

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

April 1, 2026 – 6:25 p.m.
Central Office (First Floor)

Presiding: Comm. Della McCall, Vice President
*Comm. Joel Ramirez, President

Present:
Dr. Laurie W. Newell, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Rodney Henderson, Deputy Superintendent
Albert Buglione, Esq., General Counsel

Comm. Valerie Freeman
Comm. Della McCall, Vice President
Comm. Alex Mendez
Comm. Hector Nieves

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

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

Comm. Mendez 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:

**Workshop Meeting
April 1, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
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 TAPinto, the Arab Voice, El Diario, the Italian Voice, the North Jersey Herald & News, and The Record.

Comm. McCall: Good evening. Before we get started, did everyone sign up who wants to speak? Did you sign up with the secretary? Good evening and welcome to Paterson Public Schools' workshop meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Mr. Charles Wilson, III: I have two questions. I see here today I&P-11. We're going to eliminate special education classes from Norman S. Weir. Can someone tell me why when that school is conducive for special education kids? Our special education kids need swimming. They need the things that are at that school. I wonder why you would eliminate that from Norman S. Weir. Why do we want to close down these schools? We need these schools. These schools were built because of a reason, because of the population and to keep troubled kids from going out there and doing troubling things. Our school is a community. For you to sit here and tell me that you need to close a school down, something is wrong with Paterson. Something is wrong with this Board. I can't understand why we are looking to close schools. We talk about layoffs. How are we going to lay off when we don't even have enough staff? We're transferring people two months from school's end to fill spots. We can afford to lay off some folks? I need to know why. Our classes are not getting any smaller. They're getting bigger. The kids are not getting the services that they need now. Child study teams are going crazy because of the influx of special education kids. I don't understand how we can close schools down and lay off staff members. Where is the money really going? I came up with a solution. I think somebody in this group got ties with charter schools. I'm going to put it out there. I'm not going to talk behind your back. Somebody is connecting with charter schools. Let's stop playing games with our kids. Our kids in Paterson deserve more. They deserve the best. Where is the President today? Last time we had over 300 people sign up to speak, and he only let three people speak, but he isn't here today. It's time to re-elect some new people. Let's get it together.

Mr. Alexander Cardillo: I want to share a story with you that happened to me on April 4, 2019, which was the year that I was RIF'd. My RIF letter came to me on May 14, 2019. After two weeks of stalking, harassing me and making me come to her office unnecessarily and setting up meetings about the future of clubs at MLK, Monica Florez finally confronted me about the elephant in the room. She finally confronted me about student E. As I was about to answer her, my PEA representative, who I was told by a former district administrator from 90 Delaware Avenue never to be without and also student E's resource teacher, said to Monica Florez, "I'm going to stop you right there. We asked Mr. Cardillo to do this. We asked him to help student E." The look on Monica Florez' face was complete and utter shock. She then stated to me, "Well, then you should be commended for helping the student." What I didn't know then but I know now is that Monica Florez shot first and asked questions later. Two weeks before this, she and allegedly someone else called DCPP on me. This is the only time I will speculate on something in my case. This was the date Monica Florez decided I needed to get out of that building because she knew at that point and I didn't that she called DCPP for absolutely no reason. She could have easily asked me before she made that call what the situation was with student E and myself, but she wanted to make up for something that happened in that building that I will not mention. By catching somebody doing something wrong and bringing it to Delaware Avenue, she would look better in their eyes. One other thing I would like to mention. My PEA representative who was a great deal of help to me also knew about DCPP coming to student E's house but not from me or Monica Florez. She knew from student E himself. When I found out about DCPP in September, student E told me that I was getting sick and he didn't want to see me get sicker. When I called the PEA representative, she said the exact same thing. I can't say as I blame either one of them. I was losing a huge amount of weight very fast and vomiting every morning before coming to work. I was having what is called a dorsal vagal reaction. My anxiety had no place to go and it led to that. Also, neither one of them realized that this would get to this level. Monica Florez' inappropriate actions have created a horrible situation for everyone. Not just for myself, but for the Paterson Board of Education. She needs to be held accountable for DCPP fraud and perjury. Thank you.

Dr. JoAnn Cardillo: Good evening. I was not in attendance last week at the budget meeting because I wanted to listen, understand and take notes on what was presented to you as I knew you would have concerns going forward regarding reduction-in-force. If you recall, I predicted this in February based on statewide issues that were beginning to surface for new school budgets. As Ms. Gray correctly stated, you no longer have the luxury of using funding from previous years. The loss of students Comm. Simmons asked about should be accessible to you in the data of transfer students. Indeed, the state requires districts to track where students are headed for demographic purposes. Today is April 1. The repurposing of four of the five choice schools is still in the state of unrest. The current RIF process is directly correlated to the reassignment of staff in these locations. Comm. McCall is correct to question process when she spoke to wanting to know a formula. Simply put, the law is in place. The formula, policies and regulations are the actions that need to be purposefully taken for a successful process. Mr. Rojas outlined the process last week that spoke to bumping rights, which is totally different than what was used in 2019. He stated so in deposition under oath at that time. Listen to the tape of last week. As he shared in the past, they just swiped up the non-tenured staff for the amount of money that was needed and the job was done. So now by his own admission last week, bumping rights would mean lists are currently being developed as were not developed in 2019. I know this because I OPRA'd them and they do not exist. Mr. Rojas is correct in that this work is not easy and articulating the process, as Comm. McCall is requesting, by referencing a formula. Yet it is still not being presented in plain English by anyone who asked any questions last week. I am asking you to help resolve this situation for Mr. Cardillo now, now that Mr. Rojas knows it was not correct. Simply put, just right the wrong that was done to him. What is needed is a preliminary staffing presentation that puts all of what was stated in writing to assure an informed constituency and a level playing field for all stakeholders. You are seeking answers and transparency that is not available at this time. When Mr. Rojas speaks to right-sizing the district, this is part of the reason why closing the choice schools is a priority for this budget and an imperative step. You see, this is all interconnected.

*Comm. Ramirez enters the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Ms. Linda Cody: Good evening, everyone. My name is Linda Cody and I've been a homeowner in Paterson in the third ward since I moved here in December of 2000. I have three grown children who all attended and graduated from the Paterson Public Schools. I've been a taxpaying law-abiding citizen who very well contributes to your salaries. In August 2022, I gained custody of my oldest grandson who was nine years old and now he's 13. He's in the seventh grade over at Young Men's Leadership Academy. When he overheard that their school was being phased out, he has been severely depressed. He is an honors student. He will be entering the eighth grade. He's looking forward to graduating. I enrolled him in Young Men's Leadership Academy because I didn't want him to go to a regular public school. To be here for almost 26 years, I have witnessed so much. I really don't want to touch on it, but I'm going to say it. I lost my 22-year-old son on December 31, 2023. I have an ongoing investigation with the Paterson Police Department which I filed into a claim. I filed a complaint against the medical examiner because my son they said committed suicide in our home. I've been in there 23 years longer than he'd been on earth. We both work on the dock as longshoremen. I'm the first female African American shop steward. I've been there for 27 years come August 3 of this year. He was there for 13 months. I had a final restraining order on a young lady who is the perpetrator who was not supposed to be at my home. He had no gunpowder residue on his hands. Yet, he committed suicide from what they said. They told the medical examiner there was one bullet and one casing,

but the report said two casings and one bullet. They came to my house 39 days later on February 8, 2024, to retrieve that bullet just so they could file to say that they had two and two, but that's not true. Definitely there is a lot going on in Paterson. It's kept me away from my house for over two years. Last but not least, I'm not going to go anywhere because I'm going to seek justice and I'm going to definitely stand for the children in Paterson. These schools need to get it together.

Ms. Rosie Grant: My heart goes out to you. Good evening, Mr. President, Commissioners, Dr. Newell, staff and community. Let me start by saying what is happening in Paterson right now is not just a budget problem. There's also a policy failure. The district proposed closing four schools in an effort to balance the budget and in continuing the middle school plan. But since that proposal, we've learned that an additional 1,700 new charter school seats were approved, creating \$28 million in new and unanticipated costs. That is the equivalent of funding four schools. We've already decided on these four schools, so I wonder if we're about to close four more. Even when we do that, the math no longer works. The district is now facing a much deeper gap. There are no new resources coming. The only option left is more cuts to more schools and programs and potentially more staff. We don't support layoffs, we don't support school closures, but we cannot pretend that there is an easy solution here because there isn't. Our families deserve the truth. More cuts are likely coming. Please discuss this issue publicly so that we can stay informed. I know that Paterson is not alone in this, but we are among the first where the full impact is being felt. In Montclair they've already closed a school to address a \$20 million deficit and even that is not enough to solve the problem. Newark, the Oranges, Wayne – lots of districts across the state are facing the same situation. I'm equally aware of something else. Much of this is a result of decisions that are being made at the state and federal level. The feds have never fully funded Title I since its first year. Decisions about funding, charter expansion and how the resources are allocated are now forcing impossible choices on communities like ours. That means the response can't stop here. Tonight, I'm asking our community, parents, educators, students and advocates to raise your voices beyond Paterson. We need you in Trenton. We need to be speaking to our legislators. We need to be demanding fair and predictable funding, transparency, accountability in charter expansion and real investment in our public education system. If we do not act, we will not stop at four schools, and it will not stop this year. Our students are already being asked to absorb too much instability, disruption and changes year after year. They cannot pay the price for decisions they did not make. Let's stand together and advocate for our children. Thank you.

*Comm. Rosado enters the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Chris Small: Good evening, everyone. My name is Chris Small. I'm an educator, teacher, coach, accountant and also an advocate for the youth in the City of Paterson. Last week I was here and I stated how I strongly disagreed with the closing of the four choice schools. I spoke to some of the extenuating circumstances and things that may have been outside of our control. I thought it was a bad time to do so, such as the war in Iran, gas prices, ICE, local elections, and the uncertainty and instability of the time. This week I'm going to add to that list because a few things happened while we were here at the last meeting. The City Council approved to borrow \$70 million, which speaks to their inability to budget and manage the funds that they already have. They're already behind on payments to the school district. At the last Board meeting, the School Board approved a budget that's going to increase taxes again. We're already dealing with issues with appraisals and the increase that's going to cost. We also realize that losses of teachers, cuts and RIF's are also going to take place. The number can't even be calculated as far as whether it's going to be 100, 200 or even

more. I think this goes to the point I was trying to make that this is not the right time to make a decision like this. I think we should definitely reconsider it. I know a proposal was made by a Board member before and the vote was taken, but I think you guys should really consider taking that vote again. Thank you.

Ms. Soniya Shabazz: Good evening, everyone. My name is Soniya Shabazz. I usually come up to advocate for the children of Paterson. I speak on the injustices of what is now taking place with the Paterson Board of Education working to stifle our children's education and the legalities of the education system. I also speak on decisions that are being made without following New Jersey state policy and protocol. The Board always says that the children's best interest is priority. Tonight, I'm going to speak on how this administration has hired an investigator to follow me and my family around, once again not following protocol. I have been attending Board meetings since we the parents received the email telling us that our children's school would be closed for the 2026-2027 school year without just cause on January 23 at 12:02 p.m. Since then, not once have I seen an item on the Board agenda mentioning hiring an investigator for a residency check. Since I have been advocating for the children, I have been targeted by this Board. I have been retaliated against. I have been singled out and harassed because of my voice. It is sad that a parent cannot come to a Board meeting to advocate for their children without being targeted afterwards. This is a professional setting, and you speak about how we as community stakeholders must follow your rules when we come, but you are not following legislature laws. Quite hypocritical! Someone came to where I lay my head sent by you. I was informed that I had been followed for three weeks. Once again, the reason is not justified. Whatever you may think, it is false and I will prove it. You lie about the education system here in Paterson, about the funding, about the reason why you do things, and you're still lying. You said you're in a double-digit million-dollar shortfall, but you manage to find money to hire someone to follow little old me. I am now afraid for my life and so are my children. They could not sleep after the fiasco that you pulled. You say that the children are first priority. That can't be true. This is threatening to know you have been following me around for no just cause. I am a standup citizen born and raised in this city. My children are always on time to school and well-behaved. Any teacher or staff member at Norman S. Weir will vouch for that. They are both high-performing students. What was the reason for a residency check? Because of my voice? You wanted to shut me up? When I speak, it was only to advocate for my and other children in this city. I have been nothing but kind and have done nothing wrong or illegal. It was never personal for me, but you have made it very clear that it's personal for you. I belong to God the father. I will close with this. I speak positivity and peace in this room and cancel every negative entity – Jezebel, Ahab. For God says touch not my anointed and do my prophets no harm. Thank you. You have a good night.

Ms. Tonya Bradley: Good evening, everyone. That was a lot. I would just like to thank Mr. Simmons, Mr. Teague and Mr. Mendez for voting yes for our children. Thank you for not voting no. The last question I had for the last meeting was, how did Norman S. Weir get on the chopping block? Nobody answered that because nobody knew how. The only thing they did know was the email that came out that Friday and our children being sad. I know that Mr. Ramirez and Mr. Rashid are up for reelection. We're going to remember those no's because you said no to our children. I'm a praying woman and I will continually pray as well. Revenge isn't mine and I don't wish anybody no harm or anything like that, but when you come against children, that's God watching you. When you say no to them, that's a very big deal. You're not saying no to me. I was told at the podium that my vote didn't count. That's fine. When I voted I was voting for my child and everybody else's children. It wasn't a big deal. I didn't take this personal. When I came here, I came to say please keep the schools open for the children of Paterson.

This wasn't about me. This was for the children. The fact that everyone already voted no, I'm here tonight to say please rescind your no votes. But as you can see, I already see the body language and you're not going to do that possibly. I took this to God and I asked him to fix it for me. The only person I really see that may sway a little bit and have some heart in him a little bit is Mr. Rashid. Why did you vote no against us? I see that you're a praying man. Why did you vote no against the children of Paterson? You're up for reelection. We're going to remember this. The generations are going to remember this. The children are young and they're going to remember who voted no against them. Paterson is going through a very hard time right now. We did strive to have good grades at Norman S. Weir, but I was also told at the last meeting that wasn't a big deal. Our grades didn't count. I thought that's what school was about. The fact that we're in a deficit, we got thrown in the chopping block because of a personal vendetta. Let's just say it. We already got voted no. Ms. Grace Giglio was an awesome principal. Because she outed everyone at Hinchliffe Stadium because it was hot and just took the heart to say that maybe this should have been inside and not outside, the Board members didn't know that's the reason we got there. That's the reason why we're there. That's why you can't find a reason. It never was for the choice schools to be on the chopping block. I hope I don't get followed like Ms. Shabazz. I don't work for the town. I work for Jesus. I work for my children. I hope nothing happens to me. I hope you don't send anybody to follow me. If you do, God covers me. I got shot in the City of Paterson at the age of 15. There's a bullet in my back already. If God wants to not cover me, he won't. He already has. Thank you Jesus and God bless you all because revenge is his. Amen.

Ms. Lorainy Gonzalez: Good evening. I'm Lorainy Gonzalez. I stand here, not as a student, but as a direct example of schools like Alexander Hamilton Academy and other schools. I'm a former student at Alexander Hamilton Academy Class of 2022 and now a senior at Rosa Parks. I can say this confidently – closing schools like AHA is not just shutting down buildings. It's shutting down opportunities. AHA was more than a school to me. It was a support system, family and somewhere I could be safe. It was a place where teachers knew my name, cared about my success and where I could get extra help when needed, not academically, but personally. Because of that support, I didn't just pass my classes. I found my path. I became one of the founding members of Paterson Youth and Government for the YMCA and I joined the College Bound program to outreach my college successfulness. I started to see a future for myself that once felt out of reach. Most importantly, I achieved something I'm extremely proud of. I got accepted to my dream school, Penn State, because of AHA. That didn't happen by accident. That happened because schools like AHA invested in me when I needed it most. Now I ask you, how many other students are out there right now who just need the same chance, support and belief? When we're talking about closing schools like AHA or other schools in that section, we're not just talking about budgeting or buildings. We're talking about real students, real futures and real potentials being taken away. Not every student succeeds in a traditional environment. Some students need smaller settings, more attention and people who refuse to give up on us. Alexander Hamilton Academy was that place. Taking it away does not fix problems. It creates more. Today, I'm asking you to think beyond the numbers. Think about students like me. Think about the futures that are still being written. Closing schools like my home AHA or other schools does not close doors. It locks them for the students who need them the most. Thank you.

Ms. Aquella Black: Good evening, everyone. I'm going to be brief. I just want to say that my son was going to CAHTS, and I took him out in the fourth grade. I needed a smaller and more secure environment, and someone pointed me to YMLA. He went there and he's now in the eighth grade. My son never played an instrument in his life,

but because of the opportunity that they gave him, he plays the saxophone. Not only does he play the saxophone, he got accepted to Rosa Parks so he will be attending there in September. Although he is leaving, I'm an advocate for that school because of the men, structure and order that's there for my son. He came out of CAHTS and his grades weren't so good because he was bored. I call him a little Einstein. When he went to Mr. Medley and his school and the way his demeanor is, when you have a conversation with my son, you'd be taken aback because of what he's been taught by YMLA. I'm asking you to give other kids the opportunity that my son had. Not everybody gets accepted into a choice school. Rosa Parks is a choice school. For him to never have played an instrument in his life, now he plays the saxophone. He had an audition and everything. The day after he auditioned, I didn't know he got accepted but he did. And he had to write an introduction letter. He has all these things from YMLA. If I had more kids, I would want them to go there too. All these young men out here in Paterson deserve the same thing. I was born and raised here. I graduated from Eastside. I didn't have a choice to go to Rosa Parks. I didn't have it like that. Not that I wasn't smart enough, but I went to Eastside. I need the same for my kids. My daughter right now is in a public school. However, I would like for her to go to Norman S. Weir because I like that school, or AHA. It's important that you guys don't do that because my son has the opportunity that most kids don't get. He's going to Rosa Parks and he is proud of it and I am so happy for him. Because of YMLA, Mr. Medley and his team, that's my village. Because of them, my son is excelling. His grades are A's and B's because of that choice school. Thank you.

Ms. Cameo Black: Good evening. Let me first start off by asking you, Joel, are we allowed to address the Superintendent? Do we have to go through you?

Comm. Ramirez: Address the presiding officer, please.

Ms. Black: Okay. Back when I was running and we had the meeting, you told me that you were going to start the open-door policy. This was back in October. When is this going to start, next year in 2027 when she retires? When is this going to happen?

Comm. Ramirez: We'll get back to you tomorrow.

Ms. Black: This is for you, Mr. Mendez. What is the name of the system used to focus...

Comm. Ramirez: Ms. Black, don't address the individual Board member. You have to address the chair.

Ms. Black: I can't talk to him either? Can you ask him if he knows the name of the system used to focus on monitoring and elevating the school district? Can he answer that today? Do I have to wait until tomorrow for that too?

Comm. Ramirez: We will take notes and we will get back to you. You've been here before. You know how it works.

Ms. Black: You know my son has been out of school. He's supposed to return today. I've been residing where I live at for 15 years. My address hasn't changed. I'm trying to figure out the harassment. He hasn't even stepped foot back in the school yet. Why am I receiving letters to prove where I live at? Like I said, he's returning on April 13. I need you to speak to Sham Bacchus, not Ms. Badawy. I don't want her to do it. I need you to speak with him and make it clear when my son comes back to school on April 13, I don't want any issues. Let him stay until June. He's graduating. He will never have to

see Ms. Black again. I don't want anything further. You asked me where I've been. I've been quiet. I've been minding my business. Can we leave it like that? You don't want me here. I don't want to be here, but I'm going to come and I'm going to speak up for my kids. I have nieces and nephews that go to Mr. Medley's school. We need to keep these schools open. When you close these schools, where are these babies going? Back to the hood? That was the whole purpose of taking them out of there, so they could excel. It seems like all the schools that do the right thing for the kids are the ones that get shut down. If you were going to close a school, it should have been New Roberto Clemente. It was never designed for our kids. There are a lot of things I need you to investigate. When do you have to start making an appointment to drop off paperwork? She's shaking her head yes. She's answering the question. Do you have to make an appointment to drop off paperwork? She just shook her head yes.

Comm. Ramirez: We will get back to you.

Ms. Black: Are you getting back to me tomorrow?

Comm. Ramirez: I will make sure someone gets back to you tomorrow.

Ms. Black: Please.

Comm. Ramirez: The Superintendent is taking notes. I'm taking notes. You will get an answer tomorrow.

Ms. Black: She's been taking notes.

Comm. Ramirez: You have my personal number. You know I will get back to you tomorrow.

I'll make sure. Thank you, Ms. Black.

It was moved by Comm. Nieves, 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.

PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

2026 Passaic County Unsung Hero Resolution

Comm. Ramirez: First and foremost, I want to apologize for being late. Thank you to my colleagues. I told them to please stall the meeting because I really wanted to be here for the Unsung Hero recognition. Unfortunately, we missed the Passaic County School Boards presentation where these young men and women were honored on the 25th because we had a budget meeting here at 90 Delaware. I think it's very important that we celebrate those young men and women who have been doing excellent work in their school communities and for the community. That's why we're having our Passaic County Unsung Hero presentation. We are going to read a resolution into the record and then take a vote on this. The Board will officially honor these young men and women as Passaic County Unsung Hero out of Paterson.

**Resolution of the Paterson Board of Education
HONORING AKRAM AHMED, MARIANA GONZALEZ CURIEL,
EMMANUEL DE LA CRUZ CRUZ, DEREK ESCOBAR, KATIANA ESCOBAR,
LORAINY GONZALEZ, YA'MIRA GOODWIN, JORGE PERALES, AND
STARLENE SANTANA AS A 2026 PASSAIC COUNTY UNSUNG HERO**

WHEREAS, the Passaic County School Boards Association (PCSBA) and the Passaic County Education Association (PCEA), in collaboration with the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), recognize Unsung Heroes from each high school in Passaic County to celebrate those whose character and impact define the heart of our schools; and

WHEREAS, the Unsung Hero Award honors students who make outstanding contributions to their schools and communities but are often overlooked by traditional recognition programs—students who have modeled good citizenship, resilience, and the "**Flowing with Purpose: The Power of Persistent Character**" that inspires others; and

WHEREAS, these Unsung Heroes may have organized community programs, selflessly supported their peers, or achieved significant academic success while overcoming difficult personal challenges, disabilities, or language barriers; and

WHEREAS, our list of honorees has overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to reach their full potential, serving both the school community and the community at large as a beacon of integrity; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, Paterson Public Schools students **Akram Ahmed, Mariana Gonzalez Curiel, Emmanuel De La Cruz Cruz, Derek Escobar, Katiana Escobar, Lorainy Gonzalez, Ya'mira Goodwin, Jorge Perales, and Starlene Santana** were formally recognized for these achievements at the 4th Annual Passaic County Unsung Hero Awards Ceremony held at West Milford High School;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Paterson Board of Education officially recognizes our exceptional honorees as an Unsung Hero of Passaic County and the Paterson School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Certificates of Recognition are presented to our exceptional honorees as a sincere token of the Paterson Board of Education's congratulations and best wishes for continued success as they continue to lead by example.

It was moved by Comm. Nieves, seconded by Comm. Rosado that the resolution be adopted. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Comm. Ramirez: Thank you and congratulations once again. That is absolutely what this is all about.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Newell: Good evening, everyone. I'd like to begin my report by highlighting three events that took place in March. The first one was already featured in a recent addition of The Pulse, the district's weekly newsletter, but I'd like to give it a shout-out tonight nonetheless. In celebration of Read Across America, I visited School No. 26. We were there with Principal Hoff and had the pleasure of reading with our students. It was a wonderful experience. Our young scholars were engaged, curious and eager to participate, demonstrating not only their enthusiasm for stories, but also the strong literacy foundation being cultivated by their teachers each day. I'd like to thank School No. 26 for having me there. Events like that remind us that reading is more than a

fundamental skill. It's a gateway to imagination, critical thinking and lifelong learning. I also wanted to highlight the Interfaith Performing Arts Award Ceremony that took place at the Paterson Museum. The district had several of its students recognized during the 22nd Annual Black History Art and Essay Contest Award Ceremony. This event is organized by the Interfaith Performing Arts Center in partnership with the office of fourth ward Councilwoman Ruby Cotton. Congratulations to all the students and thank you to Councilwoman Cotton for continuing with our arts recognition. Tonight, we saw the Unsung Hero Award Ceremony. I'd like to congratulate the nine students who received their awards. They were recognized at the award ceremony at West Milford High School on March 25. Some of them are here with us tonight and they have made us so very proud. Thank you for your leadership and for representing our school community with excellence. I also wanted to highlight our Parent University. On Friday, March 27, the district launched its Parent University online program, led by the Department of Family and Community Engagement. This is a web-based program designed to support families by giving parents practical tools and information to help their children succeed in school. This launch was led by Executive Director, Mr. Kemper McDowell. It covered topics like understanding curriculum, supporting learning at home, college readiness and navigating the school system. What stood out most was the focus on empowering our parents as true partners in their children's education. I encourage everyone to check out our website. Earlier today, several schools across the district held Autism Awareness flag-raising ceremonies in recognition of Autism Awareness Month. These ceremonies brought together students, staff and families in a unified show of support for individuals on the autism spectrum. I had the pleasure of attending with the STARS/TIES students at City Hall. I also want to acknowledge a student who sang. Her name is Ashanti Roha. She was brilliant. I would like to thank our special education department, led by Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Coy, the team at STARS/TIES and our entire school community, for their participation and commitment to fostering inclusive and supportive learning environments for every student in the district. I would like to also speak on the debate team. I'm excited to share that this year the district is introducing a new opportunity for our middle school students, a debate program. The new debate program will help students build important skills like critical thinking, public speaking, research and respectful discussion. It encourages students to explore different perspectives, support their ideas with evidence and engage thoughtfully with their peers. Debates will be in June and will focus on relevant topics that are also age appropriate. They will be moderated to ensure respectful and balanced conversations. Students will also receive guidance on how to structure arguments, evaluate evidence and present their ideas effectively. We're very excited to bring this opportunity to our students and look forward to the positive impact that it will have. We're also grateful to the Board for their ongoing support in this endeavor. Finally, regarding student use of internet-enabled devices, on January 8 of this year, Governor Murphy signed new legislation establishing requirements for student use of internet-enabled devices during the school day, on school buses and at school-sponsored events. The law takes effect in the 2026-2027 school year, and the New Jersey Department of Education has issued initial guidance with additional policy updates expected later this spring. In preparation for this, the district will be forming a committee to review the guidance and develop recommendations for implementation aligned with the new requirements. We will keep the Board updated as this work progresses. Thank you.

Comm. Ramirez: I will report at the regular meeting. Are there any comments from Commissioners?

Comm. Rashid: Since I was elected, it was my dream to start the debate competition in our school district. Finally, it will be started in June. Thank you so much. This is a great program. I was so interested in that starting in our district. Thanks again.

Comm. Ramirez: Thank you, Comm. Rashid. I know you've brought this conversation up since you got on the Board about us having a debate team. I know how important this is because we have some very close districts that do an awesome job with their debate teams. I'm excited for that.

Comm. McCall: Unfortunately, with the loss of one of our students, I was at the hospital with the family and a few of our students who were there. I really want to publicly thank the Paterson Collective Healing Program. It was amazing to watch how they handled our young people in a time like that. I know they came to us in the past about bringing their program to our schools. At a later date I will be asking us to revisit that. It was just something to watch to see the emotions all over the place and how they were able to collectively help our children. We always talk about everything that's wrong, but we never give our kudos to people who do it right. Tonight, I personally wanted to say thank you to that program. Watching them bring the temperament of our young people down and giving them some hope and courage, thank you. When a community like ours is dealt a situation like that, it can go further. But if you have the right people at the right time in the right place and know what to say, it can really deescalate something that could be so much more. I want to personally thank you, Mr. Melvin, for your program and the work that you do in our community. I would hope that this Board would reconsider taking a look back at your proposal. I saw how the kids were calling you. While you were unseen you were getting phone calls from our students asking for help. Thank you also for being there in the aftermath at our schools and your program being available for them to come as things were happening. Again, I had to take the time to say that because all we talk about is what's wrong and what we need to fix. But when something is working, we need to give a round of applause for it. I personally want to give you your round of applause for the work that was done that night.

Comm. Simmons: I did have a question regarding the Superintendent's report. It's regarding the Governor's law regarding cell phone and internet device use. Has that been accounted for? I know there are some grants that are going to be available. For a district our size, I'm not sure what the plan is going to be. Has that been accounted for in the budget?

Dr. Newell: It has not. We're actually going to bring together a committee to talk about all the different options that we can have.

Comm. Ramirez: All districts in New Jersey are in this together. I'm sure we're going to be able to pull from our neighboring towns and other colleagues. The Superintendent is part of the Superintendent's Roundtable, and she will be able to have these discussions with all the superintendents and put us on the right path. That's a very good question.

Comm. Teague: I've seen some videos circulating on social media where building secretaries are collecting phones and showing them online. Is that a protocol that the district has adopted?

Dr. Newell: We have not yet had our first meeting. We have not put anything in place.

Comm. Teague: If there are people in these buildings that are collecting phones and putting videos on social media, that is not something the district has authorized.

Comm. Ramirez: If you do know of the buildings and the videos, could you please share that with the Superintendent?

Comm. Teague: I will.

Comm. Ramirez: She will investigate accordingly. Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS FOR A VOTE AT THE WORKSHOP MEETING:

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS, the Paterson Public School District approves payment for the list of bills and claims dated through April 1, 2026, beginning with check number 252902 and ending with check number 252923, along with direct deposit numbers beginning with 2783 and ending with 2807, in the amount of \$10,027,180.06, and wires in the amount of \$15,417,902.40, for a total of \$25,445,082.46; 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.

It was moved by Comm. Simmons, seconded by Comm. Nieves that Resolution No. 1 be adopted. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

Paterson Board of Education Standing Abstentions

Commissioner Valerie Freeman

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

Commissioner Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS) -Substitute Teachers

Commissioner Alexander Mendez, Jr.

- Self
- Family
- Passaic County Board of Social Services

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

Resolution No. 2

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 1, 2026 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 is requested to create a Sub **PC# 10047** Personal Aide 504 for student **OG 5244076** at Alexander Hamilton Academy. Effective immediately.

A2. Action to transfer **PC# 877**, Teacher Kindergarten at School #25 to 690 Department of Human Resources.

A3. Action to transfer **PC# 6499, PC# 10834, PC# 200336** from Department 690 to Department 780. Action to transfer **PC#10268** from NRC to Dept. 780.

A4. Action is requested to assign Sub PA PC #'s for the following:
Student **TS 5274407** at Dale - **PC# 10246**. Student **JM 5227470** at AHA - **PC# 10684**.
Student **AFD 5262834** at AHA - **PC# 10685**. Student **JH 5276516** at PS# 9 - **PC# 10686**. Student **ZP 5264396** at PS# 8 - **PC# 10687**. Transfer Sub **PC# 10790** from PS#7 to PS#16 following Student **AS 5249504**.

A5. Action is requested to deactivate Sub **PC# 10877** assigned to student **EG 5263610** at Roberto Clemente. Student identified as Special Education.

A6. Action is requested to assign PA Sub PC#s for the following:
Student **NW 5276510** at EHS - **PC# 10595**. Student **SRU 5272261** at MLK (male aide requested) - **PC# 10596**. Student **JA 5266413** at MLK - **PC# 10597**. Student **PA 5264210** at Dale - **PC# 10598**. Reassign Sub **PC# 10924** to Student **AC 5249008** at MLK (previous student **CL 5267267** moved). Transfer Sub **PC# 10790** from PS#7 to PS#16 following Student **AS 5249504**. Transfer Sub **PC# 10242** from PS#16 to PS#20 following Student **LAB 5275294** (male Spanish speaking aide requested).

A7. Action is requested to abolish the following Early Childhood PC numbers.
5031 - effective immediately. **5018** - effective immediately. **5021** - effective September 1, 2026.

A8. Action requested to inactivate the following Early Childhood PC numbers:
6678, 6679, 6680, 6681, 6682, 6687, 6688, 6689, 6690

A. POSITION CONTROL ABOLISH/CREATE (CONT.)

A9. Action is requested to create a Sub **PC# 10599** Personal Aide 504 for Student **AM 5245803** at School #6. Effective immediately.

A10. Action is requested to create a Sub **PC# 10600** Personal Aide 504 for Student **PB 5252880** at School #21. Effective immediately.

A11. Action is requested to reclassify the reclassify the following Sub PC#s, currently designated as SPED PC's to 504 PC's, as the students are identified under section 504.
Sub **PC# 10000** for Student **DM 5259176** at School 12. Sub **PC# 10071** for Student **ZD 5252409** and Sub **PC# 10014** for Student **DCN 5250659** at School 16. Sub **PC# 10122** for Student **APD 5251355** at Dr. Hani Awadallah School. Sub **PC# 10150** for Student **JG 5216097** at International High School. Sub **PC# 10005** for Student **DM 5255305** at MLK.

A12. Action is requested to create a Sub **PC# 10601** Personal Aide 504 for Student **SA 5276950** at School 5. Special requirements: Bilingual (Bengali). Effective immediately.

- B. SUSPENSIONS- N/A**
- C. RESIGNATION/ RETIREMENT**
- D. TERMINATIONS**
- E. NON-RENEWAL**
- F. LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

G. APPOINTMENT

	Last Name	First Name	School/Location	Title	Salary	Reason
G1	Angibeau	Loulou	PS #20	Teacher Special Ed. SLD	\$64,830.00	filling vacancy
G2	Burgess	Marquette	JFK	Athletic Supervisor	118,000 +6400 Long = 124,400.00	filling vacancy
G3	Gomez	Cinthia	EHS	Teacher World Language Permanent Substitute	\$27,000.00	filling vacancy
G4	James-Pieters	Nicole	Dept of Special Services	Teacher Speech Language Specialist	\$84,270.00	filling vacancy
G5	Loran	Shaina	RC	Teacher Special Ed Resource	\$68,180.00	filling vacancy/ appointment
G6	Matos	Ines	RC	IA Special Ed/LLD	\$42,146.00	filling vacancy

H. TRANSFERS

	Last Name	First Name	School/Location	Title	Salary	Reason
H1	Aranibar	Evangeline	School #8	Teacher Nurse	no change	transfer
H2	Benjamin	Rodkee	EHS	District Security Officer	no change	transfer
H3	Conley	Dwaune	JFK	Athletic Department Administrative Assistant	\$56,515 (base) + \$4,150 (long) = \$60,665.00	reclassify
H4	Liskay Fedo	Kimberly	Academic Services	Teacher Coordinator of Scheduling	no change	reclassification
H5	McFarlane	Shevene	School # 8	Teacher Sped. LLD	no change	transfer
H6	Porter	Shakaara	School #13	Personal Aide w/ AW 5262198	no change	transfer
H7	Valdez	Idelisa	PS #24	Teacher Grade 3-4 Bilingual/ESL	no change	transfer

H8	Williams	Wilton	Central Stores	Truck Driver	no change	transfer/hire
H9	Windish	Ruth	School # 8	Teacher Sped. Resource	no change	transfer

I. RECALL FROM RIF

J. LEAVE REPLACEMENT

K. DISTRICT/SCHOOL PROGRAM HIRING - N/A

K1. Action to hire 2 new New Jersey Youth Corps Students to receive an incentive stipend at \$25/day – flat fee for participating in community service learning activities according to the guidelines and procedures of funded programs FY 2025-2026. The amount is not to exceed \$5,000.00

Account# 20.606.200.110.410.000.0000.002 Not to exceed: \$5,000.00

L. STIPENDS

L1. Action is requested to stipend the following employees to train staff members on QBS Safety Care Training on: Saturday, December 13, 2025 (In-person) from 7:30 am – 4:30 pm. **Kimberly Speller, Emily Walsh & Caitlin Byrne**

3 Trainers x \$35.00 x 8 hours x 1 day = \$960.00 (excluding one hour for lunch)

Account# 11.000.221.110.749.053 Not to exceed: \$960.00

L2. Action to stipend Teacher **Chantel Waite** to teach Mathematics for NJSLA after school prep program for GE, ELL and SPED students at EWK. Start date for program 3/12/26. End date 4/28/26. Program will run from 3:15 pm - 5:00 pm for 1.75 hours per day for a total of 42 hours at hourly rate of \$35.00. Not to exceed \$1,470.00. Program will use ELA and Mathematics student performance on Link it Form A&B assessments as baseline data. Growth of students will be determined on ELA and Mathematics student performance on Link it Form C.

Account # 15.421.100.101.033.053.0000.000

L. STIPENDS / CONT.

L3. Action to stipend Teacher **Alva Fogle** to teach ELA for NJSLA after school prep program for GE, ELL and SPED students at EWK. Start date for program 3/12/26. End date 4/28/26. Program will run from 3:15 pm - 5:00 pm for 1.75 hours per day for a total of 42 hours at hourly rate of \$35.00. Not to exceed \$1,470.00. Program will use ELA and Mathematics student performance on Link it Form A&B assessments as baseline data. Growth of students will be determined on ELA and Mathematics student performance on Link it Form C. **Account #** 15.421.100.101.033.053.0000.000

L4. Action to stipend Lead Teacher **Diana Pesci** to administer the ELA Mathematics for NJSLA after school prep program for GE, ELL and SPED students at EWK. Start date for program 3/12/26. End date 4/28/26. Program will run from 3:15 pm - 5:00 pm for 1.75 hours per day for a total of 42 hours at hourly rate of \$40.00. Not to exceed \$1,680.00. Program will use ELA and Mathematics student performance on Link it Form

A&B assessments as baseline data. Growth of students will be determined on ELA and Mathematics student performance on Link it Form C.

Account # 15.421.100.101.033.053.0000.000

L5. Action requested to stipend the following teachers for QBS Safety Care Training on: Saturday, March 14, 2026 (In-person) from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Chris Ann Forchette, Kevin Flynn & Mary Kardashinetz

3 Teachers x \$35.00 x 6 hours x 1 day = \$630.00 (excluding one hour for lunch)

Account# 11.000.221.110.749.053 Not to exceed: \$630.00

L6. Action requested to stipend the following IA's and PA's for QBS Safety Care Training on: Saturday, March 14, 2026 (In-person) from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Arellano, Rocio Allan, Moustafa Jair,

Alicia Stephens, Mona Fuller, Sharona Hall, Mitchell Waddell

7 instructional or personal assistants x \$25.00 x 6 hours x 1 day = \$1,050.00

(excluding one hour for lunch)

Account# 11.000.221.110.749.053 Not to exceed: \$1,050.00

L7. Action requested to stipend the following IA's and PA's for QBS Safety Care Training on: Saturday, February 28, 2026 (In-person) from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Maria Torres

1 instructional or personal assistants x \$25.00 x 6 hours x 1 day = \$150.00

(excluding one hour for lunch)

Account# 11.000.221.110.749.053 Not to exceed: \$150.00

L8. Action requested to stipend the following employees to train staff members on QBS Safety Care Training on: Saturday, March 14, 2026 (In-person) from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Shaun Douglas, Emily Walsh

2 trainers x \$35.00 x 8 hours x 1 day = \$560.00 (excluding one hour for lunch)

Account# 11.000.221.110.749.053 Not to exceed: \$560.00

L. STIPENDS / CONT.

L9. 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 30th, of each year.

Account# 11.000.263.100.053.680.0000 Not to exceed: \$4,000.00

L10. Action requested to stop 6th period stipend payments for the following staff members at JFK due to new hire effective 3/09/2026.

Elisa Estrella Tavarez, Jeffrey Brown, Steven Dinnerman, Corey Esposito

L11. Action to compensate **Beatriz Ashe** for teaching a sixth period World Language Class. Ms. Ashe has been teaching this class since the first day of school.

L12. Action to compensate **Carla Araujo**, RN, Nurse Coordinator 10% of her salary (as per PEA contract agreement) through the months of July and August 2026 for working summer. For four weeks between July and August.

Account# 15.000.213.100.060.000.0000.000

L13. Action is requested to stipend **Matthew Sudberg** to complete revisions to the Intro to Programming and Robotics Curricula (2 Courses) between February 2026 and June 2026. He will be compensated for up to 30 hours at the contracted rate of \$35 per hour for a total of \$1,050. These revisions may be completed remotely outside of contractual hours. 30 hrs at rate of \$35 per hour = \$1,050.00

Account# 11.000.221.110.650.053.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$1,050.00

L14. Action requested to hire **Alvin Bush** replacing **Maria Murray** as Youth Empowered Stewardship Program YES Advisor from March 10, 2026 through June 30, 2026 at rate of \$35.00 x 15 hours = \$525.00

Account# 11.421.100.101.704.053.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$525.00

L15. Action to remove **Ms. Samantha Emery-Allen** for Lunch Supervision Teacher at School #24 for the 2025 – 2026 school year, for grades 6th to 8th. Ms. Emery-Allen had done it from September 2025 to February 2026. Due to her new position as Interim VP we have to replace her. Action to Add **Mr. Rashaun Gerald** to replace Ms. Emery-Allen as Lunch Supervision Teacher at School # 24 for the 2025 – 2026 school year, for grades 6th to 8th. He started March 2026 to June 2026. Please distribute stipend accordingly.

Account# 15.130.100.101.024.056.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$2,000.00

L16. Request to hire the following John F. Kennedy Athletics Assistant Coach Posting 11338. To hire **Brianna Joseph** to begin January 4, 2026 – March 15, 2026. Stipend Total: \$3,051.00 New Coach did complete the volunteer packet during the Fall season. Coach Alexis Stewart resigned from the winter season. Request to hire new assistant.

Account# 15.402.100.100.307.053.000.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$3,266.00

L. STIPENDS / CONT.

L17. Action is requested to stipend staff members to organize and present to parents workshops that are focused on academic topic to support student success with parental involvement and engagement workshops. This request aligns to the Parental Engagement Goal of the Annual School Plan which is to increase parental involvement strategies for student achievement through workshop topics that include but are not limited to: Social-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compact, Title I Annual Meeting, Parent’s Right-to-Know, homework, Math, ELA, ESL, Science, Social Studies, curriculum, student and parent portals, etc. Workshops can be presented by remote and/or in person to remove any barriers for parent and family engagement. Staff members are to be stipend as follows:

- Principal at \$65.00 an hour
- Vice Principals at \$60.00 an hour
- Supervisors at \$60.00 an hour
- Teachers at \$35.00 an hour
- Instructional Assistants at \$25.00 an hour
- SCPC at \$19.00 an hour

- Secretary at \$17.50 an hour
- Guidance Counselor at \$35.00 an hour
- Non-Bargaining – Rate to Be Determined

The workshops may occur within the months from August 2025 through June 2026.

	Full Name	Position	Location	Date Comp.
1	Fontin, Nadia	IA	27	2/20/2026
2	Joseph, Julie	Supervisor	Academic Services	2/26/2026
3	Ortiz, Emily	Teacher	EHS	2/9/2026
4	Pearson, Nashonda	Teacher	27	2/25/2026
5	Rojas, Julio	Parent Coordinator	Parent Resource	2/10/2026

Account# 20.231.200.100.653.080.0000.001

Up to and not to exceed: No Additional Funds Needed

L18. Action to stipend 1 Teacher to work before and after school hours to chaperone students to Philadelphia, PA field trip. Action to stipend 1 Planetarium Manager to work before and after school hours to chaperone students to Philadelphia, PA field trip.

(1 Teacher x 5 hrs x \$35/hr = \$175.00)

(1 Planetarium Manager x 5 hrs x \$43/hr = \$215.00) Grand Total = \$390.00

Lori Marchese (Teacher)

Carlos Miranda (Planetarium Manager)

Account# 20.085.100.101.054.000.0000.000

Not to exceed: \$390.00

L19. Action to hire **Anthony Maestry** as a part-time Supervisor of Student Support Services at a rate of \$600 per day, or \$85 per hour through 6/30/26. 2-3 days per week. Not to exceed \$44,000.

L. STIPENDS / CONT.

L20. Action is requested to stipend staff members to organize and present to parents workshops that are focused on academic topic to support student success with parental involvement and engagement workshops. This request aligns to the Parental Engagement Goal of the Annual School Plan which is to increase parental involvement strategies for student achievement through workshop topics that include but are not limited to: Social-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compact, Title I Annual Meeting, Parent’s Right-to-Know, homework, Math, ELA, ESL, Science, Social Studies, curriculum, student and parent portals, etc. Workshops can be presented by remote and/or in person to remove any barriers for parent and family engagement. Staff members are to be stipend as follows:

- Principal at \$65.00 an hour
- Vice Principals at \$60.00 an hour
- Supervisors at \$60.00 an hour
- Teachers at \$35.00 an hour
- Instructional Assistants at \$25.00 an hour
- SCPC at \$19.00 an hour
- Secretary at \$17.50 an hour
- Guidance Counselor at \$35.00 an hour

-Non-Bargaining – Rate to Be Determined

The workshops may occur within the months from August 2025 through June 2026.

	Full Name	Position	Location	Date Comp.
1	Demiski, John	Teacher	19	3/8/2026
2	Ferrito, Diana	Teacher	10	3/5/2026
3	Rios Otto, Liza	Director	Academic Services	2/20/2026
4	Van Hoven, Michele	Supervisor	Academic Services	3/4/2026

Account# 20.231.200.100.653.080.0000.001

Up to and not to exceed: No Additional Funds Needed

M. AMENDMENTS

M1. Amend **PTF# 26-917**. Action to provide contractual \$1,782.00 to DECA Advisor, **Dr. Reggie Hall** for the 2024-2025 school year. Effective Sept. 2, 2024 until June 27, 2025. Not to exceed: \$1,782.00

M2. Action to amend **PTF# 26-711** for lunch supervision coverage due to a change of appointment of Ms. Velasco from PS# 16 to Central Office. **Cinthya Velasco** from September 2025 through December 2025 and **Rosamn Tineo** from January 2026 through July 2026.

Account # 15.120.100.101.309.056.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$14,000.000

M3. Action to amend **PTF# 25-597** to reduce funds allocated to the staff below to reallocate \$2,000.00 to fund FSCS site supervisor.

Nancy Tavarez Correa for 45 hours = \$1,800.00

Laurie Smith for 16 hours = \$640.00 **Kenneth Roman** for 85 hours = \$5,525.00

Account# 15.000.240.103.309.053.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$8,000.00

M. AMENDMENTS (CONT.)

M4. Action to cancel **PTF# 26-686**. Funds will be reallocated. Tutoring will be covered with SIA funds.

M5. Action requested to amend **PTF# 26-159** to compensate **Mr. Craig Redmond** as the School 20 Drumline Director for the 2025-2026 school year. \$25.00 rate of pay for 120 hours = \$3,000.00 not to exceed.

Account# 15.401.100.100.020.053.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$3,000.00

M6. Action to amend **PTF# 26-796** to add the staff members below and add location. To Appoint High School Course Monitor and Substitutes for the 2025-2026 certification course at John F. Kennedy HS, Paterson STEAM HS, and Eastside HS. Program is scheduled for the 2025-2026 school year not to exceed 400 hours for the total program October 2025 through June 2026. **Ayanna DeFreese** \$40.00 per hour (Substitute - Lead Teacher) **Tanya Scott** - \$40.00 per hour (Substitute - Lead Teacher)

Account# 11.140.100.101.830.053.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$24,000.00

M7. This is an amendment to previous Personnel Transaction Request & Personnel Action Forms that were submitted and approved with **PTF#s 26-434** and **26-506**.

Authorization to change the account # for stipends of Climate Literacy Grant because the funds were allocated in the wrong budget location number. The stipend is for the Lead Teacher and 4 Teachers. Change from account # 20.471.100.101.815.053 To account# 20.471.100.101.739.053

M8. Request to amend **PTF# 26-1032** for six (6) Administrators Data Analysis PLC (In Person) at Eastside High School. Include Fridays, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm and Wednesdays 4:00 pm – 6:00pm, from March 2026 through May 2026.

1 Principal x up to and not to exceed 54 hours = 54 hours total x \$65.00 per hour = \$3,510.00 + FICA \$268.52 = \$3,778.52

4 Vice Principals x up to and not to exceed 54 hours = 54 hours total x \$60.00 per hour = \$12,960.00 + FICA \$991.44 = \$13,951,44

1 Supervisor x up to and not to exceed 54 hours = 54 hours total x \$60.00 per hour = \$3,240.00 + FICA \$247.86 = \$3,487.856

	DATE COMP	FULL NAME	LOCATION	POSITION
JobID: 11136				
1	11/14/2025	Douge, Dorothy	EHS	Principal
2	11/14/2025	Geron, Elizabeth	EHS	Vice Principal
3	11/14/2025	Nieves, Kathia	EHS	Vice Principal
4	11/14/2025	Logan, Theresa	EHS	Vice Principal
5	9/15/2025	Super, John	EHS	Vice Principal
6	11/14/2025	Feliciano, Jessica	EHS	Supervisor

Account# 20.238.200.100.653.074.1051 Up to and not to exceed; No Funds Needed

N. ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES

O. SICK/VACATION DAY PAY OUT

O1. Request to process payment for one (1) employee for sick/vacation days due to resignation/retirement/termination/deceased/RIF. As per contractual agreement. Effective 3/01/26. **Melissa Espana** –Vacation pay due to resignation–11.5 Vacation Days.

Base Salary \$196,267.00/260 = \$754.87 \$754.87 x 11.5 = \$8,681.04

Account# 11.000.291.299.690.058.0000.000 Not to exceed: \$8,681.04

P. WITHHOLDING OF INCREMENTS

Q. HEALTH BENEFITS

R. MISCELLANEOUS

	Last Name	First Name	School/Location	Title	Salary	Reason
R1	Acevedo	Maria	School # 2	IA Sped. Autism	\$43,746.00	equivalency

R2	Azizi	Seyran	STEAM HS	Teacher Math	\$81,220.00	equivalency
R3	Barcelos	Leah	Maria Magda O'Keefe	Teacher Nurse	\$103,367.00	equivalency
R4	Bonner	Brendan	EHS	Teacher Sped. Resource	\$65,885.00	equivalency
R5	Cargill	Anna	AHA	Teacher Nurse	\$101,875.00	equivalency
R6	Cotton	Candice	EHS	Teacher Coordinator	\$108,476.00 + \$4,900.00 long = \$113,376.00	equivalency
R7	Cox	Twanice	Dr. Napier	Teacher Grade 2	\$65,330.00	equivalency
R8	Duran-Gencarelli	Melissa	655	Teacher LDTC	\$103,367.00 + \$5,300.00 long = \$108,667.00	equivalency
R9	Fabian	Vianel	Maria Magda O'Keefe	Teacher ESL	\$75,380.00 + \$4,900.00 long = \$80,280.00	equivalency
R10	Ibrahim	Dalia	School # 5	Teacher Grade 2	\$75,980.00	equivalency
R11	Jimenez	Gabrielle	School # 15	Teacher Grade 5	\$67,380.00	equivalency
R12	Jones	Stephanie	STEAM HS	Personal Aide	\$38,046.00	equivalency
R13	Keener	Faith	Norman S. Weir	Teacher Grade 1	\$64,830.00	equivalency
R14	La Placa	Alexa	Early Learning Center	Teacher Preschool	\$70,780.00 + \$700.00 long = \$71,480.00	equivalency
R15	Larkin	Angela	NSW	Teacher Grade 6-8 Math	\$79,420.00 + \$700.00 long = \$80,120.00	equivalency
R16	Martino	Elizabeth	School # 16	Teacher Preschool	\$65,885.00	equivalency
R17	Miah	Abida	School # 27	Teacher Preschool	\$65,885.00	equivalency
R18	Nanna	Joy	ATMA	Teacher Business Education	104933 +\$700 = 105,633.00	salary adjustment
R19	Newman	Ian	Dr. Hani	Teacher Phys. Ed / Health	\$67,380.00	equivalency
R20	Oulkouch	Yassine	Dale Ave.	IA Sped. Autism	\$40,546.00	equivalency
R21	Sajnoska	Kristina	Early Learning Center	Teacher Preschool	\$103,367.00 + \$700.00 long =	equivalency

					\$104,067.00	
R22	Samboy Carrasco	Yulibis	School # 21	Personal Aide	\$47,621.00	equivalency
R23	Thomas	Zellie	School # 16	Teacher Grade 4	\$80,020.00 + \$700.00 long = \$80,720.00	equivalency
R24	Valdez	Idelisa	School # 13	Teacher ESL	\$88,170.00	equivalency
R25	Weissman	Kathleen	School # 2	Teacher Sped. Resource	\$103,367.00 + \$700.00 long = \$104,067.00	equivalency

R26. Action is requested to compensate the attached staff for providing mentoring services to provisional teachers.

First Name	Last Name	Mentor to be Paid	Amount to be Paid	Acct#
Jennifer	Matias	Velez, Francis	\$1,000.00	11.130.100.101.690.110
Sarah	Melli	Morgan, Veronika	\$1,000.00	11.140.100.101.690.110
Justin	Patterson	Mahler, Sara	\$233.00	11.140.100.101.690.110
Maria	Sanchez	Reynoso, Ivette	\$600.00	11.140.100.101.690.110
Dannay	Pena	Lipscomb, Cynthia	\$1,000.00	11.130.100.101.690.110

R27. Action to adjust the base salary of **Candice Vargas** retro to her 9/01/2023 appointment as Director of Special Education. This action is being processed to correct an administrative miscalculation that occurred at the time of Ms. Vargas' initial placement in the position.

2023/2024 SY			
From Base:	\$123,000.00	To Base:	\$125,000.00
Longevity 1	\$5,900.00	Longevity 1	\$5,900.00
Longevity 2		Longevity 2	
Grand Total	\$128,900.00	Grand Total	\$130,900.00
2024-2025 SY (4%)			
From Base:	\$127,920.00	To Base:	\$130,000.00
Longevity 1	\$4,500.00	Longevity 1	\$4,500.00
Longevity 2	\$1,800.00	Longevity 2	\$1,800.00
Grand Total	\$134,220.00	Grand Total	\$136,300.00
2025/2026 (3.5%)			
From Base:	\$132,397.00	To Base:	\$134,550.00
Longevity 1	\$4,500.00	Longevity 1	\$4,500.00
Longevity 2	\$1,800.00	Longevity 2	\$1,800.00
Grand Total	\$138,697.00	Grand Total	\$140,850.00

S. MISCELLANEOUS (FUNDING.)

T. ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

U. Administrative Longevity

V. RESTORE INCREMENTS

W. NEGOTIATIONS

X. JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Y. Grievance Settlements

It was moved by Comm. Rosado, seconded by Comm. Nieves that Resolution No. 2 be adopted. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative, except Comm. Simmons and Comm. Teague who voted no. The motion carried.

**Paterson Board of Education
Standing Abstentions**

Commissioner Valerie Freeman

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

Commissioner Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS) -Substitute Teachers

Commissioner Alexander Mendez, Jr.

- Self
- Family
- Passaic County Board of Social Services

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

Resolution No. 3

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2007, the State of New Jersey adopted P.L.2007, c.53, *An Act Concerning School District Accountability*, also known as Assembly Bill 5 (A5), and

WHEREAS, Bill A5, N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12(3)f, requires that conferences/workshops have prior approval by a majority of the full voting membership of the board of education, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12(2)s, an employee or member of the board of education who travels in violation of the school district's policy or this section shall be required to reimburse the school district in an amount equal to three times the cost associated with attending the event, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves attendance of conferences/workshops for the dates and amounts listed for staff members and/or Board members on the attached and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that final authorization for attendance at conferences/workshops will be confirmed at the time a purchase order is issued.

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP REQUESTS

STAFF MEMBER	CONFERENCE	DATE	AMOUNT
*Tororris Hill Supervisor of Athletics/Eastside H.S.	DAANJ State Conference Atlantic City, NJ	March 10-11, 2026	\$525.00 (registration)
Aaron Mojica Purchasing Coordinator	Principles of Purchasing Virtual	March 25, 2026 April 1, 2026 April 8, 2026 April 15, 2026 April 22, 2026	\$944.00 (registration)
*Aida Rosario Director of Communications	NJSPRA Sprng Workshop 2026 Monroe Township, NJ	March 26, 2026	\$65.12 (transportation)
Jose Mantilla Purchasing Manager	QPA Exam Review Spring Session New Brunswick, NJ	April 4, 2026 April 8, 2026 April 25, 2026 May 2, 2026	\$658.00 (registration)
June Gray	NJASBO 64 th Annual Conference	June 2-5, 2026	\$1,217.23

Business Administrator	Atlantic City, NJ		(registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Katori Walton-Sherman	NJASBO 64 th Annual Conference	June 2-5, 2026	\$1,217.23 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Comptroller	Atlantic City, NJ		
Nancy Aguado-Holtje	National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)	June 5, 2026	\$180.00 (registration)
Director of Early Childhood	Piscataway, NJ		
Dalia Elmonayery	National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)	June 5, 2026	\$180.00 (registration)
Preschool Instructional Coach/Early Childhood Department	Piscataway, NJ		
Gina Laconte	National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)	June 5, 2026	\$180.00 (registration)
Preschool Intervention & Referral Special/Early Childhood Department	Piscataway, NJ		
Patricia Mann	National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)	June 5, 2026	\$180.00 (registration)
Supervisor of Early Childhood	Piscataway, NJ		
Tara Penman	National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)	June 5, 2026	\$180.00 (registration)
Preschool Instructional Coach/Early Childhood Department	Piscataway, NJ		
Nicole Shortway	National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)	June 5, 2026	\$180.00 (registration)
Preschool Instructional Coach/Early Childhood Department	Piscataway, NJ		
**Aida Rosario	National School Public Relations Association 2026 National Seminar	July 19-22, 2026	\$3,196.32
Director of Communications	New Orleans, LA		

***FOR RATIFICATION**

****26-27 SCHOOL YEAR – Pending Budget Approval**

Total Number of Conferences: 13

Total Cost: \$8,902.90

It was moved by Comm. Nieves, seconded by Comm. McCall that Resolution No. 3 be adopted. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

**Paterson Board of Education
Standing Abstentions**

Commissioner Valerie Freeman

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

Commissioner Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS) -Substitute Teachers

Commissioner Alexander Mendez, Jr.

- Self
- Family
- Passaic County Board of Social Services

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

Resolution No. 4

WHEREAS, a dispute arose between the Paterson Public Schools (the "District") and certain parties concerning a special education matter pending before the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law, captioned OAL Docket No. EDS-21228-25, Agency Ref. No. 2026-40146; and

WHEREAS, the District administration, in consultation with legal counsel, have recommended that the matter be resolved through a negotiated settlement agreement, and the Board of Education has determined that it is in the best interest of the District to do so;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Paterson Public Schools hereby approves the settlement agreement in the above-captioned

matter and authorizes the Superintendent and/or her designee to execute the agreement and any documents necessary to effectuate its terms.

It was moved by Comm. Nieves, seconded by Comm. Rosado that Resolution No. 4 be adopted.

Comm. Simmons: I'm not familiar with this and I'm not sure if it can even be explained publicly.

Ms. Cheryl Coy: We had a student who suffered a TBI. As a result, they're getting compulsory education. It's an out-of-district program.

Comm. Ramirez: Does that suffice your inquiry? Do you want to go into executive session?

Comm. Simmons: Can we do an executive session last, and then we can come back out and vote?

It was moved by Comm. Nieves, seconded by Comm. Rosado that the motion on Resolution No. 4 be rescinded.

Resolution No. 5

WHEREAS, the Paterson Board of Education ("Board") governs Paterson Public Schools ("District") and is committed to providing every student equitable access to a high-quality education in their neighborhood school; and

WHEREAS, the Board has adopted, and the New Jersey Department of Education approved, the District's 2021-2026 Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP), which guides the strategic reconfiguration and repurposing of District buildings to improve operational sustainability, efficiency, and equity; and

WHEREAS, the Board has advanced Goal 3 of the District's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan: Ensure Operational Effectiveness and Fiscal Stability; and

WHEREAS, the Board has previously authorized Phases 0, 1 and 2 of the redistricting of elementary schools into a neighborhood-based Middle School Cohort model, and Phase 3, authorized herein, continues that initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Board has engaged in a public planning process, including presentations, opportunities for public comment, and review of the District's LRFP, and has considered community input prior to adopting this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the LRFP, the Board seeks to discontinue the in-district elementary Choice programs operating at Alexander Hamilton Academy, Renaissance School 1, Norman S. Weir School, and Young Men's Leadership Academy, as they are no longer aligned with the District's equitable neighborhood- school model, with those facilities to be repurposed; and

WHEREAS, upon discontinuation of such programs, the associated facilities shall not be abandoned but shall instead be repurposed for other educational or operational uses in accordance with a facilities utilization plan to be developed by the administration and implemented as directed by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that reconfiguring Schools 10, 18, 21, 26, and EWK as set forth below is necessary to align grade-band configurations with the District's elementary and middle school cohort structure, effective September 1, 2026; and

School	Current	New Configuration (as of Sept. 1, 2026)
School 10	K-8	K-5
School 18	K-8	K-5
School 21	PreK-8	Middle School (6-8)
School 26	PreK-8	PreK-5 (Incorporates School 1)
EWK	PreK-3	PreK-5

WHEREAS, all students enrolled in the discontinued Choice programs and all students affected by the building reconfigurations shall be reassigned to their designated neighborhood schools effective September 1, 2026, and shall complete any necessary enrollment updates consistent with District procedures for the 2026-2027 school year; and

WHEREAS, the District will further refine programmatic alignment across grade bands, including the reconfiguration of the Gifted & Talented Program at PS 28 to eliminate Grade 2 and operate as a Grades 3-8 program; and

WHEREAS, Charles J. Riley School No. 9 (Grades 3-5) and Dr. Hani Awadallah School (Grades 6-8) will implement the SCHOLARS program to provide enhanced academic pathways for eligible students; and

WHEREAS, the reconfiguration of schools will also support the strategic expansion of bilingual education programs to better serve the District's multilingual student population at School 18 (Grades K-5) and School 21 (Grades 6-8); and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered student transportation, travel time, safety, and access to programming in connection with the reassignment of students, and has determined that such reassignment is reasonable, equitable, and educationally sound; and

WHEREAS, the Board anticipates that staffing adjustments resulting from this reconfiguration will be implemented in accordance with applicable collective bargaining agreements, tenure laws, and statutory requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that the actions authorized herein are rationally related to legitimate educational and operational objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Board affirms that these actions will not produce unlawful segregation and will advance educational equity; and

WHEREAS, the Board authorizes the program discontinuations and facility repurposing described herein; and

WHEREAS, to the extent any such action is deemed to constitute a "closing of a school facility" under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5, the Board hereby expressly makes the following findings and assurances required thereunder: (i) the actions are consistent with the District's approved LRFP and supported by sufficient capacity for at least five years; (ii)

the continued use of remaining facilities will not result in or increase any overall facilities shortage or reliance on temporary facilities; and (iii) any reassignment of students will not produce, sustain, or contribute to unlawful segregation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves Phase 3 of the District's school reorganization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Superintendent to take all actions necessary to effectuate this Resolution, including the submission of findings, assurances, and requests for approval required under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Comm. Ramirez: I will take a point of personal privilege and allow the Superintendent to speak on the item before we take a vote.

Dr. Newell: Good evening again everyone. On the agenda tonight is a resolution to approve the next phase of school reconfigurations, student reassignments and facility repurposing. Before that resolution is voted on by the Board, I'd like to take a moment to give a brief historical perspective on how we have arrived at this stage. I'd also like to address why the resolution is being presented at this time. The district's effort has been underway since 2012. This work has always been guided by the long-range facilities plan with multiple updates approved by the local Board of Education and the Department of Education. In 2020, the district engaged DMR Architects to conduct a demographic analysis and develop formal redistricting recommendations which informed the 2021-2026 long-range facilities plan and established a middle school cohort model. Since then, the district has engaged in ongoing analyses, Board presentations to the community and alignment with the strategic plan, ensuring a thoughtful, phased approach to implementation. Since the launch of this work almost 15 years ago, the focus has been on equity, efficiency and improving student outcomes. As for the timing of the resolution being presented, I want to emphasize that the work behind Phase 3 has been complex and over the past several months we've been looking closely at enrollment trends, how our buildings are being used, transportation and how our different programs align across grade levels. This work has several layers and a lot of moving parts that must come together. I know that some have expressed concern that the district has done something illegal by not yet submitting a resolution to the Board. That is simply not true. Bringing the resolution forward now has given the team the time to look at every component to be well prepared as possible and we can now move forward with a clear and thoughtful plan. To provide some context, I had my team research what was done in the past when schools were closed. This is what we found. To date, the Board has not adopted a resolution specifically authorizing the closure of School No. 14 and School No. 17 in July 2020. In May 2022, the Board approved a resolution to close School No. 29, which was to take effect just two months later in July 2022. Additionally, the reassignment of students at School No. 7 took place at that time. If the Board approves this next phase of redistricting tonight, it will provide families and staff ample time to prepare for the 2026-2027 school year, including student transitions, staffing adjustments and ensuring schools are ready to support students in their new settings. I want to reiterate that this work is about building a more equitable and effective system, one where every child in every neighborhood in Paterson has access to strong academic programs and meaningful opportunities. We're bringing real equity across the district and a system that works for every child. We have already seen from the increase in our last test scores that this can happen in Paterson. By investing in neighborhood schools, the district is making a commitment to

fairness, stability and long-term excellence. I understand that change is difficult, but this transition positions the district to better serve its students and ensure they have access to opportunities and support they need.

Comm. Ramirez: Thank you, Madam Superintendent, for clarification on the historical process.

It was moved by Comm. Freeman, seconded by Comm. Rashid that Resolution No. 5 be adopted. On roll call all members voted as follows:

Comm. Freeman: Yes.

Comm. McCall: Yes.

Comm. Mendez: No.

Comm. Rashid: Yes.

Comm. Rosado: Yes.

Comm. Simmons: Two things to note. When School No. 14 was closed, we were under state control, but there is a resolution that exists. I believe we voted in 2015 where School No. 14 is listed to be closed and it explained why it was being closed. There's a resolution from 2015. We did vote on that. My vote is no.

Comm. Teague: No.

Comm. Nieves: Yes.

Comm. Ramirez: Yes.

The motion carried.

Paterson Board of Education Standing Abstentions

Commissioner Valerie Freeman

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

Commissioner Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS) -Substitute Teachers

Commissioner Alexander Mendez, Jr.

- Self
- Family
- Passaic County Board of Social Services

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

Comm. Ramirez: Cheryl, if you could look up that historical point. I know you've looked far and wide. You've been here 40 years. You'd remember.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Comm. Nieves, seconded by Comm. Rosado 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. The motion carried.

The Board went into executive session at 7:30 p.m.

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

The Board reconvened the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Resolution No. 4

WHEREAS, a dispute arose between the Paterson Public Schools (the "District") and certain parties concerning a special education matter pending before the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law, captioned OAL Docket No. EDS-21228-25, Agency Ref. No. 2026-40146; and

WHEREAS, the District administration, in consultation with legal counsel, have recommended that the matter be resolved through a negotiated settlement agreement, and the Board of Education has determined that it is in the best interest of the District to do so;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Paterson Public Schools hereby approves the settlement agreement in the above-captioned matter and authorizes the Superintendent and/or her designee to execute the agreement and any documents necessary to effectuate its terms.

It was moved by Comm. McCall, seconded by Comm. Mendez that Resolution No. 4 be adopted. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

Paterson Board of Education Standing Abstentions

Commissioner Valerie Freeman

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

Commissioner Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS) -Substitute Teachers

Commissioner Alexander Mendez, Jr.

- Self
- Family
- Passaic County Board of Social Services

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

Resolution No. 6

WHEREAS, the Paterson Board of Education ("Board") has a standing partnership agreement with the management company of Hinchliffe Stadium for the utilization of the facility for athletic and educational purposes; and

WHEREAS, the current agreement provides the District with a total of one hundred eighty (180) calendar days of usage per school calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that during the 2025-2026 School Year, only one hundred twenty (120) days are scheduled for utilization, leaving a balance of sixty (60) unused days; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to exercise its right to utilize the remaining sixty (60) days in conjunction with the 2025-2026 school year calendar to maximize the educational and athletic opportunities, student access and community engagement for Paterson Public Schools; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Paterson Board of Education hereby authorizes the following:

1. Approval of the 2026-2027 Hinchliffe Stadium Usage Calendar: The Board formally adopts the 180-day usage schedule as presented and attached hereto.
2. Authorization of Amended Usage 2025-2026 SY: The District is authorized to notify the stadium management company of the District's intent to utilize the remaining 60 days of this current school year, ensuring no lapse in the District's contractual rights.

It was moved by Comm. Nieves, seconded by Comm. Mendez that Resolution No. 6 be adopted. On roll call all members voted as follows:

Comm. Freeman: Yes.

Comm. McCall: Yes.

Comm. Mendez: Yes.

Comm. Nieves: Yes.

Comm. Rashid: Yes.

Comm. Rosado: Yes.

Comm. Simmons: Before I vote, I just want to make note that we did read this resolution on the floor and we made amendments on the floor. I just want to be clear.

In the past, the Board went back and forth about making amendments to resolutions that were walked on and made it a big deal.

Comm. Ramirez: Counsel?

Mr. Buglione: In light of the fact that this is more of an emergent type of resolution, it was presented tonight to continue the calendar as we're entering into our spring break. It was presented by one of the Commissioners so that we can box out the remaining days that we need for our students for the remainder of the year.

Comm. Simmons: It's April. We're not going to use those 60 days so this isn't that emergent. The reality is we made the amendments on the floor. In the past it has been a big deal and this Board chose to send everything back so that it comes back and it is in front of you the way it was meant to be.

Comm. Ramirez: Counsel?

Comm. Simmons: I heard his response. I understand his response. I'm just making a note.

Comm. Ramirez: I did read it as it should read, but your point is well taken.

Comm. Simmons: That's my point. Although we're not going to use these 60 days, my vote is yes.

Comm. Teague: Yes.

Comm. Ramirez: Yes.

The motion carried.

Paterson Board of Education Standing Abstentions

Commissioner Valerie Freeman

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

Commissioner Della McCall

- Self
- City of Paterson
- Educational Staffing Solutions (ESS) -Substitute Teachers

Commissioner Alexander Mendez, Jr.

- Self
- Family
- Passaic County Board of Social Services

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

Items Requiring a Vote

Comm. Ramirez: Are there any questions on the items for next week, Resolutions 1-46? If your committees have not met, please meet and make sure that the minutes are uploaded into the drive. Are there any questions on Items 1-46?

Committee Reports

Facilities

Comm. Nieves: We will be ready for next week.

Family & Community Engagement

Comm. Freeman: We meet this upcoming Monday. I will be giving a report on Wednesday.

Policy

Comm. Rashid: Policy is scheduled for the end of this month.

Technology

Comm. Simmons: Technology hasn't met yet.

OTHER BUSINESS

Comm. Freeman: To the people here present, I want to apologize for what just happened. One thing about me is I'm fair. What just happened, I will not allow anyone to do that to me. Yes, I need to try to control my outcome when you address me and you try to make it seem like I've done something wrong. I'm always going to correct you and speak on behalf of myself. I will always tell you to do your research before you come for me and tell me that I've failed children. I've been fighting for children for over 40 years. People who are just jumping up on the scene right now weren't where I was when I was fighting for full funding. Nowhere to be found! I didn't just wake up overnight and say this is what I want to do and this is what I'm going to do. I've been in the trenches. I've been boots on the ground from the very beginning from the time I had to bring my children to Paterson Public Schools. I will never allow anyone to disrespect me in public or in private and I will never disrespect you. The same respect I give is what I ask for. If you want to do that to me to try to make yourself look good or make me look bad, you have the right one. That's what I have to say. I do apologize to the students, parents and public that is here. I need you to understand. I've been quiet for a reason, but when you poke the bear and you keep pushing the button, the volcano explodes. I apologize and I hope you accept my apology. Trust me, it will not happen again. Thank you.

Comm. Ramirez: Thank you, Commissioner. You know that we stand with you.

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

Comm. Teague: I just want to send my condolences out to Pastor Jeanelle York. She lost her mother. Keep her in prayer.

Comm. Ramirez: Thank you, everyone. Happy Easter and Passover.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.



Ms. June Gray
Business Administrator/Board Secretary