



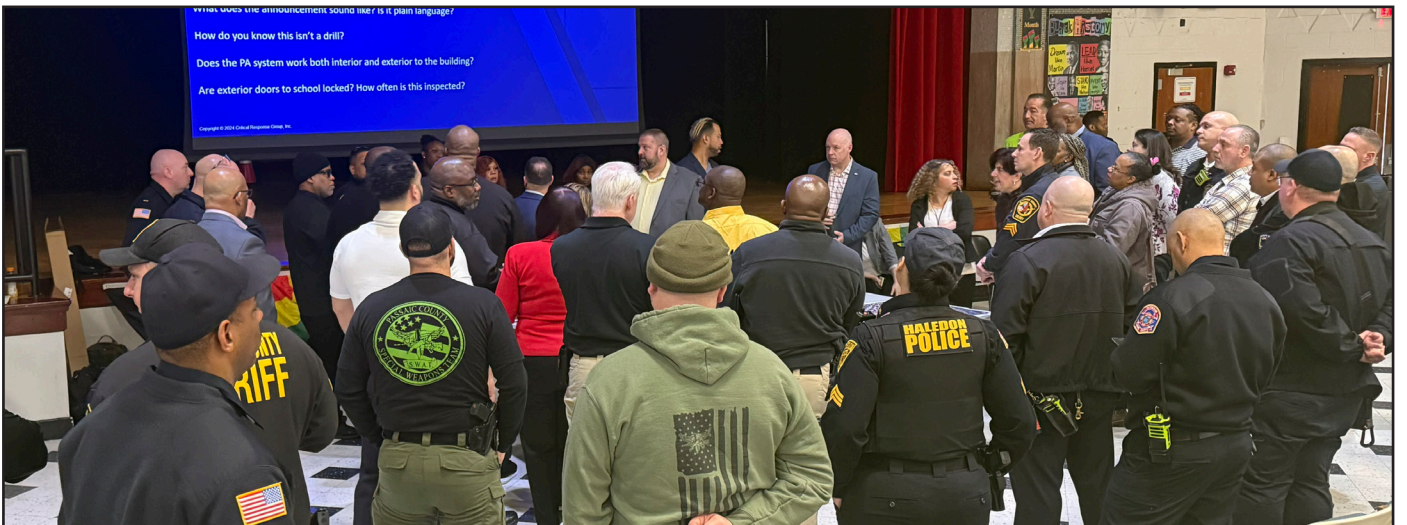
THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

FEBRUARY 20, 2026 | VOL. 24

DISTRICT HOSTS MULTI-AGENCY SCHOOL SAFETY TRAINING



Paterson Public Schools hosted a multi-agency tabletop exercise on February 19 that brought together district administration, school leadership, local law enforcement, EMS, Fire, and public safety partners to strengthen coordinated emergency response in a school setting. The hands-on training, which took place at John F. Kennedy High School and was facilitated by Critical Response Group (CRG), clarified roles, enhanced communication, and bolstered unified response and recovery strategies during a critical incident.

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

Last week, I provided the Board of Education an update on the district's goals for the 2025-2026 school year. A mid-year update on these goals will serve as a critical bridge between our planning that started at the beginning of the academic calendar, and our evaluation of the school year at the end of June. It also helps the district track its progress and address needs that have come up over the last five months.



Goal 1: Implementation of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan – All decisions districtwide are being made to align with the goals that are outlined in the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. From strengthening data literacy in our classrooms, to amendments in our operational efficiency, the Strategic Plan's objectives will continue to be at the heart of everything we do as a district.

Goal 2: Continuation of the Middle School Model – We are in Phase 3 of our work in implementing the Middle School Model, which began in 2015 as part of a five-year Long-Range Facilities Plan. We are working towards fulfilling this transformational plan and bringing it to completion.

Goal 3: Data Dashboard Piloting at High Schools – These data dashboards, which will first be installed in the district's high schools, will provide our school communities with information on attendance, enrollment, graduation rates, and student achievement. We have completed the cost analysis stage to prepare for this innovative project, and it has given us a clear picture of the equipment, infrastructure, and installation that we need before we can move forward.

At the heart of these goals are the children that we serve and their endless potential. I look forward to continuing our work with these updated priorities and raising the level of expectation for student achievement at Paterson Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

A NIGHT OF PARTNERSHIP AND RESOURCES AT MLK EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex empowered families by offering essential resources and presentations during the school's Report Card Parent Conference on February 12. Led by MLK Principal Dr. Moses McKenzie, parents were invited to a presentation by the Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources. The information that was shared is designed to delay the onset of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, increase resistance to peer pressure, and improve parent management skills.

Additionally, Student Assistance Coordinator Alvin Bush helped distribute 45 new winter coats, socks, jeans, hat and glove sets, hygiene packets, and several pairs of sneakers for MLK's families. Parent Teacher Organization representatives and 8th grade students were also in attendance where they were selling candy, chips, and other items to fundraise for future trips.

STAFF REMINDER

RAMADAN 2026 IS COMING
WHAT SCHOOL FACULTY NEEDS TO KNOW

Ramadan is the Muslim month of fasting. Practicing Muslim students will be fasting from dawn until dusk (approx. 5:00am to 7:30pm).

Fasting means **NO FOOD** and **NO WATER**.

Ramadan celebration often involves prayers late into the night. It is not unusual to be up past midnight for prayers and then get up around 5am to eat before dawn and pray.

Ramadan 2026 will last approximately from **Feb 17 to Mar 19**. Ramadan is scheduled on the lunar calendar so it moves dates each year.

Muslim students may be tired, hungry, and dehydrated in your classes — especially if they are with you late in the afternoon.

SUPPORTING PPS STUDENTS DURING RAMADAN

From February 17 to March 19, many of Paterson Public Schools' Muslim students and staff will be observing Ramadan, a holy month of fasting, prayer, and community.

During this time, observants abstain from all food and drink, including water, from dawn until sunset. Ramadan celebration also often involves prayers late into the night. Please support our students and staff as they navigate their daily school routines.

Click this [link](#) for instructional resources about Ramadan.

DALE AVENUE SCHOOL CELEBRATES UNIT STUDY ON PHOTOGRAPHY



Dale Avenue School's Pre-K 4 classroom was transformed into a gallery of young visionaries on February 9 as the teacher, Mr. Ben Cummings, support staff, and students hosted a Celebration of Learning. This event served as the grand finale for the class' immersive unit study on cameras and photography. During the unit, students explored the various parts of the camera, the concepts of portraits and photographs, and what it's like to be a professional photographer. Families were invited to see firsthand how Dale's young learners tackled some big concepts that included drawing, inferencing, and writing through the use of pictures and photography.



JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AT LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Nineteen dedicated students from John F. Kennedy High School recently volunteered their time to support the mission of Saint Peter's Haven in Clifton, NJ. As part of the food pantry's Souper Bowl of Caring event, students weighed, counted, and sorted donations while learning from the pantry's director about how the organization serves the community.



LOVE AND LEARNING AT PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Schools across the district celebrated Valentine's Day last week as students participated in activities that fostered togetherness and kindness. Charles J. Riley School/School 9 students created door decorations that featured hearts, sweet messages, and colorful designs. At Joseph A. Taub School, staff members delivered cake pops to teachers and filled the building with smiles, laughter, and positive energy.



PPS IN THE NEWS

[Be Prepared: Paterson Public Schools Hosts Multi-Agency Emergency Response Training at Kennedy High School](#)

TAPinto Paterson | February 19, 2026

[‘Best way to survive.’ Paterson school hosts emergency preparedness training event](#)

News 12 NJ | February 19, 2026

PARENT REMINDERS

RE-REGISTRATION FOR NSW AND SCHOOL 1 STUDENTS OPENS MARCH 2

Families of Norman S. Weir School and School 1 students must re-register their child for the 2026-2027 school year. Failure to re-register will result in your child being unenrolled from Paterson Public Schools. For more information regarding re-registration, please view the [informational flyer](#).

Re-Registration
ATTENTION PARENTS WITH CHILDREN ATTENDING:
Norman S. Weir & School 1

RE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO SECURE ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR AT YOUR CHILD'S HOME SCHOOL. STUDENTS WHO DO NOT RE-REGISTER WILL NOT BE ENROLLED FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR. NORMAN S. WEIR WILL BE REPURPOSED FOR FUTURE USE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DISTRICT'S NEEDS.

DATES				
Monday March 2 1PM-6PM	Tuesday March 3 1PM-6PM	Wednesday March 4 1PM-6PM	Thursday March 5 1PM-6PM	Saturday March 7 9AM-1PM
MAKE-UP DATES				
Monday March 9 8AM-12PM	Tuesday March 10 8AM-12PM	Wednesday March 11 8AM-12PM	Thursday March 12 8AM-12PM	

REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN!

Kindergarten registration has begun! Families must register [online](#). Once complete, the office of Central Registration will contact you to schedule an appointment to meet with the nurse. All children turning 5 years old by October 31 must register for kindergarten. For more information, please view the [informational flyer](#).

Register for
Kindergarten

All children turning 5 years old by October 31 must register for Kindergarten.

MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

[Full 2025-2026 District Calendar Here](#)

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, March 4th, at 90 Delaware Ave. Those wishing to provide public comments must do so **in person** and are required to register for the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 PM.

The **Board of Education Regular Meeting** will take place virtually on Wednesday, March 11th. Those wishing to provide public comments are required to register for the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 PM.

Online language interpretation is available for all pre-recorded Board meetings in Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, and Turkish. Simply select your preferred language at pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents.

The District Newsletter is a publication of the Department of Communications. We welcome your submissions on school and district-related news. **Submit** stories and photos by using our **Newsletter Submissions** form. This form can be found on our Communications page at www.paterson.k12.nj.us

Questions? Email us at ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us

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