

## **MINUTES OF THE PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD RETREAT**

June 3, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.  
Central Office (First Floor)

Presiding: 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, V.P. (Remote)

Comm. Alex Mendez

Comm. Hector Nieves

Comm. Mohammed Rashid (Remote)

Comm. Kenneth Rosado

Comm. Kenneth Simmons (Remote)

Absent:

Comm. Corey Teague

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

Comm. Ramirez 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:

**Board Retreat  
June 3, 2026 at 5:30 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.

### **SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE**

Comm. Ramirez: Thank you very much everyone for making it to today's workshop retreat of the Board of Education. At this time, if you turn to your packets, you all have received information on the Superintendent's evaluation, the process and timeline. You should have received an email also from NJSBA which has the links where you would log onto your portal and start with our portion of the Superintendent's evaluation. The deadline for this is June 22. I know originally on the timeline it had June 17, but it has

been moved up to June 22 at 5:30 p.m. You should have received a link. If you check your email and you cannot locate it, please let Juleka in the Superintendent's office know and she will assist you. The Superintendent has set up a Google Drive with evidence for each indicator, and every Board member will receive a link to it. The Board has received updates on district goals at a few of our Board meetings and the final update will be given at the June workshop meeting. Please complete as soon as possible. It has to be completed by July 1 and then we will begin the process for the goal setting for next year. Does anyone have any questions about the information contained in the packet, the timeline or the dates?

Comm. Mendez: Just to specify, is it this packet we're speaking about?

Comm. Ramirez: No. It's this larger packet. I'm the only one who has a packet?

Ms. Williams: It was hand-delivered.

Comm. Ramirez: It should be at your home. If you don't have it, please reach out to Cheryl and we will make sure you have another packet. Are there any other questions?

## **DISTRICT'S REPURPOSING PLAN**

Dr. Newell: Good evening everyone. Thank you, President. One of the things we wanted to do was to give an update about what we're doing with the repurposing of our facilities. Also, we will be going through a PowerPoint, within which time you will hear from Assistant Superintendents Joanna Tsimpedes and Cheryl Coy. We will go through what we have and at the end of the presentation I will be turning it over to you all, to also get some of your input and feedback. If there is anything you think we've missed or should be included as a part of the repurposing as we move forward, this retreat is the purpose of this plan. You also have a copy that you can follow along with. Some of the items that we have been talking about as we have been going through with the middle school model, the changes that we are embarking upon, we have been asked by the Board to make sure that we have a clear plan for the repurposing of the school facilities as we have reassigned students, staff members and schools. One of the things that we are going to be going through with this PowerPoint is to methodically go through where we are currently and where we anticipate we're going to be. The advantages and benefits of what we're doing – the plan is to look at our existing resources and see how we can prioritize our buildings to make sure that we're putting our educational needs at the very top for our students. We do acknowledge and we have talked about in the past that we do have a demography report that talks about our changing enrollment and how we are supporting our community with these changes. To better support our district programs, we want to make sure that we're working closely with our community, making sure that we're providing the services that our students need, and making sure that we incorporate some of our strategic initiatives. We do have valuable resources here, our facilities. We will speak on the age of some of these facilities. But we also want to make sure that we're being fiscally responsible in how we use our buildings and facilities and ensure that the facilities we do have are up and running and serve our students and our community the best way possible. We have been talking about the long-range facilities plan. This is a plan that has been in the works for several years and it sunsets June 30, 2026. Thank you to the Board. As we have been working through, we do know that this is a plan that has been in the works for quite some time. Out of the long-range facilities plan have been quite a few things that have been accomplished. I have listed two here because we have Ms. Tsimpedes and Ms. Coy who will be talking about the middle school model, the changes that we're making, as well as the public separate. What we're trying to do is make sure that we are providing as many resources as we

can for our students to make sure that they are as productive as they are able to come through our school district. With this framework we are now embarking on four stages which will be ending in the 2027-2028 school year. We're trying to align all of our facilities decisions with these interconnected initiatives. Whatever we do, everything has to be aligned to make sure that every part of what we're doing across the district goes according to our strategic plan and what we need for our facilities. The 2026-2031 long-range facilities plan is the next five-year plan that we know is state required and is a roadmap that we have to bring before the Board along with the feedback we have received from the community. We had a forum about the long-range facilities plan last week on Tuesday where we were able to solicit information and feedback from our community members. Mr. Mapp and Mr. Gaines will be presenting to the Board to discuss what the facility needs are, what the school reconfigurations are, and how we are going to incorporate future growth, if any, as we move forward into the next five years. The long-range facilities plan for 2026-2031 is in progress. We heard at the last community forum that we were discussing the demographical studies. We also discussed the current status of school facilities. We talked about the age of the facilities. We also solicited stakeholder feedback. This slide talks about the demographic shifts that we are seeing based on the survey that was done. We also know based on the demographic shifts that we anticipate having some decline in our enrollment. From 2010 to now we have dropped about 19.5% in our student population from where we started over a decade ago. So we have to make sure that we are strategically assigning our students and using our properties as effectively as possible. One of the things that we are working on as a part of this strategic plan and incorporation with the long-range facilities plan, because everything we do has to be guided by the strategic plan, is standardizing how we do our configurations across the district to be a preK-5, or p-5, 6-8 and 9-12 configuration. You have been here at a Board meeting where our chief officer of facilities said that is industry standard and that is what we are working towards. We are trying to make sure that everything we do is data-driven. We have seven zones. The team has been working on making sure that we are balancing out our enrollment across the district. As I mentioned two slides before, we are seeing that we are down 19.5% over 10 years. We did have a little uptick from 2022-2023, but we have been sliding down again and there are different factors. We know that folks have been moving out of the area. We also know that the birth rate is on the decline. The third bucket that we've looked at is that we have some students who are going to the charter schools. The question that has been raised and we have looked at with the demography report is with the increase in housing units across the city, how does that impact our enrollment? We know that we have almost 750 non-restricted housing units that have been approved by the planning board of the city. But when you look at the profile for these apartments, we see that they are studios, one bedroom and two bedrooms. They are not larger layouts for large families with students. In spite of the fact that we have 746 housing units going up, we only anticipate 126 students coming out of those units. Even though we're having housing developments which are going up across the city, they're not yielding a similar number in terms of students coming into our district. One of the things we also know is that we have to look at the age, requirements and needs for keeping our facilities in a healthy environment for our students to be able to function. As you can see, we have three schools that are over 150 years old. We have three schools that between 125-149 years old. We have 16 schools that are 100-124 years old. The net of what we're seeing is that we have 22 schools 100 years and older. We have 10 schools that are 75-99 years old. We are always looking at our facilities to make sure that we are keeping them up because we have very old buildings. We have some of the oldest buildings in the state. One of the items coming out of the long-range facilities plan and what we have discussed prior is the footprint for the new STEAM High School, which we anticipate will be coming on board in September of 2029 when we will be receiving the

students to the new building. As has been explained in facilities committee meetings, this is going to be a multistage process where the students will still be attending the school as they are working on building the new structure around the existing structure. This is a mockup of what the new STEAM High School will look like at its completion in September of 2029. Next, I'm going to ask Ms. Tsimpedes to speak on the general education programming as we discuss how we are using our facilities and properly providing resources to our students.

Ms. Joanna Tsimpedes: Good evening, everyone. One of the goals that we have in the district is to continually improve our academic programs offered to our students to ensure that we are consistent with the pace of growth across the country so that our students are competitive. Among what we're looking at is expanding Gifted and Talented, which we now refer to as the Scholars Program. You'll see in a future slide where we are continuing to expand it with the addition of the cohort middle schools that just opened up this year for School No. 9, Hani and School No. 8. We're also looking to ensure that all our initiatives reflect what the strategic goal is and have a commitment to ensuring that the programs across all schools are highly effective and are geared towards age-appropriate students. That's one of the perks of our middle school model. Now we can have targeted programs in a school that are going to support our elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools. We know as students grow so do their social, emotional and mental needs. We want to have programs in place where our students are able to thrive. This is just a little background. As of today, we have over 8,700 students who are multilingual learners. When you do the math and you see there are only about 20,000 students in our population, that's more than 60% of our population that are ML. Being that is it over 60%, we have to continue to strive to provide the supports in place for all our students regardless of the language they speak. Spanish is our largest dominant population, and we have programs in native language instruction in grades k-12. Bangla is our second fastest growing and that is on the other side of town near School No. 5 and School No. 19. We offer Bangla in grades k-8 and those programs are housed at School No. 5 and Joseph A. Taub. Turkish and Arabic are the only magnet ones that we have because the population is centered on this side in town. We have the magnet programs situated at School No. 9 for k-5. For 6-8 it is at Dr. Hani. By code, once we hit 20 students who are in a specific language we have to provide the supports in place. There are a couple other languages that we are going to start needing to support if our numbers continue to grow at the rate that they are. As I mentioned earlier, we are opening the Scholars Program at School No. 9 and Dr. Hani. We have already identified the students through the assessment process and recommendations. We are looking forward to having our first inaugural class at School No. 9 and Dr. Hani. Because our multilingual population continues to grow, we have our Newcomers program in grades 3-5 at School No. 15. New Roberto Clemente houses our Newcomers, and this will be the first year that we will have a graduating class out of Newcomers High School. Newcomers are not the same as multilingual learners. These are students who have had limited experience in their education. They may have come to us with their last grade being third grade and now they are 14 years old and needed to be placed at the high school. These supports are very important to have because they are coming and we have to provide that level of education to meet their social-emotional needs. They do come with a lot of challenges, as do many of our students when they come to us from outside of the states. Where are we with regard to our general education programs? School No. 24, known as Maria Magda O'Keefe, has our fine and performing arts program for grades 4-8 featuring dance, drama, instrumental music, visual arts and vocal music. The intention of this program is to create a pipeline for our students to go to Rosa Parks. We have been bridging that gap this year where we've had a lot of collaboration between the two schools. Our students have been going over there. The students from Rosa Parks have been going to Maria

Magda O'Keefe because we want our students to stay in-district. We have great supports over at Rosa Parks and we want the students to be able to see that so when they are in eighth grade and completing their high school choice application, Rosa Parks is the choice that they put on their application. When we had the restructuring of our academic programs years ago, we made Eastside High School more of a vocational piece because that's where the community and stakeholders were part of the input. They wanted cosmetology, automotive technology and culinary arts, which continues to thrive. Last week we had a competition at PCCC. They beat Orange High School. They were phenomenal. We have great, talented students and we continue to enforce that and build their self-esteem and confidence, so when they leave us, they continue to go on in the trades that they're learning. Our JROTC continues to be ranked and the addition of the Law and Public Safety, which you'll see when we have our recognition program in June at John F. Kennedy, students will receive certifications based on the programs that we have there. We have the business and marketing approach. We have our construction and trades where our students are hands-on creating things and learning about the trades. We all need a plumber and someone to fix something. They make lots of money and we want our students to continue to thrive and build those partnerships with external companies that will take our students on for workplace learning. We also have our communications piece. We see our students consistently on social media doing their videos. They assist with graduation. We like to showcase the work that they do because the teachers work very hard with them. STEAM High School was the last one to come onboard. We have computer science, dental and medical arts, which are over at HARP and follows through to STEAM High School in engineering. When we open up STEAM High School with the new building, hopefully by 2029, we're going to see a combination of these programs as well as fine and performing arts. That is one of the things that we wanted to see because the 'A' in STEAM is for arts and that's something that we continue to grow. At P-Tech High School we changed some of the pathways there based on what college and career choice was telling us and looking at where the career choices are. We added aerospace and drone technology, which will start in this coming school year. We also added cybersecurity. Computer science and informational technology have been there since the onset of P-Tech. In order to stay in the realm of where the jobs are going, we wanted to provide more exposure to our students in understanding drone technology and cybersecurity. We know that's where all the careers are moving towards. At International High School, which is the only international baccalaureate high school in Passaic County, we continue with the IB program there. We've also added within the last three years the career related IB, which is focused on engineering in partnership with Project Lead the Way. When we look at the district as a whole, one of the perks of having the middle school model is having consistency across the school so that what's on one side of town is the same on the other side. It shouldn't be that some schools have arts, music and vocal. We have been making that the standard across all of our schools. In the elementary, world language and music are the staples that we have. MakerSpace is starting to be more prevalent in our elementary and middle schools. At the high school level, I'm proud to say all of our students are exposed to advanced placement options should they fit the bill and have the criteria, grades and willingness to participate. We have early college. Last year we had our first graduating class from PCCC where we had nine students graduate with their associate's degree. This year we have two that will graduate. Next year we're looking at six or seven. These are programs that we are able to afford to students across the entire district. Dual enrollment is another one. All of our schools offer it, which is great because our students leave us with credits in hand and it doesn't cost them a dime. All these programs that we offer at the high school are at no cost to the students and one of the wonderful things when kids graduate from here is that they already have anywhere between 30 to 60 credits in hand at no cost. We really promote that because we know

the affordability of college is very expensive. We're looking to expand E-Sports and robotics within the middle schools as we complete our phases to have these opportunities for all students across the district.

Ms. Cheryl Coy: Good evening, everyone. Another repurpose that we're looking into for the 2026-2027 school year is the public separate schools, which is a separate setting for students with disabilities who have more of an intensive need of supports and services. We are able to provide those services within district before the child ends up going to a potentially out-of-district program or placement. The financial impact for us – the preliminary cost of educating 118 students ranging from grades k-5 or even older can be \$9.8 million and that is tuition alone. That's not inclusive of nursing, OT, PT, transportation or personal aides. That is just the base amount for tuition. In our district and every other district, we get a set amount of funding that comes in. Districts are charged with having to find that additional funding that can range anywhere from a \$30,000 to \$70,000 gap when it comes to paying tuition for out-of-district. The programmatic impact – by expanding our highly specialized programs, and it's actually a continuation of what we have done for 20 years at STARS Academy, the difference is their program was for ages 14-21. This would be for ages k-5 and it will allow students to have those intimate IEP meetings with the child study team and their families to make a decision if the services and supports could be provided within district for them versus having them go out-of-district. We intensify the needs as a program to accommodate and run parallel to what the out-of-district programs are doing to keep our students in-district. It does expand capacity to provide highly specialized individualized programs within the district for students whose needs require a more intensive level of support. Why continue? We're not creating. We're doing a continuation. It will continue to expand in-district peer relationships for our students. It will continue to expand capacity to serve students within their city of residence with highly specialized programs at a lower level, k-5. It will increase the parental involvement in a home-based school. It will reduce reliance on costly out-of-district placements. It will generate cost-savings by reducing out-of-district tuition costs, transportation and related services. It allows them to stay within district to build capacity within our programs. It will also support compliance with state special education requirements. Dale Avenue is going to be k-5 for the 2026-2027 school year. Norman S. Weir will be k-5 for the 2026-2027 school year. At School No. 2, the grade band is to be determined. The current and proposed building repurposing overall for Alexander Hamilton Academy – we're potentially looking at a Newcomers High School. When we say storage, we're not talking about the whole building. There's a portion of the building currently that's being used for storage for facilities. That has always been in place. School No. 1 has absorbed School No. 26 and has now become a preschool hub. Norman S. Weir would be a public separate school. Young Men's Leadership Academy would be a potential swing space or a site for special education and multilingual evaluation hub.

Dr. Newell: As far as some of the additional facilities that we have discussed to be repurposed, we know that currently there is some storage happening at School No. 3. When we had done the community forums for School No. 3, some of the feedback we received was that it could be a potential site for a community center in that area or a special education sensory center. Additionally, I know that we have had many conversations about 33-35 Church Street and what we plan to do with it. Currently, it is to be for sale. We have also discussed the options for School No. 14 and School No. 17 and we have said either sale or lease. Those are some of the conversations that we've had. This is where we are with our facilities, especially the facilities that are in transition and what we are trying to figure out for the next steps. This is where I would need to solicit your input based on the information that you have received from district administration.

Comm. Ramirez: Thank you, Madam Superintendent, Ms. Coy and Ms. Tsimpedes, for your presentation. Are there any questions or input from the Board?

Comm. Mendez: With respect to the demographic change in the City of Paterson, it says we lost 19.5% of our student population over the last decade. How much of that would you attribute to the increase in charter school enrollment? I saw a figure that said charter school enrollment nearly tripled over the last 10 years.

Dr. Newell: We know that nationwide there has been a decline in the birth rate. I can resend the demography report to the Board. We do know that we have a negative. The amount of kids who are graduating out of our high schools in twelfth grade versus the amount of kids entering kindergarten, there's a delta and it's in the negative. We do know that. I can get you the percentages. We also know that folks are moving out of Paterson. The demographic report will show you that Paterson is becoming more gray. It's a grayer society, less kids. One of the things we saw is that the median was 55 or 57 years old. We are getting grayer in the city. The third bucket is the charter schools. Over a decade we have gone up and we anticipate that we will be going up because more seats were opened up by the Commissioner of Education in December. There are three separate things that are contributing to the decline in enrollment.

Comm. Mendez: Ms. Coy, I believe you and I had a brief discussion at the last meeting, and we were talking about cost savings. Could you give me the cost savings this would bring the district in the given case that we were to move forward with this?

Ms. Coy: We've already identified about 16 new classrooms. Let's say you have 100 students roughly costing us anywhere from \$60,000 to \$70,000 per student to go out-of-district. If we keep them in, we are doing a cost savings of roughly \$50,000 per student. We only generate about \$26,000 when we get our federal funding. We are either going to pay the gap out of \$45,000 or we're going to keep that \$45,000 in-district. We have students currently who are out-of-district who the teams are meeting with now and have had those discussions with regards to them coming back in-district.

Comm. Ramirez: Any other questions? Do any of the Commissioners online have any questions? Thank you very much. I know many of us have been asking for what the plan is. This is the plan. I thank the Superintendent and her team for putting in all the work behind this. I know it's not easy. It's a lot of data. I trust that you guys are doing your best and guiding us correctly, so I appreciate it and thank you.

## **RESOLUTIONS FOR A VOTE:**

### **Resolution No. 1**

Whereas, the State of New Jersey (the "State") will again delay the receipt of the State aid payments until fiscal year 2026/2027; and

Whereas, The Board of Education of the City of Paterson in the County of Passaic, New Jersey (the "Board of Education") needs to borrow the June 2026 State aid payments in the principal amount of \$30,000,000 in order to meet its cash flow requirements for that period; and

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 18A:22-44.2 allows New Jersey school districts to enter into short term loans with banks of their choice because of the delay in the June State aid payments; and

Whereas, all borrowing under this statute requires the approval of the New Jersey Department of Education, requiring the Board of Education to submit a written application and a demonstration of need for such borrowing; and

Whereas, the principal and interest on approved loans will be paid directly to the Board of Education by the State, and the Board of Education is responsible for repaying the note and related interest to the lending bank; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes or ratifies the School Business Administrator, or his designee, to submit the necessary application and supporting documentation to the Passaic County Executive Superintendent to obtain funding in the amount of \$30,000,000, together with interest thereon, at the rate of 6.10% per annum from TD Bank and authorizes the execution of a "State School Aid Anticipation Note" with the lender to undertake the borrowing.

Now, Therefore, Be It Further Resolved, this resolution shall take effect immediately.

**It was moved by Comm. Mendez, seconded by Comm. Freeman 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 Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for obtaining the most competitive and responsive proposal for goods and/or services; and

WHEREAS, on the Authorization of the Business Administrator the competitive contracting process NJSA 18A:18A-4.5, using the request for proposal (RFP) document was solicited for RFP-421-27, Broker of Record - Property & Casualty for the 2026-2027 school year, and

WHEREAS, this solicitation was made by advertised public notice appearing in The Record and The Herald News and on the District website beginning on April 21, 2026. Sealed proposal was opened and read aloud on May 12, 2026 at 11:00 am in the Conference Room, 4th floor, 90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07503 by the Purchasing Department; and

WHEREAS, Three (3) sealed proposal were received, opened and read aloud May 12, 2026, at 11:00 am by the Purchasing Department; and

WHEREAS, based on the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee Members, it is recommended that this contract be awarded to FOUNDATION RISK PARTNERS CORP., FAIRVIEW INSURANCE AGENCY, RFP-421-27, pursuant to 18A:18A-4.5; and

WHEREAS, the awarding of this contract is in line with the district's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, Goal #3: Ensure Operational Effectiveness and Fiscal Stability; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Paterson Board of Education approves the awarding of the contract for Broker of Record - Property & Casualty, RFP 421-27 to FOUNDATION RISK PARTNERS CORP., FAIRVIEW INSURANCE AGENCY during the 2026-2027 year(s).

**It was moved by Comm. Nieves, seconded by Comm. Mendez that Resolution No. 2 be adopted. On roll call all members voted as follows:**

Comm. Freeman: Yes.

Comm. McCall: Pass.

Comm. Mendez: With respect to how these are scored, I would certainly like some justification from those who evaluated. As of now, my vote is no.

Comm. Nieves: Yes.

Comm. Rashid: Yes.

Comm. Rosado: Yes.

Comm. Simmons: No.

Comm. McCall: No.

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
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- Self
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- 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: Counsel, could you clarify for Comm. Mendez about the process?

Mr. Buglione: Good evening. It's an RFP process which calls for professional solicitations of insurance services. This was scored by our in-house risk department. The risk manager was involved. The director of human resources also has an overlay with risk management with regard to workers' compensation matters. The in-house attorney who handles the litigation matters would have knowledge of the workers compensation and reviewed everything pursuant to their understanding of processes and procedures, what they see the interest of the district being, evaluating the RFP and the responses. They're allowed to utilize personal experience. At one time or another all three had been servicing the district either separately or simultaneously. That's how they scored. They created a score rubric and scored each. The scores that you see are in rank 1, 2 and 3.

Comm. Mendez: I just wanted some justification as to why they ranked the way they did. I'm not sure if we're allowed to publicly speak about the ranking.

Mr. Buglione: You can because you're making a determination about a contract. If you feel that's the appropriate action to take, by all means please do.

Comm. Mendez: Just to clarify, the rankings have been based on the business they've done in the past.

Mr. Buglione: That is part of it. They're allowed to rely on their experience as well as the reputation of the firms in the general public. A positive or negative experience that the district may have had with each of these particular vendors could be part of the scoring process. You're correct on that.

Comm. Mendez: Thank you. I appreciate it.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

No speakers.

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

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Comm. Ramirez: Please reach out to Juleka if you have not received your email or your credentials to log onto the Superintendent's evaluation module. The Superintendent's Summary Conference will be on Monday, June 22 at 5:30. It will be virtual. If you need help, please reach out to the office. I appreciate it.

Comm. Freeman: There are several districts in the State of New Jersey where the stakeholders in the community really forged forward and helped their school districts. We have schools that don't have playgrounds. We have some schools whose playgrounds can use a little tightening up. I want to solicit the community and the business owners out there who so many of our children and families go to and purchase things from their stores. I want to solicit and ask for your help in partnering with our foundation and possibly fixing up some of the playgrounds in some of these old schools, preferably School No. 20. School No. 20 does not have a playground at all. That somewhat bothers me because they should be allowed to go outside, exercise and play during recess on some playground equipment. We have several parks in the City of Paterson that are open to the public, but during recess children should be able to go out, play, have fun and go back into class and do their work. I'm putting this out here because it's done in several districts throughout the State of New Jersey, but I don't see it too much here in Paterson. I do understand we have foundations who offer college scholarships and things of that nature, which is awesome, and we should continue with that. But we have to be mindful about the importance of the children being able to go outside and exercise on their breaks. Just like the teachers take a mental break on their lunch and their prep, the children's recess is very important. If you'd like to partner with us, reach out to the district. If we say we're about the community and the school district with all the negative jargon that's going on in this town, it's time to put a little positivity behind what we say and let go of what's going on. I don't want to bring up what's going on because it's like beating a dead horse. We need to move forward. If we're choosing to move forward, then we need to put what we say we want to work. There are too many businesses in this city that our children help and it's time for them to give back. You're not giving back to me. You're giving back to the children. Anything for the children we need to do our very best in making sure they have everything they need to be successful in education and when it's their time to have fun. If you're interested, reach out and call Cheryl. She knows what to do. She'll put the word to who need to get it. Let's start doing some things like other districts are doing and copycat. We want to copycat a lot of things. Let's copy that because that's a great thing to do.

Comm. Mendez: I second Comm. Freeman's statement.

Comm. Rashid: I appreciate Comm. Freeman. She raised a good point for our community. I appreciate you again.

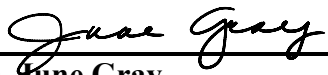
Comm. Ramirez: I'll donate the first \$1,000.

Comm. Freeman: Make sure it's on the record.

Comm. Ramirez: Thank you so much everyone. Commissioners, can you please join us behind the dais so that communications can have a picture of all of us?

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

  
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**Ms. June Gray**  
**Business Administrator/Board Secretary**