

For Immediate Release

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**Paterson Public Schools Introduces Newly Elected Student Government Association
Student Leaders**

Leadership group is made up of 17 students representing nine district high schools

Paterson, NJ (November 14, 2025) – Paterson Public Schools’ Student Government Association (SGA) presidents and vice presidents for the 2025-2026 academic year were proudly introduced by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Melissa España at the Board of Education workshop meeting on November 5th. The students have one shared mission – creating positive change, amplifying student voices, and building stronger school communities.

“I am excited for this special group of Paterson Public Schools students to represent their peers and experience working with our Board commissioners,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell. “One of our goals as a district is to mold students into critical thinkers, collaborators, and community advocates. This year’s SGA presidents and vice presidents are prime examples of young learners who possess these attributes.”

“These exceptional student representatives are the best that Paterson Public Schools high schools have to offer,” said Dr. España. “Their dedication, vision, and commitment to service will shape an incredible year ahead. Let’s support them as they lead, inspire, and make a difference in their school communities.”

Many of the newly elected leaders were present at the workshop meeting and had the opportunity to meet Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson and Board of Education commissioners. The leadership group is made up of 17 students representing nine district high schools. Eastside High School President Camila Monterroza Angel will also serve the Board as a District Board Representative.

The first SGA meeting will take place on November 20th at Central Office. In their meetings, students will learn the basics of governance, develop public speaking skills, and discuss the status of their schools. Below are the names of the student leaders, their titles, and the high schools that they represent:

Alonzo “Tambua” Moody Academy for Social Change
President Layla Hernandez

Eastside High School
President Camila Monterroza Angel
Vice President Adriaris Gutierrez Garrido

International High School

President Astry Taveras Guzman

Vice President Joselee Lopez

John F. Kennedy High School

President Aryaneth Bello

Vice President Jacqueline Martinez

Newcomers High School

President Audy Caal Tani

Vice President Nusky Barthelus

Paterson P-Tech

President Taj'A Thomas

Vice President Angel Perez Cepin

STEAM High School

President Blanca Gonzalez

Vice President Angelly Rivera

Rosa L. Parks School of Fine & Performing Arts

President Janiyah Waite

Vice President Kamari Sowell

STARS Academy

President Rohan Chowdhury

Vice President Isidro Mejia Calixto

About Paterson Public Schools

Paterson Public Schools serves over 22,000 students from pre-K to 12th grade in New Jersey's third-largest city. About 71% of the student population is Hispanic, 16% are Black, 6% are Asian, and 5.0% are Caucasian. Recognizing its proud traditions, diverse community, and strong partnerships, the mission of Paterson Public Schools is to provide an academically rigorous, safe, and nurturing educational environment that meets the social, emotional, and academic needs of all students. The district is committed to preparing students for post-secondary education and careers. Despite the Paterson community being classified as low-income, many of its students achieve high academic success. A growing number of elementary school students are reading at or above grade level, and more high school students are earning college credits through Advanced Placement exams and enrolling in college-level courses before graduation. Paterson Public Schools is distinguished as one of only 17 school districts in New Jersey to offer the competitive International Baccalaureate program and is among just four districts with a P-TECH high school. In collaboration with IBM and Passaic County Community College, the P-TECH program allows students to graduate with an associate degree in applied science and valuable tech sector experience. For more information, visit www.paterson.k12.nj.us

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