THE DISTRICT

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 2025

NEW YEAR, NEW BOARD

The Paterson Board of Education adds new members and chooses new leadership





Paterson Board of Education commissioners started the new term with the addition of two new members, the return of another, and choosing their top officers. During the annual Organization Meeting, held on January 2nd, Eddie González was elected President of the body, who then chose Joel D. Ramírez as the Vice President of the Board. This followed the swearing in ceremonies of the three new commissioners, Hector Nieves Jr., Kenneth Rosado, and Corey L. Teague. This will be the first ever term for Commissioners Nieves and Rosado, but Commissioner Teague is a returning

member who last held a seat in 2022.

In his remarks, President González pointed out that as Board President he wants his tenure to be highlighted by its transparency and accountability. "This district is a public agency, and everything has to be done in the full day of light," he said. Continuing on this point he added, "I will try hard to make sure that the public is aware and informed in a timely manner of all things happening in this district, along with my colleagues and the Superintendent.... We have to make sure that the public documents are readily available to anyone that wants them."

"We have a lot of work to do," Vice President Ramírez said, continuing, "Please know that we are going to support the Superintendent in everything that helps children. We are going to make every decision with the children and the taxpayer of Paterson in mind."

Commissioner Nieves said, "I promise to work tirelessly and to uphold the trust that you have placed in me." He later added, "I believe in the power of our community."

Commissioner Rosado said, "I work on transparency and am just looking forward to making sure that the children get what they need and being a part of that."

Commissioner Teague said, "I was brought back for one reason, and one reason only, and that was to make sure that when I leave, that this district will be in a better position than it was when I got here.... I am always going to be an advocate for our Special Needs population"

Superintendent Laurie W. Newell welcomed the new commissioners before stating, "I look forward to working with each and every one of you as we move this district forward for the children of Paterson."

Click here for press release

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to the first installment of the District Chronicler's new segment, "Superintendent's Corner"! Featured here will be content presented by District leadership, such as the work being done to further the District's mission, opinion pieces, insights, and recognitions. Dr. Newell and her Cabinet are excited about this opportunity to keep you, our administrators, faculty, and support staff updated with information on the status of the District as a whole.

Immigration Executive Order

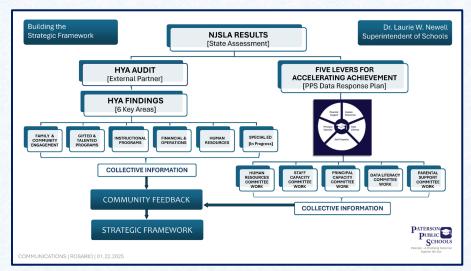
Sweeping new executive orders were issued from the new White House that touched on many topics that affect the community. Superintendent Laurie W. Newell, PhD., promptly addressed concerns regarding immigration in a letter to staff, students, and Paterson's communities. The letter is available in English, Spanish, Arabic, and Bengali and is complimented by a video of the Superintendent delivering the message.

The message and video have been included in a new tab, "<u>Information on Immigration Executive Order</u>", under the "Healing Hub", a depot of resources and information related to mental and emotional health, grief, and self-care, located under the "District" section of the website.

The Information on Immigration Executive Order tab also has a Q&A part regarding the District's policy on law enforcement access and related matters.

Click here to watch the video

Strategic Framework





On Friday, January 17th,
Superintendent Newell and Deputy
Superintendent Henderson met with
Principals meeting at Central Office as part
of the work of the Strategic Planning.

Currently, District efforts are working simultaneously on collecting information on the 6 Key Areas, as described on the left side of the graph, and the Five Levers For Accelerating Achievement, as described on the right side.

The Communications Department has created a graph to help visualize the building of the Strategic Framework that will shape the District's next Strategic Plan.

MUSLIM HERITAGE MONTH



ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Deputy Superintendent Rodney Henderson continues working on content to support the "Paterson Progress Plan - Five Levers for Accelerating Achievement" initiative that was introduced to the District in Spring of last year. The initiative is comprised of five parts, those being Lever 1: Human Resources, Lever 2: Data Literacy, Lever 3: Staff Capacity, Lever 4: Principal Capacity, and Lever 5: Parental Support. The initiative is designed to focus administrative efforts on improving operations and outreach to our communities.

Recently, a focus on attendance has been initiated to support Lever 5. Overall student attendance has been steadily improving in the District, but there are some schools where improvement is still needed. District administrators are working on ways of communicating the urgency of having our students present each day and consequences that come from chronic absenteeism. Dr. Henderson recorded a short message about the importance of student attendance as part of the project, of which more information will be available soon.

BREAKING GROUND



(L-R front row) Pastor Doug Golding, Council President Alex Mendez, NJ Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, Superintendent Laurie W. Newell, Mayor Andre Sayegh, Board President Eddie González, Commissioner Della McCall, Councilman Luis Velez. (L-R back row) Former Commissioner Manny Martinez, Commissioner Hector L. Nieves, Jr.

School 25 and the surrounding community are looking forward to this Spring when the new tennis courts, located on the corner of Illinois and Trenton Avenues, will open. The groundbreaking ceremony recently took place on January 13th, with many city, school district, and other special dignitaries in attendance.

Superintendent Laurie W. Newell, along with Board of Education President Eddie Gonzalez, Commissioners Della McCall and Hector L. Nieves, Jr., as well as former Board Commissioner Manny Martinez were present. Also in attendance was Mayor Andre Sayegh, N.J. Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, and Councilmen Alex Mendez and Luis Velez.

Dr. Newell stated that she knows the value of sports. She later said, "I am very thankful to the city and other stakeholders in the redevelopment of these fields. These places provide outlets for our children to develop their physical skills and health. Additionally, they help bring communities together."

Board President Gonzalez said, "When we work together, we can make things happen for the betterment of our children, for the District, and for the community."

The School 25 tennis courts project is part of the city's efforts to renovate community sports recreation locations, having already completed the school's nearby baseball field and the tennis courts at Eastside Park last year. The courts at Westside Park will be done later this year.

TAKING HOME THE AWARD

International Club takes NJCTA Youth Leadership Award three years in a row

International High School senior, Giovanni Miguel Orengo, was one of sixteen students across the state to receive the 2024 New Jersey Chinese Teachers Association Youth Leadership Award (NJCTA). The statewide competition held by the New Jersey Chinese Teachers Association honors high school students across New Jersey who actively promote Asian culture in their schools and communities while demonstrating exceptional leadership skills.

This marks the third consecutive year that the school's International Club has produced a NJCTA winner, following Naomi Sosa in 2022 and Andrea Velez Aparicio in 2023.

Mr. Orengo, under the guidance of the club's founder and advisor, Mrs. Hong Syz, has demonstrated extraordinary leadership by chairing the Sister School Exchange Workshop with schools from Taiwan, China, and Japan. Additionally, he actively contributes to the club's Cultural Box Project every year, promoting cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.

Beyond his leadership in the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders program and performances, Giovanni excels academically and plays significant roles in other school clubs and outside organizations.



FIRE SAFETY DURING THE HOLIDAYS



On December 20th, Newcomers High School participated in an educational workshop presented by the Paterson Fire Department emphasizing "Fire Safety During the Holidays". This workshop educated students on fire safety practices and the importance of properly lighting Christmas trees and safely handling candles and portable heaters. According to the American Red Cross, nearly 47,000 house fires occur during the winter holidays in the U.S.

The students also created thank you notes for the fire department highlighting its positive impact on our community and the sacrifices the department's members make for others. Additionally, the firefighters were presented with a gift basket of comfort food and other items to take back to the station.



FIRST CONTACT

Students at P-Tech will have the unique opportunity to communicate with Astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS) as part of a program called Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS). Organized by Planetarium Manager Carlos Miranda, Ed.D., this program will allow students in Paterson Public Schools to engage in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to connect directly with astronauts aboard the International Space Station with live, voice-only communication via Amateur Radio. Now that Paterson Public Schools have officially been accepted into this program, Dr. Miranda and other program directors are looking forward to making this an extraordinary experience, from pre-event activities to the live contact itself, and even in the projects that will follow.

The District anticipates that the contact will be held in the latter half of the year.

PATERSON
TO THE STARS

COMMING
COMMING
TO THE STARS

Click here for press release

SHARING A LOVE FOR READING

On December 19th, members of the Eastside Spanish Honor Society (ESHS) visited Dale Avenue Elementary School to participate in a Reading Winter Wonderland activity. To promote a love of reading at an early age, ESHS students read classic stories such as "Snow White", "Little Red Riding Hood", "The Snowman", "Alice in Wonderland", "Cinderella", and "The Gingerbread Man". Dale Avenue and School 3 students then answered questions related to the stories and painted their favorite characters. ESHS students also dressed in costumes representing each story and then gave gift bags to the students at the end.



ART MUSEUM VISIT

John F. Kennedy 'Foundations of Art' and English students visited the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutger University in New Brunswick on Friday, January 17th, one of the largest university art museums in the United States. JFK teachers Hermes Almeida, So Yoon Lym, and Thomas Springsteen supervised students as they walked through the galleries. Students had a one hour guided tour where they looked at selected artworks in the Art of the Americas wing. Students then had free time to view the extraordinary contemporary Russian art in the permanent collection as well as the special exhibition on Geometric Abstraction.



THEIR SIGHTS SET ON THE STATE COMPETITION

On January 14th, the Rosa L. Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts (RLPHS) DECA chapter competed at the NJ DECA Northwest Regional Conference/Competition held at Ramapo College in Mahwah. DECA advisor, Dr. Reggie Hall Sr., provided guidance to the RLPHS delegation, of which all 17 members earned an invitation to compete at the state competition to be held at the Harrah's Hotel and Resort in Atlantic City from March 4th to 6th. Sophomore Chris Perez won first place in his category for the second time this year, while senior Karen Huitzil won second place in her category.



TOY DRIVE

The School 5 Student Government Association (SGA), led by President, Meydy Lopez, Vice President, Nusrah Ali, Secretary Aariah Arzu, and Treasurer Jolanie Morales held a holiday toy drive from December 2nd to December 16th. Students were encouraged to bring in a new, unwrapped toy to be donated to the children at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital. Boxes were placed in each homeroom for donations, from which all the toys were collected and then distributed to the hospital prior to the start of winter break.



The SGA advisors, Diane Bannon, Kelly Williams, and Michelle Sembler, thanked all those who participated in the event. "We are very proud of our student representatives for all their efforts in this project," they said. "The recipients were overwhelmed with gratitude and appreciation from the generosity of the School 5 community."

TWO IN A ROW



In late December, Dr. Hani Awadallah School was notified that another one of its students had ranked highly in the Beable's Fall Power Up Contest, which has over 100,000 students compete nationwide monthly. Seventh graders Emelin Guizar-Bello, who won in October, and Angel Flores, who won in November, both ranked 3rd in the national contest.

The contest is designed to motivate students to do their best work in Beable, with special attention being given to those who successfully level up their Lexile levels through Power Up Challenges. The more quality work that students complete in Beable, the higher they climb on the product leaderboard. The winners are chosen based on who earns the most points.



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PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THE 80'S ON THE 80TH DAY

To recognize the 80th day of the school year, School 28 staff and students wore clothing reminiscent of the 1980s. Fashion from the 80's era was a very unique point in time. It was full of loud colors, extreme fashion, and sky-high hair. Staff and students were encouraged to dress in the style of the decade (big hair, big earrings, headbands, sunglasses, leg-warmers, wigwam socks, neon colors, acid-wash denim, shoulder pads, track suits, and high-waisted jeans) to celebrate the 80th day of school.





BROADWAY HITS



On January 22nd, Renaissance One School of Humanities (School 1) held an assembly to showcase its talent to the community. Staff, students, and families enjoyed "Broadway, The Renaissance One Way", a collection of musical performances from Broadway shows. Students sang and danced on stage to hits such as "You'll Be Back" from Hamilton, "Defying Gravity" from Wicked, and "Jump In Line" from Beetlejuice.

Superintendent Laurie W. Newell, with Assistant Superintendents Joanna Tsimpedes and Nahed Badawy had front row seats.









Our district in the news

Media Highlights

TAPintoPaterson

<u>Paterson Board of Education Elects New Leadership, Swears in Members at Annual</u> Reorganization Meeting

January 04, 2024

TAPintoPaterson

Paterson Public Schools Approves Aquaponics Lab for STEM Education

January 09, 2025

TAPintoPaterson

Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation Partners with Paterson School 24 to Enhance Arts Education

January 11, 2025

TAPinto Paterson

Paterson Students to Connect with Astronauts Aboard the International Space Station

January 12, 2025

TAPinto Paterson

Paterson Officials Break Ground on \$341K Renovation of School 25 Tennis Courts

January 13, 2025

TAPinto Paterson

Kennedy Dominates Holy Angels in 55-28 Victory

January 15, 2025

TAPintoPaterson

Alexander Hamilton Academy Partners with Inner Faith Performing Arts Center for Arts and

Social Development Program

January 17, 2025

TAPintoPaterson

Eastside Basketball Teams Secure Hard-Fought Wins Over Bergen Tech

January 17, 2025

TAPintoPaterson

Kennedy Sweeps Passaic in Basketball Matchups

January 17, 2025



Our district in the news

Media Highlights

TAPintoPaterson

<u>Esports Program Proposed for Elementary and Middle Schools</u> January 19, 2025

MSN

<u>Paterson's Shadasia Green, an Eastside Basketball Standout, is a New Women's Boxing Star</u> January 21, 2025

Paterson Press

<u>Paterson High Schoolers Will Chat with Astronauts Orbiting Earth on the Space Station</u> January 24, 2025

TAPinto Paterson

<u>Paterson Music Project Celebrates Black History Month with Two Concerts</u> Jan 27, 2025

Important Dates

February 7 1:00 PM Student Dismissal/Staff PD

February 11 Report Card Parent Conferences 4:30-6:30 PM

(JAT, NRC, Grades 9-12)

February 13 Report Card Parent Conferences 4:30-6:30 PM

(Grades PreK-8)

February 14 Students & PEA Staff Early Dismissal

February 17-18 Winter Break – District Closed



Board of Education Meetings

The February 5th Board of Education Workshop meeting will be held at 90 Delaware Avenue.

Those who want to give public comments must do so in person. They should register for the meeting.

The February 12th Board of Education Regular meeting will be conducted remotely.

It will also be live streamed at pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents.

Language Interpretation

Online language interpretation is available for all pre-recorded Board meetings in Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, and Turkish. Simply choose the preferred language available in the video settings.

The District Chronicler is a publication of the PPS Department of Communications. We welcome your submissions on school and district-related news. Submit stories and photos to **ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us.**

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