



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

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Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

At the Special Board Meeting held on Monday, September 14, I presented three proposed district goals. These goals were developed collaboratively with the Board of Education and reflect our shared priorities for the students, staff, and families we serve.

Goal 1 is to enhance school safety and security for students and staff. The district will strengthen districtwide safety practices, procedures, and security measures to ensure that every school provides a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment in which to learn and work.

Goal 2 is to increase the high school graduation rate. The district will implement targeted academic supports and early interventions to help more students remain on track, meet all graduation requirements, and earn a high school diploma.

Goal 3 is to reduce chronic absenteeism. The district will strengthen attendance monitoring, family outreach, and tiered interventions while working with students and families to address the barriers that can prevent consistent school attendance.

These three proposed goals establish the district's overall direction, and the action plans now being developed with administration will provide more detail as to how we will accomplish them. I appreciate the Board's partnership and collaboration in developing these proposed goals. Together, we are establishing clear priorities and creating a measurable path toward stronger outcomes for all students.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



DISTRICT BREAKS GROUND ON NEW STEAM HIGH SCHOOL

Paterson Public Schools celebrated a major milestone on Wednesday, September 23 with a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Paterson STEAM High School building, marking the beginning of a project designed to expand innovative learning opportunities and prepare students for careers of the future.

The construction and coordination of this pivotal project is spearheaded by the Schools Development Authority (SDA), the State agency responsible for fully funding and managing the new construction, modernization, and renovation of school facilities projects.

Continued on page 2...



DISTRICT BREAKS GROUND ON NEW STEAM HIGH SCHOOL



Continued from page 1...

"Today, we are not only breaking ground, we are laying the foundation for new opportunities, new discoveries, and new futures for generations of Paterson students," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. "This project represents our belief that every student deserves access to the very best education that prepares them for the challenges and opportunities of the future."

Board of Education President Joel Ramirez, Vice President Della Wilder, Board of Education commissioners, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson, cabinet members, school leadership, Paterson STEAM students, elected officials, and community leaders all participated in the special ceremony.

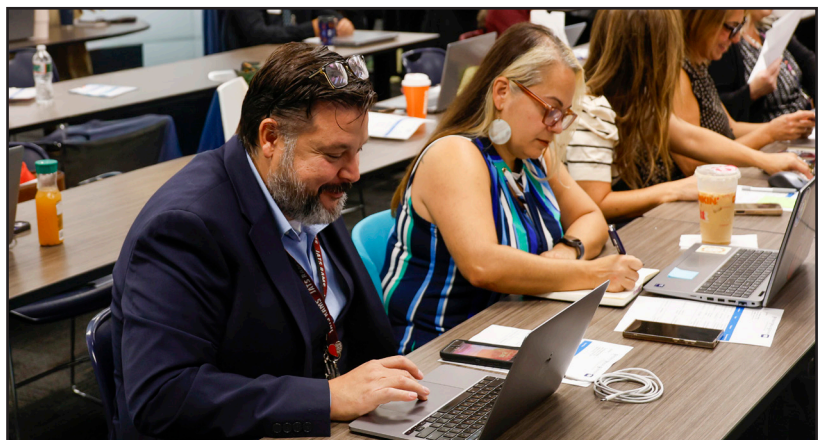
Through the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics, the new facility will house innovative learning experiences that encourage creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving. The school will equip students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to thrive in an ever-changing world.

The new Paterson STEAM High School represents a significant investment in the future of Paterson students and the broader community. Through partnerships with SDA, elected officials, and community leaders, the vision for the new school building is now moving from the planning phase to construction.

VICE PRINCIPALS GATHER FOR FIRST MEETING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Paterson Public Schools held its first vice principals meeting of the school year on Tuesday, September 22, bringing school leaders together for sessions focused on instructional priorities and effective observation.

Led by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson, the meeting featured instructional focus on early literacy and non-fiction reading, Management Information Systems updates, and a Danielson Framework practice session. The meeting provided vice principals with key tools, resources, and strategies to support student success throughout the school year.



MLK BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT CONNECTS FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY

Back-to-School Night at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex was a successful evening that brought students, families, staff, and community organizations together.

Under the leadership of Interim Principal Dr. Moses McKenzie and Vice Principal Peter Somoza, and organized with the support of Student Assistance Coordinator Alvin Bush, and the PTO, the event provided families with an opportunity to meet teachers, receive important information, and access valuable community resources.

Families connected with organizations that provided valuable resources and services, including Smart Closet, The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources and Care, and Spine and Sports Chiropractic Services. Parents of students in Grades 3–8 also gathered in the cafeteria with their children's teachers for meaningful conversations and updates.



SCHOOL 26 HAS RECORD TURNOUT AT BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT



School 26 celebrated a memorable and historic Back-to-School Night with a record 190 parents signing in and participating in the school's Title I Annual Parent Meeting. The tremendous turnout reflected the strong relationships the school continues to build with its families and a growing culture of engagement and partnership.

During the evening, families participated in meaningful conversations about chronic absenteeism, Title I Right-to-Know provisions, and the Parent-School Compact. The discussions provided parents with important information while reinforcing the shared responsibility of families and educators in supporting student success.

The event also highlighted the importance of community partnerships, with Paterson City Council President Dr. Lilisa Mimms providing outstanding support during the evening. Her continued dedication to Paterson's students, families, and schools was recognized as an important part of the successful event.

The record attendance and enthusiastic participation made the evening a meaningful opportunity for families and school staff to connect, exchange information, and strengthen their partnership. School 26's Back-to-School Night demonstrated the power of a school community working together to create an environment where every child can thrive.

MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

[Full 2026-2027 School Calendar Here](#)

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

A **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will take place on Wednesday, October 14 at 90 Delaware Ave. Those wishing to provide public comments must do so in person and are required to register for the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 PM.

The **Board of Education Regular Meeting** will take place virtually on Wednesday, October 21. Those wishing to provide public comments are required to register for the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 PM.

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

Paterson Board of Education: President Joel D. Ramirez, Vice President Della Wilder, Commissioner Valerie Freeman, Commissioner Alex Mendez, Jr., Commissioner Hector L. Nieves, Jr., Commissioner Mohammed H. Rashid, Commissioner Kenneth Rosado, Commissioner Kenneth L. Simmons, Commissioner Corey L. Teague

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Submit stories and photos by using our **Newsletter Submissions** form.

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Aida E. Rosario, MBA | Director of Communications

Jeani Perez | Confidential Communications Assistant

Peter Long | Supervisor of Special Projects and Communications