. We're not changing anything.

Comm. Simmons: There was no resolution presented last week. You read from a piece of paper. Typically, we get the resolutions prior to. That didn't happen.

Comm. Gonzalez: That was added in new business. That's what we discussed before we adjourned.

Comm. Simmons: You read from a white piece of paper. There was no resolution that was provided to the Board.

Comm. Gonzalez: It was a resolution. You're asking what the urgent matter is. The urgent matter is that we're going to approve a set of attorneys who primarily already have...

Comm. Simmons: Those contracts go through June 30.

Comm. Gonzalez: Let me speak. If I'm going to respond to a question, let me respond. The urgency is that this should have been done in January. I've been asked several times and the other item on here is the organizational fiscal items, which come after this. This was also part of that same group of pulled items from January 2, which I've impressed to put back on to the agenda so we can get those things approved. All of these things were part of the same meeting on January 2 that was pulled. All of this should have already been approved in January 2's meeting. It was pulled. Today we're putting it back on so that they can move forward with everything on the organizational fiscal items, including everything from co-ops and things of that nature, including legal. All this was supposed to be approved on January 2. This is a formality. It's us continuing what we should have done on January 2. I hear your argument as to why we are doing this. We're going to go back into the whole discussion we just had and belabor this a little bit. It's the same process that happened during the general counsel. It's the same bids, process and timelines. Everything is exactly the same as it relates to all the timelines and everything the firms had to do to put in for the same bids. They're all in the same conversation. We're moving forward with the same thing. The only thing that's different here is the added language or the additional sentence that was recommended by the outside counsel. Mind you, to your point about what I read from the piece of paper, everything we read right now is off a piece of paper because they're presented to us as such. There was a template of what was used in prior years to do this very same action. That's what was given to me with the exception of the obvious updates of dates and names. In prior years, this added language was not even in there. This is a new recommendation to add this language, and this is us going above and beyond to make sure that we're highlighting something that we were given some advice on that we should include moving forward. We did exactly what folks had done in prior years and now we're taking a step further to add additional language to what was already approved many years consecutively. We took the same exact sheet of paper that you're referencing that had someone else's name on it and we changed the name. There's no difference except that we're adding a line in there as recommended to highlight the experience to that nature. That's the only addition. It's not an amendment to anything major. It's a clerical thing. This is something for our Madam Secretary to add to the resolution that was approved and to move forward with the special legal services, which includes everybody who submitted proposals. If you see on the agenda, there's a long list of them. It includes our current general counsel and some others. Mostly, these are folks who are already in this and past year's pool as well. This is a formality that has to be checked off along with the next items that will be voted on, which are organizational fiscal items 1-25.

Comm. McCall: I just need clarification that our current general counsel is who? At the meeting last week it said that this action was effective immediately. I just want clarification on that so that I can understand where we are. Here it says July 1, 2025 through July 30, 2026, at the amount not to exceed \$850,000. I just need clarification.

Comm. Gonzalez: I intended to answer that. I think you asked that before and I didn't get to it because I was trying to hit the other bullet points. When I read the resolution, it stated that this new law firm was going to begin in the next fiscal year. The part that's immediate is that we are bringing that law firm on immediately for transitional purposes. There's an overlap to make sure that this new firm is getting whatever they need to carry out the duties diligently during the transition period. This won't be handed off last minute.

Comm. McCall: Are we paying two firms during the rest of this fiscal year? Is that standard practice with us being in such a crunch of financial restraints?

Comm. Gonzalez: Thank you for the question. I'm going to let Boris answer that. As to the first point you mentioned, they get paid for this. Remember, this is an 'up to' amount. They don't get paid automatically. It's only when we use them. The number that's there is not automatically going to be spent.

Comm. McCall: I understand the not to exceed. I'm very familiar with contracts. I understand that. I just happened to read the whole thing. In most cases, when contracts are ending, they normally come on a few months before the contract ends. In this case, you're saying that this firm is coming on immediately.

Comm. Gonzalez: It's only two months.

Comm. McCall: It gives us April, May and June. Is that standard practice? I'm just asking because this is the first time I'm dealing with this. I want to know is that standard practice of us bringing on a firm this early for the transition. If it's not, why are we doing it? Is it going to cost us anything financially? We just went through this whole budget thing saying that we don't have money and how we're going to have to cut this and that. I'm just asking, is it necessary for this firm to come on now? I'm being fiscally responsible. Is it necessary for this firm to come on this early in the transition? Or would it be something where they would normally come on 30 or 60 days before the contract ends? If that's the case, I just want to make sure before I vote. None of this says anything about the transition period. The way I understood it last week, it was effective immediately. That means that there was going to be a small transition for Shabazz' firm to end their services and then we were going to pick up with this new firm. I just want to make sure I understand what I'm voting on.

Comm. Gonzalez: Good questions. The firm that we currently have remains to fulfill their contract. That's not being cut. The language didn't say that. It said for this new firm to come on for the next fiscal year. In addition to that, they would come on immediately for the transitional period. That doesn't tie us to a specific amount of hours or anything like that. That's administrative. They have to figure out internally what needs to be discussed, how much time has to be allotted to make sure that we carry over, and if there are certain cases that are being handled. However, that needs to happen, that's outside of our purview because now we're getting into the very specifics of the day-to-day. I can't answer the question as to what happened in past years, but I think it's good practice. In my experience, there's always been a transition. We're only really talking about the end of June. We're in mid-April. It's not like there's a lot of time. That being said, I can't answer about past practices and how many days. We've had

this firm for a couple of years. I don't know if anybody has that because there hasn't been a transition in numerous years. Maybe Boris or Cheryl knows.

Comm. McCall: I think that's a question for Madam Superintendent. I don't need the answer tonight, but I think that's something that Madam Superintendent should be referred to. It is going to be under her privy of how this transition takes place, even though she says it is not her recommendation. I guess I'm just doing this because of the public. The public trusts us in making these decisions with the finances. Here we are telling the public that we're going to be cutting all these things to shave down the budget and now we're taking on a new expense. I'm going to ask for a response from the Superintendent at a later date in writing to give me clarity on what we might be looking at financially in this transition.

Comm. Teague: How much did we pay this independent law firm for this opinion they gave us? I would like to know that.

Mr. Zaydel: We can include that with the information that Comm. McCall requested. All law firms are generally paid at the \$160 an hour rate. The question is how much time it took. We will find out.

Comm. Gonzalez: These are all considered legal services no matter who's doing it. Legal has a line item to award these contracts or request these services from the firm. They all come out of the legal services budget. The funds that we are utilizing are funds that are already there. To Comm. Teague's point as it relates to...

Comm. Teague: The money is already there, but it's still the taxpayer's money.

Comm. Gonzalez: Of course it is. All of it is. Everything we do is taxpayer money. We will ask them to send an email to all of us as it relates to how many hours and how long it took for them to do the research and respond when needed.

Comm. Freeman: Does the law firm you guys are going with have an educational law background?

Comm. Gonzalez: I don't have the packet in front of me, but they have over 100 years of experience. They have been in the school district for over 30 years. They currently already have 50% of our workers' compensation cases shared with our current counsel. They're already in the district. They're not new to the district. They also have another neighboring school district. They've been serving along with Passaic County Tech. They're very experienced in this and are currently already serving in this capacity with other school districts.

Comm. Freeman: Is this law firm associated with the Passaic County Democratic Party?

Comm. Gonzalez: I don't know who they're associated with. I can't speak for the party of this law firm and what their associations are. I just know their qualifications are exactly what we're looking for.

Comm. Freeman: That's not loaded up yet. When can I get the packet to see so I can go through this?

Comm. Gonzalez: As soon as possible.

Ms. Williams: It's uploaded.

Comm. Freeman: If you need to use outside counsel for worker's compensation or whatever, the recommendations that were pulled on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, I know CBIZ was in those recommendations. I don't see it on the email that I received from Cheryl as being one of the 25 that we're voting on tonight. Is there some reason why CBIZ is not there now?

Comm. Gonzalez: I'm not sure. Is there a resolution for CBIZ?

Ms. Williams: These are from January. CBIZ was pulled in March. They weren't pulled at the January meeting.

Comm. Freeman: Cheryl, if I can get that information on the new law firm. I need to look through because if they are affiliated with the Passaic County Democratic Party it should be disclosed in their packet. That's important for me. I don't know about anybody else, but that's very important for me if they are affiliated with the Passaic County Democratic Party. That brings me some concern. The only way I'll find out is if they disclose that in their packet or if they can answer that for me. I need clarification on that, and I will wait for it, but it's important for me to know that.

Comm. Rashid: Is it mandatory that we need to dig who is affiliated with what party?

Comm. Gonzalez: We're not, but I don't know how we can get information like that. I'll defer that to our legal.

Comm. Nieves: I want to be clear and I want to be on the record. I do not want to know anyone's party affiliations because I do not want to be involved with any civil rights violation. I don't want to know anything. If you want to know that information, please have it emailed separately. I don't want to know.

Comm. Gonzalez: I would agree.

Comm. Ramirez: The same goes for me. I'm sorry for violating parliamentary procedure and speaking over you, but I concur with Comm. Nieves. I do not want to receive that information. I do not want to be a party to a civil rights violation of anyone.

Comm. Gonzalez: We can't award contracts based on affiliations with political parties. The way I look at it is I think we have to make sure that whatever service is going to be in our best interests regardless of affiliations. I don't care. What I want is to make sure that whoever comes in is going to do right by us and do the best job humanly possible and that at the end of the day the kids win. That's what I look for and the experience. Every Commissioner might have a slightly different view of that, but I'm not here to judge anybody. I just want to get through this. Ask your questions. Based on what other Commissioners are saying, you can find that out independently, but not under the Board's purview for us to inquire or ask that. If you want to do that independently, that's totally up to you.

Comm. Rosado: Add me as well. I don't want to know any affiliations that they have. Just have them direct it to anybody who's asking them the questions.

Comm. Freeman: Let me rephrase my question. I'm putting this on the record. Whether anybody here wants to answer that or not, that's fine. Are they the law firm for the Passaic County Democratic Party Committee? I'll find out. If Boris can give me the information or if it's in their packet, I would feel better once I see what it is and some of

the people they do represent. It is important. I'm not insinuating anything or suggesting it. I need to know these things because it's important. We all know why it's important. We're not going to sit here and act like we don't know why it's important. We know why it's important. It is important for us to know that. That's all I have. I'll find out. Thank you.

**On roll call all members voted as follows:**

Comm. Freeman: No.

Comm. McCall: No.

Comm. Nieves: Yes.

Comm. Ramirez: Yes.

Comm. Rashid: Yes.

Comm. Rosado: Yes.

Comm. Simmons: No.

Comm. Teague: No.

Comm. Gonzalez: Yes, with my abstentions.

**The motion carried.**

**Paterson Board of Education  
Standing Abstentions**

Commissioner Valerie Freeman

- Self
- Family
- Paterson Cares, Inc.
- Paterson Community Health Center

Commissioner Eddie Gonzalez

- Self
- Family
- New Jersey Community Development Corporation (NJCDC)
- Community Charter School of Paterson

Commissioner Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson

Commissioner Hector L. Nieves, Jr.

- Self
- City of Paterson

Commissioner Joel D. Ramirez

- Self
- City of Paterson

- Passaic County Community College
- State of New Jersey

Commissioner Mohammed H. Rashid

- Self
- City of Paterson

Commissioner Kenneth Rosado

- Self
- City Housing Authority
- City of Paterson
- Paterson Restoration Corp.

Commissioner Kenneth L. Simmons

- Self
- Family

Commissioner Corey L. Teague

- Self
- Paterson Police Department
- Paterson Policing

**Committee Reports**

Comm. Gonzalez: We discussed the committee reports in the last workshop meeting. I don't believe there are any updates. I don't know if anyone has any questions on any of those. The packets were handed out in the last meeting.

Comm. McCall: I see there is a policy in the committee reports. Can you give a little overview about the meeting we just had and update the Board on that?

Comm. Gonzalez: The chair is Comm. Rosado.

***Policy***

Comm. Rosado: We did meet yesterday. We didn't go through the entire itinerary. We do have to meet later on this month. We spoke about attendance, AI in the classrooms, eligibility of non-resident and resident students and the use of electronic devices at the schools. We do have a lot more to go over. I've scheduled another meeting for the end of this month and another one of the beginning of May to go over everything else we have on there.

Comm. Gonzalez: I was also in attendance. There were about 25 different items, just so everyone understands why we were having multiple meetings. We were asking a lot of questions about each of these policies, which obviously extends the time of our meetings. To go through 25 in one sitting is too much. None of these items are on the agenda for tonight. These are all items that we are reviewing for the next workshop to give everyone an update as we go through them. I believe we did about six policies and we have a long way to go. We will schedule multiple meetings so we can phase it out. All will hopefully be done prior to next month's meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**It was moved by Comm. Nieves, seconded by Comm. Ramirez that the Board goes into Executive Session to discuss issues that warrant confidentiality, as consistent with NJSA 10:4-12 for matters of Attorney/Client Privilege, Contracts, Legal, Litigation, Negotiations, Personnel and Student Matters. The minutes will be made available to the public upon request, when the confidentiality of the subject is no longer warranted. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative, except Comm. Freeman, Comm. Simmons and Comm. Teague who voted no. The motion carried.**

The Board went into executive session at 8:02 p.m.

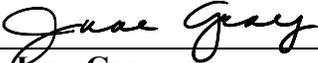
**It was moved by Comm. Ramirez, seconded by Comm. Nieves that the Board reconvenes the meeting. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.**

The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved by Comm. Ramirez, seconded by Comm. Rosado that the meeting be adjourned. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

  
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**Ms. June Gray**  
**Business Administrator**